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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No.31

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Eucharist heals from idolatry of 'self,' pope says at Mass in Budapest



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis accepts flowers from a girl as he arrives at the international airport in Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 12. Looking on are Cardinal Péter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest and Zsolt Semjén, deputy prime minister of Hungary, pictured behind the pope.

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

BUDAPEST, Hungary (CNS) — Spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can heal Christians from a self-absorbed religiosity that is ostentatious and triumphalist, Pope Francis said.

Presiding over the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress Sept. 12, the pope urged people to make time for eucharistic adoration.

"Let us allow Jesus, the living bread, to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow Him wherever He would lead us," he said.

After departing from Rome's Fiumicino in the early morning, the pope told journalists aboard the flight that the papal trip had "a bit of a farewell feeling" due to it being the last time that Bishop-designate Guido Marini would serve as papal master of ceremonies. The pope named the bishop-designate to lead the Diocese of Tortona, Italy.

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Summit encourages Catholic business leaders to end poverty

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Speakers at Catholic Charities' recent Poverty Summit urged area Catholic business and organization leaders to help end poverty by taking their faith to work.

Nearly 80 leaders attended the lunch meeting Sept. 9 in the Walb Student Union ballroom at Purdue University Fort Wayne. The Catholic Charities office serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend organized the summit around "Poverty at the Crossroads: The Church's Response to Poverty in Indiana," a pastoral letter Indiana's Catholic bishops issued in 2015.

"Our hope is just that businesses really invest in their employees," Nicole Kurut, Catholic Charities' mission advancement manager, said during an interview prior to the event. "It takes the whole community sometimes to help each other reach our God-given potential."

During the summit, Kurut shared information and a slide show about poverty in northeast Indiana and the challenges people face to escape it.

The level of poverty in the diocese is substantial, including rates in Adams and St. Joseph counties that exceed the national average, Kurut said. The effects of poverty land hardest on children.

Causes of poverty can vary

from low pay and lack of financial knowledge to cultural biases, having no support system, or a traumatic event that leads to addictions or legal issues, she said.

Using statistics for Allen County, where the summit took place, she said one in five households earn wages that put them above the federal poverty level for their family size but leave them short of what they need to be self-sufficient economically.

Other examples provided on table centerpieces included:

— For a single parent with one preschooler and one school-age child, the parent must work full time at nearly \$23 per hour, or about \$48,000 annually, to be

financially self-sufficient.

— In a two-parent household with a preschooler and one school-age child, the parents must work full time and earn a combined total of more than \$26 per hour, or more than \$55,000 annually, for the family to have economic security.

Kurut said parents who work full time at minimum-wage jobs but need child care may have to spend about 80 percent of their income on their child or children's care.

If parents work a second job to earn extra income to support the household, it pulls them away

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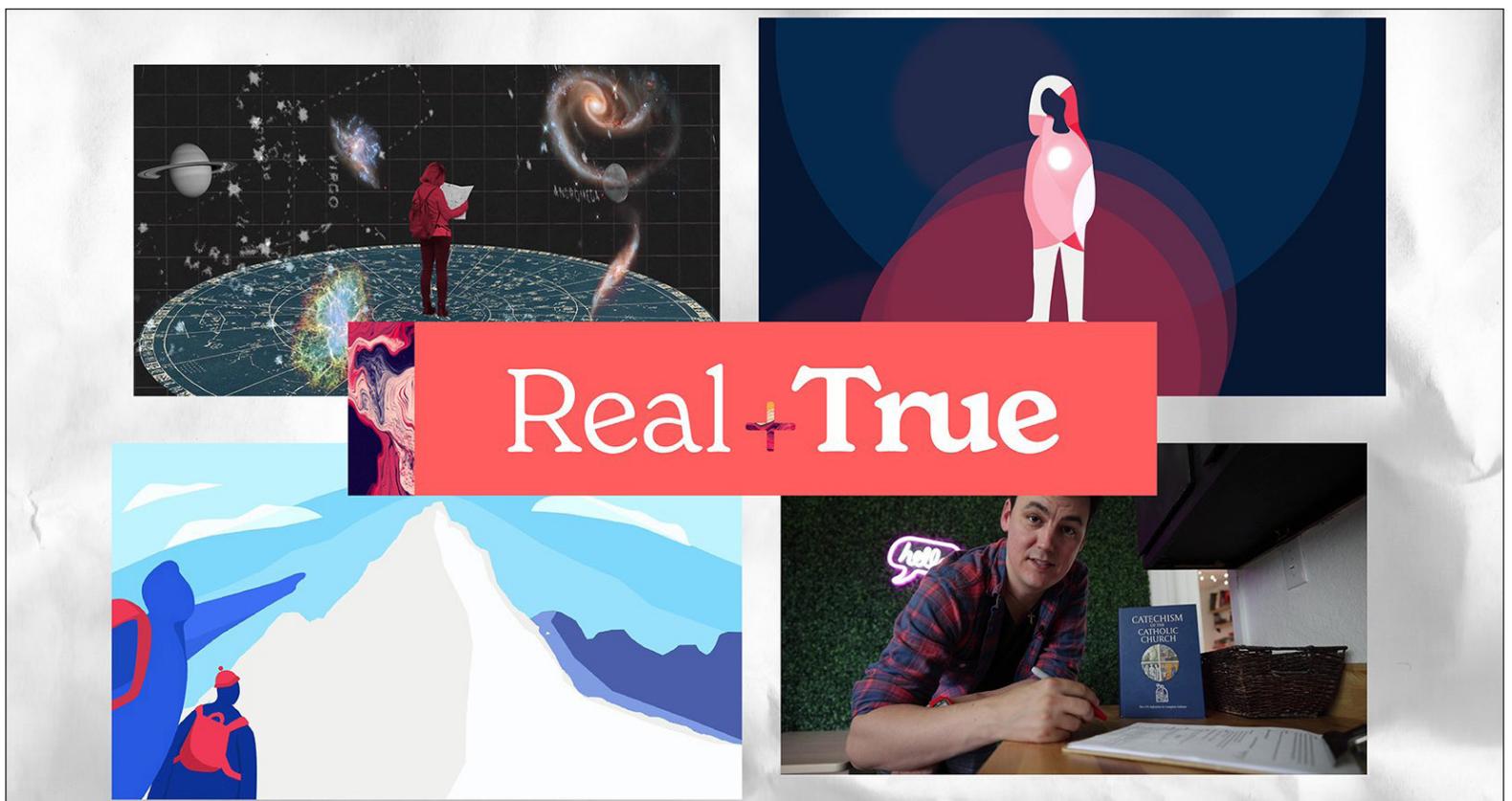
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New global initiative seeks to 'unlock' Catechism of the Catholic Church



CNS photo/Real + True

This is an image for the global project "Real + True" which aims to "unlock" the catechism and modernize the way Church teaching is presented to a digital age. Launched Sept. 7, the initiative includes videos, social media content and a podcast organized along the four pillars of the catechism.

BY ANNA CAPIZZI GALVEZ

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When is the last time you cracked open the Catechism of the Catholic Church? Odds are, it's sitting on your bookshelf collecting dust.

A new global project, Real + True, seeks to "unlock" the catechism and modernize the way Church teaching is presented to a digital age.

The catechism "is not just a technical book," said Real + True co-founder Edmund Mitchell, "but it's written to really change our relationship with Christ."

Launched Sept. 7, the initiative includes videos, social media content and a podcast organized along the four pillars of the catechism. Each month, a new unit will be released, with 12 units for each pillar, totaling 48 units.

Aimed at millennial and Generation Z audiences, the content is meant to supplement evangelization and catechesis efforts that already exist as well as be a resource to those seeking answers to questions online, said co-founder Edmundo Reyes.

The material is free and available on real-true.org in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Reyes said the inspiration for Real + True came six years ago in Portland, Oregon, when he encountered BibleProject, a nonprofit organization with a library of resources to help people read and understand the Bible.

While the organization isn't Catholic, he was impressed by their work, which he'd "never seen done in a Church setting." After learning about BibleProject's creative process, he came back "with the hope of one day doing something similar with the Church."

When Reyes returned home, something unexpected happened. He started watching BibleProject's videos on his phone, and three of his children joined him.

"They kept saying, 'let's watch the next one, let's watch the next one.' And at the end my son said to me: 'Dad, I feel I learned more about my faith from those videos than all my years of religious education,'" Reyes said.

"That moved me in two ways," Reyes said. "One is a bit of sadness of like man, I'm letting my kid down here, but also a lot of hope that the message that we proclaim, the Gospel message, it's truth and it's beauty and it's attractiveness in itself. We just need to be able to communicate that message in a way that is relevant to them, in a way that they can understand it."

The Church is moving in the direction of an "evangelizing catechesis," said Reyes, citing the example of Pope Francis instituting the ministry of the catechist in May and the Vatican updating the "Directory for Catechesis" June 2020. He sees Real + True as participating in that evangelizing catechesis.

Reyes quoted the catechism, which states: "Periods of renewal in the church are also intense moments of catechesis." And with the 30th anniversary of the catechism next year, the time seemed ripe to launch the initiative.

Reyes described Real + True as a "passion project," apart from his work as the director of the communications in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Co-founder Emily Mentock explained that the project's goal of "unlocking the catechism for the modern world" means bringing the "content of the text into more digital media channels to better reach the audience that we're after" — people who are not against the Church but are curious and open to learning more about their faith.

Mentock, 29, said her own journey back to practicing Catholicism informed her work on Real + True. A pivotal step in her story was seeing a tweet quoting Bishop Robert E. Barron's sermons podcast.

The tweet piqued her interest, so she started listening to the podcast and eventually "became compelled to go back to Mass and from there became compelled to actually read all the Gospels," said Mentock, who works as associate director of digital strategy at the Archdiocese of Detroit.

