United to divine love: wedding anniversary couples celebrate

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Married couples of all ages and backgrounds, united in their one common Catholic faith, came together at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, to worship with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Sept. 19 at the first of two annual anniversary Masses.

From celebrating 25 years of marriage to 73 years, the anniversary couples were living witnesses to God’s love and fidelity. The faithful gathered couldn’t help but experience a renewed sense of devotion, faith and reverence for the sacrament of marriage through couples present, as well as through Bishop Rhoades’ preaching on the topic.

He spoke to the anniversary couples in a special manner, with both humor and support for their chosen vocation.

“Dear couples, when you were married, your love for each other was united to divine love. ... As you know, marriage is a day-to-day journey, a spiritual journey made up of many little steps. In marriage, you walk together on this journey, helping each other, encouraging each other, caring for each other and respecting each other. It is a journey with a destination. That destination is heaven.

“Spouses, ultimately, your task in marriage is to help each other get to heaven,” he continued. “The Lord gives you food for that journey to heaven, food that will nourish and strengthen you and your love. That food is His very body and blood in the holy Eucharist, the sacrament of His love. The holy Eucharist is the memorial with which Christ the bridegroom loved His bride, the Church. He loved us to the end. Spouses, may Jesus in the holy Eucharist increase your love and strengthen you on your journey to heaven.”

Robert and Elise Doyle of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, demonstrated this love in concrete ways during the Mass, as well as afterwards in speaking with Today’s Catholic.

“We weren’t sure we would make it today,” Robert reflected slowly. His dear wife, in a wheelchair, speechless, needed extra care and had not been well. But their devotion and love for one another was evident. He worked hard, even hiring a driver to take them to the cathedral and then ordering Elise a beautiful, pink corsage.

During Mass, he held her hand and made sure she received holy Communion first, attentive and aware of her needs. She gazed up at him, silently, with gentleness and gratitude. For a photograph, he knelt beside her like a spirited youth and hugged his bride of 71 years and four months, tears in his eyes.

Their grandson, Matt Snyder, joined the anniversary couple to help and bear witness to his grandparents’ testament of God’s sacrament of love.

Bishop Rhoades’ words rang true: “In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we contemplate the splendor of true love.” Those near the Doyles also teared up witnessing such continual love, a love that desires the best for one another, in action.

Jennifer Miller
Catholic Charities helps Afghan evacuees during National Migration Week

FORT WAYNE — Like Karen Bender, refugee health coordinator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, last month, families have been flown in from Afghanistan to face discrimination, as well as language, cultural and basic need challenges. “Just like most of my clients, they had to flee from their home. They have experienced trauma; families have been separated; they’re scared, they’re anxious and to top it off, they’re in a foreign land.” But at least now, she said, they are safe. The evacuees, who are referred to as guests, are currently housed at the base. The nongovernmental organization workers like Bender live offsite and board buses at 8 a.m. to arrive at the base for work around 8:45 a.m. After they work, guests are currently housed at the base.

Bender began working at Catholic Charities as a refugee resettlement intern in 2007 and has spent the last 10 years aiding refugees as a resettlement assistant, community liaison, case manager, health coordinator and supervisor in the department. During those 10 years, she said, she has heard heartbreaking stories of families making tragic, harrowing choices in an effort to escape a myriad of dangers lurking around their home.

She knew she would be right for this month-long assignment at Fort Bliss and left Fort Wayne with the prayers of her fellow Catholic Charities staff members.

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Dioceses prepare to welcome first Afghans starting new lives in U.S.

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

Afghan refugees at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va., board buses Sept. 2 that will take them to a processing center. At entry points around the country, efforts are underway to house and resettle refugees of the Taliban’s takeover of the country. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is helping with the process.

Nationwide, more than 40 Catholic Charities organizations are involved, said Rachel Follick, director of resettlement services for MRS.

“It’s going to be a big effort. There’s a lot of local support. It’s a lot of volunteers. It’s a lot of donations. Our offices around the U.S. are really thinking creatively and engaging with this huge groundswell of interest to welcome this population,” she told CNS.

The first people with a Special Immigrant Visa were expected to arrive in places such as Oklahoma City, Jefferson City, Missouri, and Cleveland in mid-September.

In Jefferson City, planning to receive evacuees dovetailed with Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri’s effort to begin ramping up to receive more refugees under the Biden administration’s plan to expand resettlement efforts.

Dan Lester, executive director of the Catholic agency, said resettlement is a community-wide undertaking.

“We’re working hard to build up a community co-sponsorship program,” he explained. “We’re working with other faith communities, business partners, other nonprofits interested in stepping up to the plate and taking on a family or an individual or multiple families.”

The agency is preparing to welcome up to 300 evacuees.

Among people hired to aid the effort are two Afghan natives, a man and a woman who speak Dari and Pashto, the predominant languages in Afghanistan, Lester said.

“We know when we bring folks into communities where they’re going to be welcomed, and the community brings their arms around them, that’s when we’re going to be successful,” he told CNS.

In the Cleveland diocese, Migration and Refugees Services of Catholic Charities already has been working with three people with special visas who arrived before the full-scale evacuation began.

Thomas Mroso, MRS director for the diocese, said he and his colleagues are preparing to welcome about 100 of the 300 Afghans expected to arrive in Northeast Ohio and may help provide rent payments, medical screening. Workers also will connect with schools, doctors and others who can help them continue their education.

Sponsors will help them get settled and take them to job interviews or doctor’s appointments and may help pay rent. There are others helping the refugees who are not sponsors but are offering them apartments rent free.

When evacuees arrive in Oklahoma City, they will be placed in hotels at first and connected in a central location with social workers, translators and others who can help them connect with schools, doctors and jobs, and assist with cultural orientation.

Finding employment will be a major emphasis, Raglow said.

“We are told their employment authorization documents are being initiated and fast-tracked. Knock on wood, in three to six weeks they should have their employment authorization,” he said.

“The vast majority, they have suffered trauma,” Raglow told CNS. “They’d rather be in a safe secure thriving Afghanistan, but they will recognize the opportunities here in Oklahoma and I think they’ll make a major contribution to our community.”

Church needs to hear God speaking through those who are hurting, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To listen to the Holy Spirit, members of the Church must listen to each other and especially to those who are marginalized, Pope Francis said, explaining how dioceses are to help the Church prepare for the Synod of Bishops.

This means that, for example, “the poor, the homeless, young people addicted to drugs, everyone that society rejects are part of the synod” because God says they are part of the Church, he said.

“So often the ‘rejects’ become the ‘cornerstones’ and those who are far off become near,” he continued. “The marginalized, the poor, those without hope were elected to the sacrament of Christ