That experience shaped "what I believe in and the ways we can use digital and social media channels as a tool to support that pathway back to Christ," she said.

Each Real + True unit contains three videos — a proclamation video, an explanation video and a connection video — as well as a podcast that is geared toward formal and informal catechists.

Mitchell, 32, who worked in parish ministry for 10 years, said his training in a methodology of catechesis called, "the ecclesial method" by Msgr. Francis Kelly, influenced the approach to developing the structure and scripts of the videos.

The first stage is preparation, he said, by "getting the attention of the heart of someone who isn't yet ready to hear the catechesis." The proclamation videos are meant to rouse "spiritual curiosity" and prep the person to have a "burning question on their heart" that connects to the section of the catechism the unit covers.

Then the explanation video goes deeper into the teaching and the connection video applies the material to everyday life. For creating the video topics, Mitchell said he was influenced by podcasts like "Radiolab" and "This American Life" that aren't Christian but explore the phenomenology of the world.

Using the natural world as a vehicle for questions posed in the videos keeps the content relevant, especially for a global audience, since "the catechism is universal," said Mitchell.

Funded by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, the Real + True initiative is also seeking donations to translate content into more languages and produce videos at a faster pace.

"The work of evangelization online is significant and important, especially in a world so connected, which is what we saw in the pandemic," said Reyes.

Isolation is one of the challenges the Church faces today, and the initiative's organizers hope that by having "content that leads to Jesus," young people can help "get connected spiritually," then ideally continue a "journey of discipleship toward true community and communion," he said.

Note: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is a member of the advisory board of Real + True.

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Annual Bishop's Appeal — Invited to be witnesses to hope

FORT WAYNE — The Annual Bishop's Appeal will kick off in many parishes of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Sept. 26. As it gets underway, the hope — beyond matching last year's stunning \$6.6 million record total — is that this year's collection will be a sign of vibrancy in a world emerging from the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Annual Bishop's Appeal is an opportunity for Catholics to help the diocese participate in the Church's mission of bringing God's saving hope and love to others through its many ministries and service, stated Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the 2021 Annual Bishop's Appeal video. "The work of a diocese is a great undertaking, especially in times of hardship. We are called to ensure that our dioceses and parishes have the resources we need to carry out our mission."

Annual Bishop's Appeal funds support Catholic education, seminarian formation, priests' retirement, evangelization ministries, communication efforts, services to the needy and support to parishes. Parishes are given a collection goal for each year's appeal, and any amount of money collected above the set amount is returned to the parish for its use.

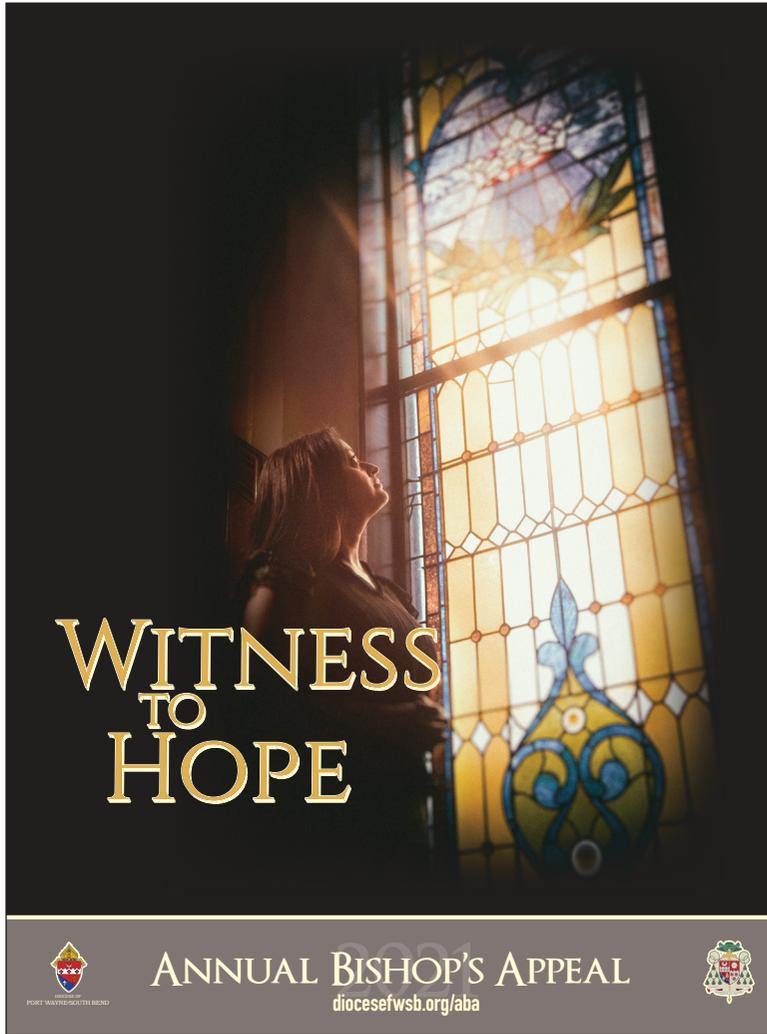
Last year, donations to the appeal supported a \$1,000,000 subsidy to high schools; \$1,000,000 of the cost of seminarian education and \$376,500 of the many expenses associated with supporting diocesan priests in their retirement. Funds also were donated to further the work of Catholic Charities; make grants to parishes and diocesan Catholic agencies; enable the work of the Secretariat for Communications, Catholic schools; support Hispanic Ministry; provide for worship needs and underwrite the work of the marriage tribunal.

These ministries and departments may have larger overall total budgets and expenses, which are outlined in the diocesan financial report.

Investing in the 'hope that does not disappoint'

"In a letter to the faithful regarding this year's Bishop's Appeal, Bishop Rhoades reflected on words from St. Paul's letter to the Romans: "Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

"These words are especially relevant as we recover from the Covid pandemic with renewed hope, a hope that can never be extinguished even by a pandemic because our hope has the firmest foundation: the love of God revealed in the Heart of His Son and poured into our hearts



through the Holy Spirit," he wrote.

In thanks to those who donated to the 2020 Annual Bishop's Appeal, he noted that "I was amazed that, in the midst of the hardships of the Covid pandemic, we received the highest amount in the history of the Appeal, over \$6.6 million. This allowed over \$1.6 million to be returned directly to our parishes. We also received over 2,500 donations from new donors to the Appeal. Your generosity is a testament to your faith and a sign of the vibrancy of the Church in our diocese.

"I pray that you will be generous in supporting the Bishop's Appeal again this year. Your support ensures that our diocese and parishes have the resources we need to carry out our mission of bearing witness to God's love and bringing the hope of the Gospel to so many in this portion of the vineyard of the Lord which is northeast Indiana."

Enabling missions, formation, charitable services

The Secretariat for Evangelization uses Annual Bishop's Appeal funds to help prepare individuals for marriage; catechize individuals during Spanish-language seminars, workshops and retreats; and reach young adults through diocesan young-adult ministry events such as retreats, small groups, Theology on Tap gatherings and

pilgrimages that included World Youth Day. Focused ministries of evangelization also offer support and resources to parents and couples who suffer the loss of a baby, those faced with a difficult prenatal diagnosis, couples struggling with infertility and those seeking hope and healing from abortion.

In the Secretariat for Communication and Office of Worship, diocesan and other liturgies are coordinated and carried out with help from ABA. Marketing campaigns are designed for diocesan offices, parishes and schools, and content is generated for Today's Catholic, printed in the newspaper and posted online.

Students across the diocese are supported by the Annual Bishop's Appeal in Catholic schools, and religious education classes and adults receive Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults preparation. It permits the hiring and training, as well as ongoing support, of 1,100 Catholic school teachers. Additionally, teachers and catechists are able to participate in Foundations of Faith, a formation and certification program, because of the funding.

ABA funds provide stipends, educational opportunities and support other needs of candidates to the permanent diaconate, current permanent deacons, retired priests, seminarians in formation for the priesthood and parish priests. An increase in vocations during the past few years makes that support urgent and appreciated.

Catholics in the Diocese of



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, September 19: 11 AM — Wedding Anniversary Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
 Sunday, September 19: 3 p.m. — Talk at Father and Son Retreat, Saint Patrick's County Park, South Bend
 Tuesday, September 21: 8:30 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Matthew Cathedral School, South Bend
 Tuesday, September 21: 1:30 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Mount St. Mary's Seminary
 Wednesday, September 22: 1 p.m. — Meeting and Prayer with Priests Ordained in Past Five Years, St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka
 Thursday, September 23: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Oakwood Resort, Syracuse
 Friday, September 24: 8:45 a.m. — Opening Prayer for Deification Through the Cross Symposium, McKenna Hall, University of Notre Dame

Fort Wayne-South Bend, their parishes and nonCatholics in their communities have historically been the beneficiaries of charitable ministries aided by Annual Bishop's Appeal funds as well.

Funds are budgeted from the ABA collection to grant through the Parishes-in-Need program. The money helps parishes accomplish infrastructure, technology and security improvements. Catholic Charities uses ABA funds to carry out charitable Catholic ministries that pro-

vide food, clothing and medical care; serve the homeless; support those in crisis pregnancies and provide adoption services; offer refugee settlement and placement services; and offer services to persons with disabilities; victim assistance; and jail ministry.

To donate online and for more information on diocesan expenditures, visit diocesefwsb.org/ABA. All gifts support the diocese and benefit diocesan parishes. Checks may be made payable to: Annual Bishop's Appeal.

National Migration Week 2021

September 20-26, 2021



Credit: Migrants and Refugees Section/Vatican

Toward an Ever Wider "We"

National Migration Week for 2021 takes place September 20-26, and will climax with the Vatican's celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which always falls on the last Sunday of September. In his letter announcing this year's theme, Pope Francis emphasizes that "this focus calls on us to ensure that 'after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those,' but only 'us'" (Fratelli tutti, no. 35). And this universal us must become a reality first of all within the Church which is called to cultivate communion in diversity."

For more resources visit:

www.justiceformigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week

POPE, HUNGARY, from page 1

Pope Francis also noted that it was the final papal flight aboard Alitalia, which will shutter operations in October after serving 75 years as Italy's national airline.

"So many farewells, but we continue the trips again, and this is something very important, because we will go to bring the word and a greeting to so many people," he said of the visit, which included three days in Slovakia after the short visit to Budapest.

Landing in Budapest, the pope was welcomed by Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén. He then made his way to the Museum of Fine Arts near the site of the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress.

The Vatican said Pope Francis met privately with Hungarian President János Áder, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Semjén for roughly 40 minutes "in a cordial atmosphere."

"Among the various topics discussed were the role of the Church in the country, the commitment to the protection of the

environment and the protection and promotion of the family," the Vatican said.

In a statement on his Facebook page, Orbán, who views migration as a threat to Europe's Christian identity, said, "I asked Pope Francis not to let Christian Hungary perish."

Pope Francis, arriving in his popemobile, was greeted warmly by thousands who lined the street leading toward the Mass site in Heroes' Square.

In the homily, Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading, in which Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Jesus, he said, addresses the same question to Christians today and requires a response that is "more than a quick answer straight out of the catechism."

The first step in responding to Jesus' question, he explained, is to proclaim Jesus as Lord. However, the pope recalled that Jesus told His disciples to "tell no one about him."

"There was a very good reason: to call Jesus the Christ the Messiah is correct, but incom-

plete. There is always the risk of proclaiming a false messianism, one of human origins, not from God," he said.

Nevertheless, to proclaim Christ means also proclaiming His death on the cross, and the Eucharist serves as a reminder of God "as bread broken, as love crucified and bestowed."

Like Peter, who was scandalized at Christ's announcement of the suffering He must endure, Christians can also "be blinded by that way of thinking."

"We, too, can take the Lord 'aside,' shove Him into a corner of our heart and continue to think of ourselves as religious and respectable, going our own way without letting ourselves be affected by Jesus' way of thinking," the pope said.

Lastly, Christians must learn to "walk behind Jesus," because Christianity is not "a race toward success" but to find true freedom in "not needing to be the center of everything."

In doing so, Pope Francis said Christians can learn to follow in the footsteps of Christ, "who came to serve and not be served."

"The Eucharist impels us to this encounter, to the realization that we are one body, to the willingness to let ourselves be broken for others," the pope said.

Prior to celebrating the closing Mass, Pope Francis met in private with the country's bishops. He then met with Hungary's Ecumenical Council of Churches, along with several Jewish communities. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople was among those at the Mass and the meeting with religious leaders.

Noting the recent celebration of Rosh Hashanah and the Sept. 15-16 observance of Yom Kippur, Pope Francis offered best wishes and expressed his appreciation for the Jewish communities' efforts "to break down the walls that separated" Jews and Christians in the past.

Just as God "transformed the desert into a highway to the Promised Land, so He wishes to bring us out of the barren deserts of bitterness and indifference, to that land of fellowship for which we long," the pope said.

Drawing a parallel on the famed Széchenyi Chain Bridge, which links the eastern and western sides of Budapest, the pope noted that the bridge "does not fuse those two parts together, but rather holds them together."

Lamenting "the threat of anti-Semitism still lurking in Europe and elsewhere," Pope Francis said the best way to defuse hatred is "to work together positively and to promote fraternity."

"The bridge has yet another lesson to teach us," he said. "It is supported by great chains made up of many rings. We are those rings, and each of us is essential to the chain. We can no longer live apart, without making an effort to know one another, prey to suspicion and conflict."

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Pope Francis says Benedict rightly warned against not respecting life

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis praised his predecessor's courage in denouncing the danger of people no longer respecting or understanding the sacredness of human life.

Pope Francis highlighted retired Pope Benedict XVI's insistence that Europe's renewal comes through its respect for every human life.

The pope's remarks were part of an introduction he wrote for a new book, "The True Europe. Identity and Mission," which compiles selected texts by Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI on the theme of Europe. The book, currently in Italian, is one of a series of "selected texts" being published by Cantagalli press and coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the European Union.

Vatican News republished a copy of the introduction Sept. 12.

"Beyond the many words and grandiose proclamations, today, the idea of respect for every human life is increasingly lost in Europe, starting with the loss of awareness of its sacredness, that is, precisely from the obfuscation of the awareness that we are creatures of God," Pope Francis wrote.

"Benedict XVI has not been

afraid over the years of denouncing with great courage and far-sightedness the many manifestations of this dramatic renunciation of the idea of creation" and its consequences, he wrote.

And yet, the retired pope also showed his hope and faith in knowing humanity will always be restless until they find God and discover his truth, Pope Francis wrote. He added that the volume clearly explains the current reality but without leaving the reader feeling pessimistic or sad.

On the contrary, Pope Francis said Pope Benedict explains the reasons for his hope, saying the desire and search for God is profoundly inscribed in each human soul and cannot disappear.

"Certainly we can forget God for a time, lay him aside and concern ourselves with other things, but God never disappears," Pope Benedict said in a 2012 interview, published in the book. "St. Augustine's words are true: We men are restless until we have found God. This restlessness also exists today and is an expression of the hope that man may, ever and anew, even today, start to journey toward this God."

Pope Francis wrote this was the secret for how to have hope during these difficult times, and "Pope Benedict XVI shows us the path to take for Europe's renewal."



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets retired Pope Benedict XVI at the retired pope's residence during a visit with new cardinals after a consistory at the Vatican Nov. 28.

Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit

By Bl. Carlo Acutis

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Helen Alvaré

Professor of Law at Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.

McKenna Hall Conference Center 215/216, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame



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Pope appeals for 'fraternity and solidarity' for people in Ethiopia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed for those affected by the conflict in Ethiopia, appealing for "fraternity and solidarity so that the common desire for peace can be heard." At the end of his general audience talk at the Vatican Sept. 8, the pope marked the upcoming New Year's Day celebrated in Ethiopia Sept. 11. "I extend to the Ethiopian people my most cordial and heartfelt greetings, particularly to those who are suffering due to the ongoing conflict and the serious humanitarian situation it has caused. May this be a moment of fraternity and solidarity so that the common desire for peace can be heard," he said. Violence and the resulting humanitarian crisis continues to grip Ethiopia's northern Tigray region after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched an offensive against rebel forces in November. At the time, Ahmed said the fighting would be over in weeks, but the violence has been ongoing, leaving thousands of people dead and 2 million more displaced. It is estimated that some 900,000 people are in famine conditions, and 5 million others are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Mexican bishops express sorrow after Supreme Court decriminalizes abortion

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican bishops' conference expressed sorrow about a unanimous Supreme Court decision to decriminalize abortion, while other Church leaders called on Catholics to "not be indifferent" on issues of life. The court ruled unanimously Sept. 7 to invalidate sections of a law in northern Coahuila state. The law imposed sentences of up to three years in prison for women terminating pregnancies; observers say the court decision sets precedent and will lead to decriminalization across the country. The decision also removed criminal sanctions for abortion providers. The motion approved in the court, according to Justice Norma Piña Hernández, "concludes there are no public reasons with scientific support that allow equating the embryo with a person with rights." She continued, "Prohibiting abortion in these circumstances ... implies giving excessive value to the state's interest in protecting the development of the pregnancy in the face of the intense impact carrying an unwanted pregnancy represents for the autonomy of women when there are not the vital conditions to do so properly." After the court decision, the bishops' conference tweeted, quoting from a conference docu-

NEWS BRIEFS

Doctors warn U.K. politicians against Assisted Dying Bill



CNS photo/Neil Hall, Reuters

Anti-euthanasia protesters demonstrate outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London July 17, 2017. In a Sept. 7 Zoom conference, U.S., Canadian and Belgian doctors urged British politicians to reject a new bill to legalize assisted suicide because safeguards written into Oregon's 1997 Death With Dignity Act, which legalized assisted suicide in the state, are "not being followed. Dr. Brick Lantz, an Oregon physician and the Oregon state representative for the American Academy of Medical Ethics, told his audience, "The failures are brutal," including drugs not working as intended, a man waking from a coma "after multiple days" and a nurse putting "a plastic bag over the head of the patient because the patient wouldn't die."

ment published Aug. 12: "Those of us convinced of the value of life have no need for a murderous law such as the one that is being approved ... We hope that your option for life is not conditional on an ideology, rather is motivated by faith, hope and love."

At National Press Club, Cardinal Gregory praises, challenges media

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his first appearance at the National Press Club as archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory on Sept. 8 emphasized the importance of protecting the environment and upholding the dignity of human life at all stages. He also answered questions on issues ranging from whether women will ever be ordained Catholic priests — "I don't see it changing" — to affirming that seeking healing for victims of clergy sexual abuse should be the first priority. Cardinal Gregory took questions from the moderator and the press club's president, Lisa Nicole Matthews of The Associated Press, for more than half an hour, following prepared remarks that thanked the news

media for their work keeping the world "informed, updated and connected as a global community." He noted that "words have the incredible power and ability to build, to damage or destroy" and he challenged the news industry and all people "to use our daily words, social media posts, public commentary and personal involvement to care for our neighbors in tangible ways that work for justice at every level." He said, "civility and respectful dialogue for the purpose of earnest understanding can and should be promoted, most especially when we hold different or even opposing political, religious or other opinions."

Virginia Catholics say faith helped them process 9/11 attack at Pentagon

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — In the two decades since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, several Catholics in the Arlington diocese — where the Pentagon was hit by a hijacked plane — say they relied on their faith that day and in the years since to process what happened. The diocese,

which is just across the Potomac River from Washington, is home to many government employees and military families. Many parishioners were firsthand witnesses to the horrors of Sept. 11 when American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the Pentagon killing 189 people (including the five hijackers). Lisa Dolan, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, lost her husband, Navy Captain Robert E. Dolan Jr., in the Pentagon attack. The 43-year-old was working as the strategy and concepts branch head under the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon. He called his wife at 8:55 a.m. Sept. 11 to tell her a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. "We discussed what a horrific accident it was — at that point in time what else would we be thinking but a terrifying accident?" Lisa said. "Then, just moments after the second plane flew into the South Tower, I knew it was no accident," she said. She also tried to call her husband back but never got through. She picked up her children from their Catholic schools in Alexandria and kept trying to contact anyone who might know where her husband was. As she watched the television images of the Pentagon

burning, she said she "knew in my heart that he was gone."

Texas bishops highlight state-funded program to help pregnant women

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amid heated discussion surrounding the new abortion law in Texas, which bans abortions from six weeks, Catholic bishops have emphasized the importance of a long-running state program to help pregnant women. "Texas has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in programs for pregnant moms and families," said a statement issued by the Texas Catholic Conference, two days after the new law went into effect. The conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, was referring to the state-funded program Alternatives to Abortion, which started in 2005. The program provides funds for pregnancy centers which offer counseling services and resources to women in crisis pregnancies. "Hundreds of pregnancy and parenting support programs and adoption services in our state provide practical resources to women and families facing overwhelming circumstances," the group's Sept. 3 statement said. The Texas Catholic Conference noted that "pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes must be 'islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.'" The conference also stressed that "everyone in the parish should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need."

Polish cardinal, blind Franciscan who knew each other beatified together

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The archbishop who steered Poland's Catholic Church through communist rule and a blind Franciscan nun who founded one of Europe's foremost centers for the sight-impaired took a step closer to sainthood Sept. 12. Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said both "gave testimony of a life faithful to the Gospel at all costs — a model of service to a specific person in need, even when no one cares and indifference seems to prevail." The Italian cardinal preached at the beatification Mass for Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, who died in 1981, and Mother Elisabeth Rosa Czacka, who died in 1961, at Warsaw's Church of Divine Providence. In attendance were 7,000 people — including government leaders, bishops from Poland and abroad, as well as two women whose cures were the miracles for the advancement of the sainthood causes.

Superstars of service — Stephanie Hamilton

BY TAMI DELUCENAY

The conversion story of Scott Hahn in his book, "Rome Sweet Home," has inspired thousands of people to the Catholic faith. Stephanie Hamilton is one of those readers.

Although she received the sacraments of initiation at St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, Hahn's story drew Hamilton into a deeper discovery of her faith.

"I attended CCD classes while growing up and always knew the right answers, but when I read Hahn's book as a teen, his story touched me on an intellectual level and helped me to see things that I hadn't thought of before. I thought, 'Wow, I was born into the Catholic faith and had all the sacraments bestowed on me, and he had to work so hard and overcome many obstacles to embrace his Catholic faith,'" she shared.

Hamilton is the director of youth ministry at St. Paul and has been serving the parish in that role since she was in college. Throughout high school and college, she engaged in activities and religion courses that have helped her to develop her content for the youth.

"I enjoyed attending our diocesan youth retreats, which opened my eyes to the different expressions of our faith through praise and worship music, along with the informative presentations that took place. These experiences and the biblical courses I took in college, especially "Understanding the Christian Faith," have inspired me as I prepare for our Sunday evening gatherings."

Growing up in Whitko Community Schools fostered Hamilton's dream of wanting to become a teacher. She also developed a love of science in middle school.

"I wanted to join the English Academic Super Bowl team, but my brother's friend happened to



Georgia Lieb

Youth Director Stephanie Hamilton, second from right, pastor Father David Huneck, far left, teens and chaperones from St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, gather for an open house Aug. 29. Hamilton is the parish youth director.

be the son of the science team coach. At basketball games, he continually bugged me to join his team until I eventually caved. I'm so glad I did. Learning science didn't stop my love for English but amplified it."

She took to chemistry in high school and found her niche.

"I discovered that the systematic methods of chemistry gelled well with my perfectionistic, rule-loving personality. When choosing a major, I decided I would rather grade lab reports than book reports, so I entered Huntington University as a

chemistry education major."

While working at Wendy's during college, Stephanie met her husband, Austin.

"I was not looking for a relationship at the time and was focused on making friends. I prayed to God to make it obvious if I should stop dating him, but instead I really started to like him. I told Austin I had so much fun on our dates, and he asked me something I will never forget: "How do I know if you like me or just like having fun?"

"I realized I enjoyed our dates because I was with him, not necessarily because of the activities we were doing. We were married June 7, 2014, at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Huntington by Father Gary Sigler and we've been having fun ever since, now with our two beautiful children, Alexis 4 and Joshua 2."

Hamilton's dream of becoming a teacher was fulfilled after graduating from Huntington North High School. She taught chemistry, biology and integrated

Youth Ministry Leaders

chemistry and physics at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne for nearly three years.

"When our daughter was born, I left my teaching position at Luers. I continued serving the parish as the youth minister and found the time to fulfill another passion of mine: I am a Creighton Model Fertility Care Practitioner. I teach part-time from my home office. It's a beautiful way for me to stay home with my kids during the day while still teaching in the evenings a couple of days a week. I enjoy the professional

development and always being challenged to grow and problem-solve."

Hamilton loves being busy. Her family, part-time FCP meetings and part-time youth minister activities fill her days with joy and give her life, she said. She takes time to listen to podcasts from solid Catholic sources to help her with her personal faith journey and finds content that will interest the teens.

Hamilton and her core team hope by looking at the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and using videos from Formed, the young people she leads will begin to ask deeper life questions.

"I hope that the teens seek out the answers to questions like, what is the purpose of life? What happens after death? Why does the Church teach __?, What is the Eucharist? and so on. By discovering the answers to these questions, a lifelong relationship with Jesus will develop within them," concluded Hamilton.

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Mass, museum exhibits to recall 175th

BY KEVIN KILBANE

A Mass next month and two museum exhibits will remember the 175th anniversary of some members of the Miami Tribe of Native Americans being forced to leave their homeland in Indiana to move to a reservation in what later became the state of Kansas.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will observe the Miami's removal, which began Oct. 6, 1846, during the 5 p.m. Mass Oct. 2 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The exhibits will take place at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's Diocesan Museum on the Cathedral grounds and at the Whitley County Historical Museum in Columbia City.

Forced west

The Miami people, who are called "Myaamia" in their own language, have lived in what is now Northern Indiana since long before Fort Wayne-South Bend was created as a diocese by the Church in 1857.

French fur trappers and traders found the Miamis to be present when they began arriving in the Fort Wayne area in the middle to late 1600s. French missionaries then began sharing the Catholic faith with the Miamis and other Great Lakes tribes.

"They introduced us to Jesus," said Dani Tippmann, a Miami Tribe member who is a member of St. Patrick Parish in Arcola. Many Miamis became Catholic and sent their children to Catholic schools.

The French missionaries also wrote down detailed descriptions of Miami life and culture, said Tippmann, the director of the Whitley County Historical Museum. Today, translations of those writings aid Miami people in recovering their culture.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 launched the U.S. government's efforts to move Native American tribes from their homelands in the eastern United States to land west of the Mississippi River. Treaties signed by the Miamis relinquished land to the American government and included a provision that about half of the 600 Miamis in Indiana would move to land in what became eastern Kansas, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma said on its website, www.miamination.com.

The Miamis delayed their removal. This prompted the U.S. government to send a small Army force to make them move west in early October 1846, according to Diane Hunter, tribal historic preservation officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. She wrote about the delay in the Sept. 3 post "A Small Military Force, 1846" on the Miami



Photos by Kevin Kilbane



Miami Tribe members are forced onto canal boats for relocation to the West in this painting that will be part of the "Our Forced Removal" exhibit opening Oct. 6 at the Whitley County Historical Museum in Columbia City.

Tribe's Removal Commemoration blog, aacimotaatiiyankwi.org/myaamia-history/removal-commemoration.

French-born priest Father Julian Benoit, who was assigned in 1840 to serve the Fort Wayne area and became a trusted friend to the Miamis, was among local leaders who objected to use of military force against them, Hunter wrote in her post.

The Miamis had to board canal boats for travel to

Cincinnati, where they changed to a steamship for river travel to the Kansas City area. They then traveled overland about 50 miles south, arriving in early November at their new land at Sugar Creek.

Seven died along the way, Tippmann said, and about 10 percent of those who survived the trip died before the end of the year. About 20 years later, the tribe then had to move again to their current reservation in Oklahoma.

This photo shows a map of the route used in 1846 to forcibly move Miami people from their homeland in Indiana to new land in what became eastern Kansas. A Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Oct. 2 in remembrance of the Miamis' traumatic removal.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma now has more than 6,000 members, including about 820 in Indiana and 260 in Allen County, Hunter said.

"I think we still are feeling the effects of it," Tippmann said of the 1846 removal. "So much changed so quickly. We were separated from loved ones. We were separated from neighbors. This area is the dust of the bones of our ancestors."

The Miamis who were allowed to stay bore the guilt of seeing family and friends forced to move away, she added.

She has found comfort through the Catholic faith. "Catholic people's hearts are open to understanding what our people went through, and they are willing to step beside us and help us go through it," she said. "It makes everything so much easier."

Diocesan Museum

The diocese's museum, 1103 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne, will present its exhibit on the Miami removal Oct. 1-30. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and by appointment. Admission is free, as is parking in the cathedral lot.

Exhibit highlights include the desk of Father Benoit, who wrote frequently about the Miamis to Church officials and others, and a biography booklet on Father Benoit that was published in 1885, the year he died. The exhibit also will include an elk antler pipe local Miamis gave to Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

The exhibit allows the diocese to acknowledge the Miami removal anniversary in a more extended way than the Oct. 2 Mass, museum Director Kathryn Imler said. With the museum now located on Cathedral Square, she also believes it is important to honor the Miamis' connection to that land because it holds spiritual significance for them and formerly contained a cemetery where they buried their dead.

Imler hopes the removal exhibit will be a step toward developing a larger display about the history of Native Americans and the diocese. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is the only one in Indiana where two sovereign Native American nations — the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi — own property and have an official tribal presence.

175th anniversary of Miami Tribe's removal

Whitley County exhibit

The "Our Forced Removal" exhibit will have its grand opening at 3 p.m. Oct. 6 at the museum, 108 W. Jefferson St. in Columbia City. An accompanying lecture series will explore the Miamis' removal and their culture. A rotating display of work by Miami artists also will be presented during coming months.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays and 9 a.m. to noon Fridays. Admission is free.

"We are looking to tell the story of the Miami people, focused on removal," museum Director Tippmann said. The museum's displays, which will be up through mid-September 2022, will feature donations from the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, including a wigwam, interactive stations featuring maps and language concepts, and a slide show on the history of Native American tribes in Indiana.

Children can crawl into and sit in the wigwam and possibly sit in a dugout canoe, Tippmann said. Visitors can try creating patterns using Miami ribbon work and learn about treaties between the Miamis and U.S. government.

Tippmann also plans to honor Miamis who died during the removal and soon after arriving in what is now Kansas.

"We want to memorialize those people and talk about all the people who were made to leave," she said.

The lecture series schedule consists of:

4 p.m. Oct. 6: Diane Hunter, tribal historic preservation officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, "Miami People: A Living People with a Past."

4 p.m. Oct. 13: George Ironstrack, assistant director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, "Picking up the Threads of our Knowledge: The Impact of Forced

Removal on the Revitalization of Myaamia Language and Culture."

1 p.m. Oct. 16: Katrina Mitten, a Miami tribe member and noted artist, "Art and Assimilation: The Effect of Removal on Those Allowed to Remain."

4 p.m. Nov. 3: Todd Maxwell Pelfrey, executive director of The History Center in Fort Wayne, "Mainsprings of the Wildcat: The Making of Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville."

4 p.m. Nov. 17: Doug Peconge, community programming manager for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, "Myaamia Lacrosse."

4 p.m. Nov. 24, Dani Tippmann, a Miami member and the museum's director, "Myaamia Plant Traditions."

The museum hopes to present a livestream of the lectures for people who aren't able to attend. If coronavirus levels prevent in-person presentations, the museum plans to present the speakers on the Zoom videoconferencing system. For the latest updates, check the museum's website, www.whitleymuseum.com, and its Facebook page.

Lasting effect

The directors of the Whitley County and Diocesan museums hope their exhibits have impact beyond recognizing the 175th anniversary of the Miamis' removal.

Imler sees strong parallels between what the Miamis experienced in 1846 and what refugees and immigrants face today. She'd like visitors to think about the Miami removal and become more open to people from another background and try to see things from the other person's point of view.

"Even though we are focused on history, there is a human side to it, too," Tippmann said. Remembering that can help people do better in the future, she added.



An elk antler pipe given by Miamis of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to Bishop John M. D'Arcy will be among the items displayed in a Diocesan Museum exhibit commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Miami Tribe's forced removal in 1846 to land in what became Kansas.



Father Julian Benoit was a friend and adviser to the Miamis. His desk will be part of the Diocesan Museum exhibit. He opposed the use of military force to remove them in 1846 to land in what became Kansas.



This dugout canoe will be cleaned out for use in the "Our Forced Removal" exhibit at the Whitley County Historical Museum in Columbia City.



A kettle once was used by Kiilhsookwa, also known as Kil-So-Quah, the granddaughter of Miami Chief Little Turtle, will be among Miami items displayed at the Whitley County Historical Museum exhibit.



Kingdom Builders conference — 'He has everything planned out for you to fully bloom'

BY JODI MARLIN

A desire to provide a day of grace for women in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is the motivation behind "Bloom," a one-day retreat organized by Kingdom Builders ministry.

Kingdom Builders began at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne in 2019 and has since expanded to several other parishes spaced across the geographic region of the diocese. It's a ministry of accompaniment for women experiencing any kind of relationship with the Lord, from beginning or struggling through wanting to joyously share the joy they've found.

Lindsey Arnold, co-chairman of the Kingdom Builders conference and a member of the Kingdom Builders ministry leadership team, said the theme of this year's conference, "Bloom," came together once the date of the conference was determined. Oct. 16 is the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, patroness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

She gives credit to the Holy Spirit for bringing the plans together on that date, under her auspices.

"In our prayer, as we thought about it, it was beautiful — the idea of giving full surrender to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and entrusting that He has created you and provided for you like a wildflower. He said, 'consider how the wild flowers grow' — that's kind of our verse for the year. He has everything planned out for you to fully bloom. It's just a matter of surrendering to the Sacred Heart, of falling deeper in love with Him."

"Any woman from any stage of life, any place in her faith or maybe a lack thereof right now, ... We just want them to feel loved and to know their worth, their authority, their beauty."

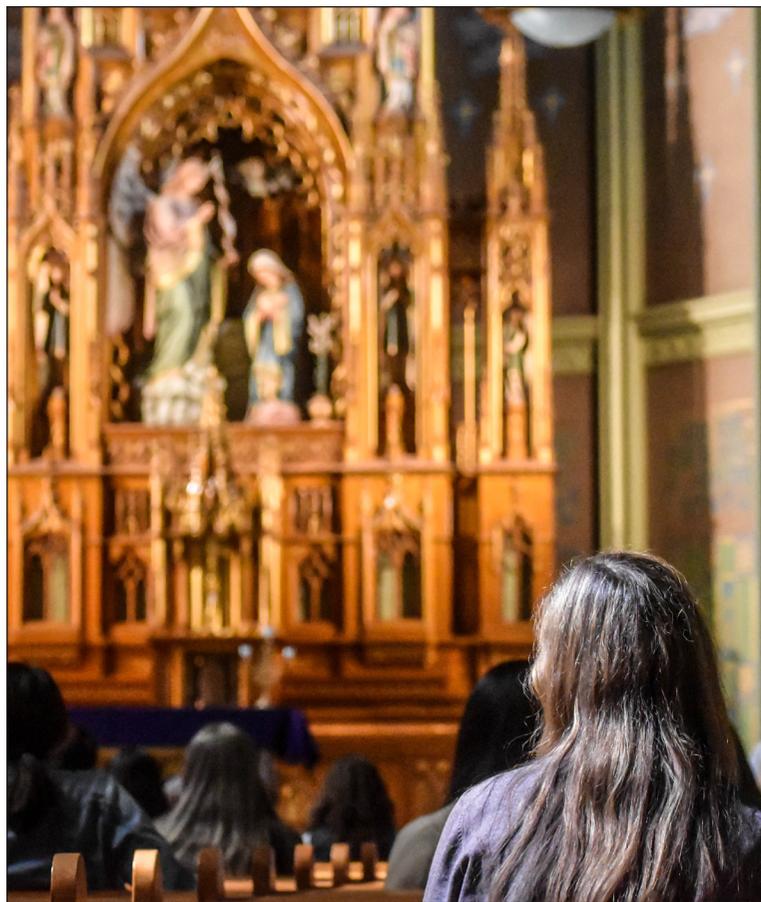
— Lindsey Arnold

She hopes all Catholic women, whether or not they're regular attendees at a Kingdom Builders monthly gathering, will take the day to come and hear something, have a "Mount Tabor experience" and be refreshed by the time away from other obligations. "It's what God wants for his daughters," Arnold said.

This is the second year for the Kingdom Builders conference. Last year the number of registrants was restricted by pandemic regulations, but this year the conference has moved to the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and has a greatly increased potential capacity.

Dr. Mary Healy, professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and chairman of the Theological Commission of Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service in Rome, is one of the speakers for the retreat. She will talk about the lies of the devil, "the weeds he likes to plant in your garden, to keep you from blooming and choke out all of those gifts that the Lord wants to bring to life in you," Arnold said.

In addition to Healy, other speakers at the event will be Meg Hunter-Kilmer, "a beautiful young woman who loves the Lord," Arnold described. "Her Bible is her best friend; she'll talk about how the saints are an example for us along the way of people who have surrendered to the Lord and let their lives bloom



File photo

with His goodness."

Heather Khym from the Abiding Together podcast and Kingdom Builders Founder Mary Jo Parrish will focus their presentations on the fact that when it comes to surrendering to the Lord, "the saints have done it, other people have done it, and here's how I have come to bloom

in my life,' Arnold said. "We just have to unveil the richness that is already here, in the Catholic Church." The Holy Spirit will tie the messages together in His presence with a time of adoration at the end of the day, she added.

During adoration, participants will be encouraged to offer them-

selves deeply and completely to the Lord. But because for some women this kind of encounter with the Lord might feel daunting or initially awkward, praise and worship songs will be interspersed throughout what is normally a time of silence.

Arnold encourages women to just "show up," at the conference, present themselves before the Lord and let Him work "whatever miracles he is going to work" in their lives.

"Any woman from any stage of life, any place in her faith or maybe a lack thereof right now, we are all God's daughters — whether someone sees themselves that way or not. We just want them to feel loved and to know their worth, their authority, their beauty," Arnold said. "Jesus is the one who will sustain us. It's all about Him, and we're just trying to lead others to Him."

"We hope that everyone goes away from this conference knowing that they were beautifully designed, and Jesus has carried them this whole way, that He wants to see their life bloom, and that He has a plan for that to happen. You're safe in surrendering to Jesus."

Doors open at 7:30 a.m. for registration and a light breakfast. Emcee Father Jonathan Norton will introduce the first speaker at 8:30 a.m., after which Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Lunch and more conference speakers will follow.

The price of the lunch is included in the \$70 registration fee. Several vendors and Catholic agencies will be on site. To register, visit buildingthroughhim.com/resources/events/kb-conference.

POVERTY, from page 1

from their children and weakens the family, she noted.

Kurut closed with a short video featuring Autumn, a young woman in the diocese who has participated in Catholic Charities' Education Creates Hope and Opportunity program. Autumn said the program encouraged her and assisted her with planning for the future after she became pregnant while in high school. She's now the mother of a young son and has a job that supports herself and her child.

She concluded with this message: No one is "just an employee." Workers all have family and other obligations that are important, too.

Business and organization leaders also heard a lot about three imperatives: "See," "Judge" and "Act." The Vatican and Indiana Catholic bishops use those three words to describe how business leaders and companies can reduce and prevent poverty.

Simply put, to "see" means a person can't go blindly through life doing what they do without considering the needs of others around him or her, said Father Mark Gurtner, the diocese's vicar general. To "judge" involves making decisions to create products and services that are needed, lead to rewarding jobs for employees, and making good use of resources. To "act" calls people to take what they profess in faith and use it in how they act in business.

Society has created a throw-away culture in which many people are excluded or treated as outcasts, he said. The Catholic Church believes in the dignity of every human life, and that includes workers.

Business leaders are called to act in a way that increases the common good by building up individuals, families and society, he added.

Keynote speaker Brian Corbin, executive vice-president for member services for Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Virginia, reinforced that message during a talk presented by videoconferencing.

Corbin urged business and organization leaders to view



Photos by Kevin Kilbane
Nicole Kurut, mission advancement manager for the Catholic Charities office serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, discusses challenges facing many families during a presentation at the Poverty Summit for Catholic business and organization leaders. Catholic Charities organized the event Sept. 9 at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

their work roles as a vocation. That vocation includes contributing to building up society and reducing poverty.

Treating workers well benefits a business by improving factors such as employee retention and morale, Barney Niezer, summit co-chairman, said during closing remarks.

Poverty summit participant Debra Stark Moser, vice president and regional sales manager for 1st Source Bank, said her company already assists employees in a few ways, including offering flexible work hours. Moser said the bank also is reaching out to address poverty in Fort Wayne by opening a loan office on the city's south side. The office will provide financial education and loans for home buyers, agriculture, small businesses and other needs.

Most businesses operate at the 50,000-foot level until issues involving workers are brought

to their attention, John Dortch, a Fort Wayne-based business consultant, small business owner and Poverty Summit planning committee member, said afterward.

Dortch encouraged business leaders to think about what he calls the "three Ts": time, talent and treasure.

"With that," he said, "give back."

What business and organizational leaders can do

Poverty Summit participants received a handout noting barriers to workers' economic self-sufficiency and how employers can help workers overcome them. Here are examples of best ways to assist workers.

Wages

Low pay leaves workers unable to provide for their families and working long hours keep them away from their family.

Suggestion: Pay just wages. A family of four in Allen County, Indiana, for example, needs to earn \$26.14 per hour for economic self-sufficiency.

Health

Poverty can lead to health problems and higher death rates.

Suggestion: Offer counseling services or affordable healthcare policies.

Economic mobility

Families may earn more than the federal poverty level but less than the cost of living.

Suggestion: Help workers improve their income or careers by offering paths to earn skill certifications or by assisting with education costs.

Transportation

Difficulty getting to and from work can lead people to quit jobs.

Suggestion: Sponsor a ride-sharing carpool or provide an employee shuttle to hard-to-reach offices.

Child care

The cost can consume most of a minimum-wage worker's pay.

Suggestion: Offer a dependent care flexible spending account or arrange an employee discount with nearby childcare providers.

Source:
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



Lisa Fabian, executive director of St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter, takes part in a table discussion during the Poverty Summit.

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When our children leave the faith

Once upon a time, you may have prayed for your darling child to become a nun. Odds are you never prayed that she become a none.

Gallup reported earlier this year that church membership by Americans has hit a historic low, falling for the first time below 50%. More disturbing is the growing number of young people who identify as “nones,” those without any religious affiliation.

Right now almost one out of every three young people — those under the age of 40 — claim no religious affiliation. These numbers hold true for Catholics as for nonCatholics.

What the statistics don't show is the pain felt by so many parents who watch their children drift away. Those who have raised kids in the faith, went to Mass every Sunday, sent their children to religious education programs or to Catholic schools, feel this pain most deeply.

“What did I do wrong?” we ask. “What should I have done differently?”

Catholics have always put great stock in the fact that the faith is inherited. One is “born Catholic,” or “a cradle Catholic.” This is no longer true, as Sherry Weddell points out in her powerful book, “Forming Intentional Disciples.” God has no grandchildren, she says. These days, you don't inherit the faith like you do your eye color or your skin tone.

That parents worry about the faith lives of their children isn't something new. Such worry is as old as St. Monica praying for her son, St. Augustine.

But talk with Catholic parents

these days, and it feels more widespread than ever. On any Sunday, there are likely dozens of Monicas in your parish and mine praying that their teenage or adult children return to the faith, get married in the church or have their grandchildren baptized. The unbaptized grandchild is a particularly deep wound.

There is a lot of anger and a lot of guilt swirling around this topic. The sociologist Christian Smith once warned lukewarm parents that “we'll get what we are.” Lukewarm begets lukewarm, he was saying.

Yet what seems increasingly common are parents who love the faith, who feel it is an essential part of life, and who feel as if they've done something wrong when their kids wander away. What they are getting is not what they are.

If such disaffiliation from the faith of their fathers and mothers is nothing new for young people, the scale of the departure is. There are lots of explanations of why it is happening.

Weddell believes that a fundamental problem in the Church — including priests and parents — is a lack of personal relationship with the Lord.

We follow the rules, we do the right things, but we really don't know Jesus and we don't do a good job of talking about our relationship with Jesus. That somehow feels, well, Protestant.

For the same reason, it can be hard for some of us to communicate with our children, adult or otherwise, what Jesus means to us, who He is in our lives.

Yet I also think that for many



AMID
THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

young people, they simply don't have time to invest in faith.

They live in a world almost mad with distractions, and many of the messages buried in all those distractions is that religion is not something to be taken too seriously. It's worse than hostility. It's apathy.

Faith is something they'll get around to someday. Maybe when they have children. Maybe when they have cancer. It isn't essential now.

The real enemy of the faith in our age is indifference. Combatting this enemy may be the biggest challenge facing our parishes, and our families, today.

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

Texas law an opportunity to address what abortion is and what it isn't

Abortion is back in the national spotlight in a big way — and not just as a political football to be tossed around during a presidential campaign. The controversy surrounding the adoption of Texas SB8, a groundbreaking statute that allows any private citizen to sue any individual who “aids and abets” an abortion once the baby's heartbeat has been detected (usually around six weeks), means that the country is once again abuzz over what so many people call “women's rights” and “women's health care.”

Conversation and debate will continue in the media and among Americans as the law is applied and, inevitably, tested in the judicial system. With abortion back in mainstream public consciousness, Catholics find themselves with a prime opportunity to speak the truth about what it really is and is not, and what is really at stake when we talk about abortion. It's these kinds of conversations — rather than participation in political debates — that can help make ground in the cultural struggle for life and help move the country in a pro-life direction. Here are some points to keep in mind.

Abortion is:

— An act that intentionally ends life in the womb, pure and simple. And it does so in a way that attacks those who are

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

unable to speak for themselves. “It is not right to ‘do away with’ a human being, however small, in order to solve a problem,” Pope Francis said during a general audience in 2018. “It is like hiring a hitman to solve a problem.”

— A violation of the Fifth Commandment and a grave sin that separates one from the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.”

— Not the end of the story. God's mercy is always available. If you know someone who has had an abortion, encourage her with respect and compassion to go to confession and seek proper

OSV, page 13

True discipleship is concerned with service to the poor



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 9:30-37

The Book of Wisdom furnishes the first reading for this weekend. This book was written in an effort to say that being faithful to God, and indeed worshipping the one God of Israel, represented not superstition but the greatest human wisdom.

To be convincing, the book obviously had to face the fact that evil exists in the world, because humans turn away from God and succumb to evil.

In this reading, the book describes the intrigue often involved in evildoing. Evil people conspire against the good. Evil

people in the world especially detest anyone who devoutly obeys God. If nothing else, the devout challenge evildoers. The devout prove that holiness is possible.

Christians often see in this passage and in others similar to it in the Old Testament a look ahead to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God.

From the theological point of view, from the standpoint of a broader message in divine Revelation, this passage and others like it prefigure the identity and mission of Jesus. When Wisdom was composed, however, centuries before Jesus, the incarnation had not yet occurred.

Nevertheless, all the details apply. Jesus was not without enemies. He personally was disliked. His Gospel was scorned. Still, Jesus triumphed.

For the second reading, the Church this weekend turns to the Letter of James. This letter never gives the name of its author. As four persons with the name of James appear in the New Testament, and possibly others by this name existed in the circle around Jesus, biblical scholars

are unwilling to say definitively who wrote this work of Scripture.

It is unimportant. The test of inspiration does not, in the last analysis, rest on the identity of the writer alone, but rather how the Christian community long, long ago accepted the writing and how the Church officially has regarded it. The Church teaches and has taught that James is a divinely inspired work.

The reading is clear and practical. It, too, refers to wisdom. True wisdom shares in and reflects divine knowledge. Therefore, true wisdom is good because God is innocent of all malice. It seeks to find truth. It seeks to respect others. It seeks what is right and just.

St. Mark's Gospel supplies the last reading. This reading actually has two points. First, inevitable in the personal mission of Jesus was a confrontation with evil. The ultimate and most powerful of earthly realities, namely death itself, came to Jesus, but Jesus overcame all human evil as well as death. He was the victor.

The Apostles, while being the Lord's special students, still were

humans. Human ambition and shortsightedness also entrapped them. They accepted that the kingdom would come, as Jesus taught, but they wanted to rank high when the kingdom's glory arrived.

Jesus warned them that reward in the kingdom would not be automatic. It surely would not be thrust upon them. They would have to deserve the kingdom by resembling in every sense: in their lives, they would have to imitate the life and sacrifice of the Master.

Reflection

For millennia, Christians have celebrated the Apostles. The names of important cities honor them: St. Paul, San Diego and St. Petersburg, in this country, Sao Paulo in Brazil and St. Petersburg in Russia.

It is fitting, yet this weekend's lesson from Mark's Gospel reminds us that the Apostles were only humans. As humans, they did not know everything. Worse, they sinned on occasion. Peter is a perfect example of both faults. They needed Jesus.

Their human condition and need remind us of our own human limitations. We glory in our knowledge, but the best scientific minds among us cannot cure COVID-19 once contracted.

Jesus is the one and only source of wisdom. He never fails. Follow Christ. Listen to the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20 Ps 54:3-4, 5-8 Jas 3:16—4:3 Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6 Ps 126:1b-6 Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 19:2-5 Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9 (Ps) Tb 13:2-4, 7-8 Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8 Ps 149:1b-6, 9B Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9 Ps 43:1-4 Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a (Ps) Jer 31:10-12b, 13 Lk 9:43b-45

The exorcistic effect of the word of God

Many often think of exorcism only in relation to driving out demons from possessed people using ancient prayers. But truth be told, we all have afflictions, oppressions, temptations and other negative thoughts and drives that are influenced by demons. Such influences may be direct and personal, but there are also sources of error and negativity that come from the world; and the world itself is often under the sway of the "prince of this world" — Satan — who spreads his lies and hate.

Among the Lord's principal weapons in driving demons out is His word, given to us in the Scriptures and sacred teachings of the Church. In the desert, Jesus rebuked every temptation by recourse to Scripture. St. Michael is often depicted holding a sword against Satan. But this sword is not a physical sword of shiny steel, it is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:17)

One of the great purposes of the Lord's word is to drive back the demons in our lives associated with ignorance, despair, presumption, sinfulness, worldliness and every other foolish and harmful thought or drive. In the sacred liturgy, the proclamation and preaching of the Word of God is not a mere conveying of information or the telling of ancient stories. The Word of God does not merely inform, it performs, and thereby transforms. In this way demons and their influence are driven back and there is built for us a bulwark of truth. If we faithfully attend Holy Mass and carefully listen to the proclaimed word of God, it has an exorcistic quality. How much more so, then, when we also receive the Word Made Flesh in holy Communion.

Consider, as a demonstration, a passage from the daily Mass on Tuesday of the 22nd week of

the year. It describes Jesus in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the sabbath, and they were astonished at His teaching because He spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm. They were all amazed and said to one another, "What is there about his word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region. (Lk 4:31-37)

Note that Jesus' authoritative proclamation as He taught them in the synagogue provoked and summoned a demon who stood forth. The authority of Jesus' words so troubled the demon that he was forced to manifest his presence and admit the truth about Jesus. He now stands before Jesus and is driven out by His mere word.

See the picture here! As noted above, proper and orthodox preaching does this. It is endowed by the Lord's grace and the power of his word. It summons the opportunistic demons forth who exploit human weaknesses such as ignorance, error, fear, past trauma, despair, doubt, stubbornness, hatred and so forth. While these are human struggles, demons often "pile on" by seeking these doorways, much as bacteria exploit cuts or wounds in our skin. God's word helps to heal us and disempower demonic strongholds.

Of course, Jesus does all this in less than a minute. But the



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

gospels often present deliverance and healing as compressed in time. For most of us, this deliverance, this casting out of negativity and the demons associated with it, is something that takes place over a longer period of time, even decades.

Steadily attending to God's Word through our presence at holy Mass, devotional reading, prayer of the Divine Office and other things, such as going to parish Bible studies, go to work over time to cast out many evil spirits that assail and tempt us with sinful and worldly thought.

And in this way, God's holy Word has an exorcistic quality. Of this I am a witness. For almost 40 years now, since my entrance into the seminary, I have daily read, prayed and studied God's word. It, along with the reception of the sacraments, has changed me profoundly. Dark, despairing and sinful thoughts have been brought to light and been driven away, along with any demons associated with them. This work is ongoing, but the Lord has brought me a mighty long way.

How about you?

OSV, from page 12

counseling. A local Project Rachel office is equipped to assist women in post-abortive healing.

— Not the only way an unwanted pregnancy can play out. Thousands of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers across the country stand ready to provide mothers in need with compassionate, nonjudgmental and practical care. These centers provide medical assistance, help mothers meet their basic needs and can even offer housing. Adoption agencies also are available to assist moms in crisis pregnancies and can connect babies with parents desperate for a child to love.

Abortion is not:

— A political tool to be used by politicians in order to appeal to or secure voters on a whim. Most unfortunately, we find ourselves currently with a Catholic president who at one point pro-

claimed himself to be pro-life but who just this month said he no longer believes that life begins at conception. When abortion becomes just another political party talking point, we have truly lost sight of what is really happening in this country's abortion clinics.

— An act that affects only the mother and the child. When a child is killed in the womb, lives are changed forever in families and in communities. Doctors and nurses at abortion clinics are hardened. A life created by God, along with all of its future potential, is gone, and the world is changed.

— Women's health care.

As a document from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities says, abortion "does violence to a very young child, has no clear justification in terms of women's health, and may attack women's health and their very lives."

Framing abortion as essential health care is damaging to health care practices that legitimately have the best interest of women at heart.

Today's culture would frame abortion as a right to which every woman is entitled, whenever and no matter the circumstances. That is a lie. What isn't a lie is the right to life of every child within the womb. "From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person — among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life," states the Catechism (No. 2270). And this is the message we must share.

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden and York Young.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 19, 2021

Mark 9: 30-37

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: The disciples argue. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FROM THERE	GALILEE	ANYONE
THREE DAYS	RISE	SAYING
AFRAID	COME	CAPERNAUM
HOUSE	ON THE WAY	SILENT
GREATEST	TWELVE	FIRST
SERVANT	MIDST	ARMS
RECEIVES	MY NAME	SENT ME

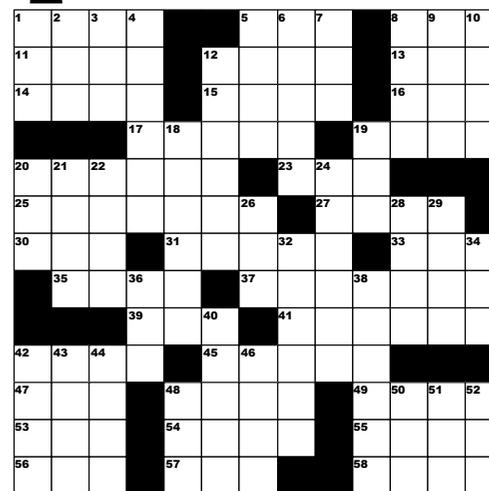
THE GREATEST

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G S I L E N T A N A N G
L R L W K E N O Y N A J
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M I D S T S A Y I N G F
    
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The Cross Word

September 19 and 26, 2021



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Readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37 and Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

ACROSS

- 1 Toot
- 5 Farm credit adm. (abbr.)
- 8 Compass point
- 11 Giant
- 12 Your eternal ____
- 13 Wing
- 14 Jesus is God's ____
- 15 Saucy
- 16 Beer container
- 17 Old-time candy flavor
- 19 Joshua was Moses'
- 20 Precision cut stone
- 23 Standard (abbr.)
- 25 Frame of a car
- 27 St. Francis tamed one
- 30 A group

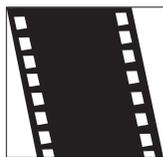
- 31 VT, "Ski Capital of the East"
- 33 Tree
- 35 China's continent
- 37 "____ from the hands of your foes"
- 39 ____ off what causes you to sin
- 41 Moves away from
- 42 "Wisdom is first of all ____"
- 45 ____ up (hiding)
- 47 Flightless bird
- 48 Penned in
- 49 Mary's sword flower
- 53 Emotional & behavioral disorder" (abbr.)

- 54 "You ____, weep and wail"
- 55 Not any
- 56 Caviar
- 57 Before, poetically
- 58 Volcano

DOWN

- 1 God placed his in the heavens
- 2 Self
- 3 Sin
- 4 Moves like a bike
- 5 Enemies
- 6 Makes well
- 7 Alternative (abbr.)
- 8 Rice wine
- 9 Huskies pull
- 10 "You fight & __ war"
- 12 "Moses' ____ bestowed on 70 elders"
- 18 Capital of Bahamas
- 19 Hubbub
- 20 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 21 Type of butter
- 22 Caps
- 24 Apostles "The ____"
- 26 Turf
- 28 One of Jacob's son
- 29 Ran
- 32 This is rotted away (James)
- 34 Married woman
- 36 Frozen water
- 38 Salt addition
- 40 Possessive pronoun
- 42 Look intently
- 43 Convex shape
- 44 Impolite
- 46 ____ upon a time
- 48 Before (prefix)
- 50 "Your wealth will ____" (James)
- 51 No room here
- 52 "Be thrown into the ____"

Answer key can be found on page 15



MOVIE CAPSULES

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

“Jungle Cruise” (Disney)

In 1916 Brazil, an intrepid British researcher (Emily Blunt) forms an unlikely alliance with a fast-talking Amazon River steamboat captain (Dwayne Johnson) and, aided by her brother (Jack Whitehall), they set off in quest of a mystical tree, the healing flowers of which she believes will revolutionize medicine. They're pursued by an eccentric German prince (Jesse Plemons) who thinks the same magic petals will give his homeland victory in World War I. Adapted by director Jaume Collet-Serra from a theme park ride, the lighthearted adventure is mostly a diverting, if insubstantial, fantasy. But the gratuitous addition of a scene in which Whitehall's luxury-loving but good-hearted cop outs himself as gay and briefly parrots the LGBTQ party line, besides being wildly anach-

ronistic, precludes endorsement for youthful viewers. Much raucous but stylized violence, a benign view of homosexual acts, some scatological humor, about a half-dozen mild oaths, a suppressed crude expression.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Ava's Grace support group for those grieving the loss of a baby

MISHAWAKA — Anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss and would like to listen to, learn from, and pray with others who know this deep suffering, may consider attending a new monthly online support group sponsored by Ava's Grace, the diocesan ministry that offers spiritual, emotional and practical support to families who have lost a baby before or after birth. The support group meets over Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. Email Lisa Everett at leverett@diocesefwsb.org for the Zoom meeting link and password. For more information about Ava's Grace, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace.

Father/son retreat for Year of St. Joseph
SOUTH BEND — Join Bishop Rhoades for a father/son retreat to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph. The retreat is open to boys ages 13-17 and their father/ or male relative and will take place Sunday, Sept. 19, from 2-8 p.m. at St. Patrick's County Park, situated on the St. Joseph River. Bishop Rhoades will speak on the life of St. Joseph as a model for men, and the retreat also will feature hiking, woodworking, birdwatching, conversation, prayer, grilling and games. The

cost of the retreat is \$20 per family and includes the entry fee to the park, snacks, dinner and a keepsake crucifix. To register, go to diocesefwsb.org/joseph-retreat.

40 Days For Life opening day prayer service and rally

FORT WAYNE — Right to Life of Northeast Indiana will host Mayor W. SuzAnne Handshoe, the first female mayor of Kendallville, as guest speaker Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 1-2 p.m., at Planned Parenthood, 2930 Lake Ave., for opening day of 40 Days for Life. Father J. Steele will give a blessing. Visit www.ichooselife.org/resources/events/upcoming-events/40-days-for-life. Contact Annemarie DeVille 260-797-3144 annemariedeville@gmail.com.

Online NFP support group

FORT WAYNE — Join a monthly online support group for NFP users in the diocese. Meet over Zoom on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month from 8-9:30 p.m. The next gathering will take place Wednesday, Sept. 22. Email Caty at cburke@diocesefwsb.org for the Zoom meeting link and passcode. Sponsored by Marriage and Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Contact Caty Burke at 260-422-4611.

20th annual Knights golf outing
WALKERTON — The 20th annual Knights of Columbus Bernie Westhues Memorial Golf Outing will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at Whispering Pines Golf Course, 32280 SR 4. Registration at 8 a.m. EST, continental breakfast at 9 a.m. Shotgun start with lunch served after golf. A 50/50 raffle, longest drive contest, closest pin contest all for \$75 per player. Proceeds aid qualified students of St. Patrick Parish and #5709 council. Beverages of one's choice provided by K of C on the course. Contact Tom Walter 574-586-2021 debbieandtom73@gmail.com.

The CrossWord

Sept. 19 and 26, 2021

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REST IN PEACE

Auburn Patricia Blotkamp, 69, Immaculate Conception	Elizabeth Mittiga, 95, St. Monica	Carolyn Tihen, 77, Christ the King
Bremen James Beath, 79, St. Dominic	New Haven Rita J. Doctor, 85, St. John the Baptist	Warsaw Michael Bonahoom III, 66, Sacred Heart
Joan Schutz, 88, St. Dominic	South Bend Dolores Bilski, 97, St. John the Baptist	John A. Slattery, 72, Sacred Heart
Granger Jacquelyn Walsh, 89, St. Pius X	Carol Duszynski, 78, St. John the Baptist	Waterloo Thomas L. Porter, 67, St. Michael the Archangel
Mishawaka Rosemarie Bradford, 93, St. Monica	Mardell Goralczyk, 90, St. Casimir	
	Edward Kubiak, 91, Christ the King	

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Saturday, October 2, 2021

7:30 am: Sacramental Confession, Holy Rosary, 1st Saturday Devotions

9:00 am: Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with His Excellency, Bishop Kevin Rhoades @ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

11:00 am: Breakfast with Guest Speaker
Fr. Bill Casey, Fathers of Mercy

Tickets: Adult ~ \$15 ~ Children 6-10 ~ \$5
5 and younger: FREE
RSVP @ FatimaFWSB.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Office Administrator

This Office Administrator plays an important role in serving our clients and successfully operating the practice in partnership with our Financial Advisors. A successful Office Administrator possesses strong written and verbal communication skills and has a friendly upbeat demeanor. This role would organize and manage a wide range of administrative and client support activities including client & advisor scheduling, fielding incoming phone calls, and working within the client relationship system.

Licensed Professional Role

The Licensed Professional role serves as a key resource to our Financial Advisors and clients in handling, researching, and communicating activities related to the implementation of our client's financial strategies. This professional role supports daily operations by utilizing our financial software programs in execution of investment and insurance related activities including running and entering trade orders, answering client account questions and supporting client review meetings.

Associate Wealth Advisor

The Associate Wealth Advisor will be joining a well-established practice and would work directly with existing clients as well as developing their own new client relationships. A successful candidate will develop and maintain long-term relationships with clients by gathering data, developing financial analysis, and providing recommendations based on the client's needs. They will identify risk management, financial planning and investment strategies while collaborating with team members and external providers to find and implement solutions.

Passage Wealth is an independent financial services practice located in Hoagland, Indiana. At Passage Wealth, we act as a reassuring guide, building authentic, faith-based relationships that help our clients open doors and unlock their financial potential. We take a broad-based approach to helping them achieve their financial goals by analyzing their current situation, developing in-depth financial programs, and helping them to implement an integrated financial strategy. Visit the website below for full job descriptions and more information.

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The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

deeply committed to the vision of the Second Vatican Council, is searching for an **Assistant Director of Liturgy** (and music) to serve a vibrant worshipping community of sisters and local community members. Located on the campus of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, the Church of Our Lady of Loretto is a wonderfully hospitable and beautiful setting that welcomes sisters from all over the world as well as attendees from the Notre Dame, South Bend, and even Chicago areas.



A candidate for this position must appreciate the value of full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly. Responsibilities include directing the choir and cantoring, along with some instrumental accompaniment on the piano or organ. Organization, detail-management, and a pastoral heart are needed for this position.

Position is full-time, exempt/salaried. Compensation depends on experience. Excellent benefits package including: medical, dental, and vision insurance, short-term and long-term disability insurance, group term life insurance and AD&D, paid vacation, sick, and holidays, 403(b) retirement savings plan, and tuition assistance program.

We look forward to receiving your application/resume today! For more information, please contact our Human Resources department at 574-284-5660, email ahogan@cscsisters.org, or visit www.cscsisters.org/employees.

Confirmation retreats to welcome candidates

FORT WAYNE — Eighth-grade youths to be confirmed during the 2021-22 school year are invited to join their counterparts in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for either of two single-day confirmation retreats that will take place on each side of the diocese. Both engaging and enriching retreats are open to groups from parishes and schools, those who are unable to facilitate their own retreat and anyone who wants to supplement their parish retreat with a dynamic, large-scale opportunity.

Confirmation is the sacrament of strengthening the faith given in baptism and of welcoming a person into full-fledged practice of the faith. Young people who are well-prepared to engage in an active prayer life and in service to others will be Christ's light and His love for the next generation. Therefore, the diocese encourages all Catholic young people to reflect, during events such as retreats, on the holy responsibility on which they are about to embark and the gifts they will soon receive from the Holy Spirit.

The first retreat will take place Oct. 9 at Marian High School in Mishawaka and the other March 12 at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. According to John Pratt, director of the Office of Youth Ministry, the dual



File photo

Candidates work on a small-group activity during the 2019 diocesan confirmation retreat.

locations are an attempt to alleviate the difficulty of transportation and travel distance from some parishes to the confirmation retreat.

Members of the Damascus Missionary Team, a national organization of faith-filled young adults dedicated to reviving the Church, will help to lead both retreats in conjunction with the

Office of Youth Ministry.

Both retreats will begin with registration on site at 8 a.m., with the first session kicking off at 8:45 a.m. Various talks will be interspersed with reflection songs, small group discussions and lunch or snacks. A time of adoration in the afternoon will precede the final small-group discussion and closing remarks,

and everyone will be dismissed by 3:15 p.m.

Students will be chaperoned by school and parish catechetical leaders and other individuals who have passed a background check and completed Safe Environment training. The chaperones will lead the small-group discussions. Cell phone use will be prohibited during retreat hours.

Cost to attend either retreat is \$20, which includes lunch and snacks. Registration is requested by visiting diocesefwsb.org/virtual-confirmation-retreat/.

As an additional resource for a student who is sick or otherwise unable to attend an in-person retreat, a virtual diocesan confirmation Retreat that was published in 2020 is still available on the website.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION RETREATS

October 9, 2021
Marian High School

March 12, 2022
Bishop Dwenger High School

diocesefwsb.org/confirmation-retreat

Letter art courtesy of Carmen Stephanie Nunez, Saint Joseph High School



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MARIA SOLIS VALTIERRA '24,
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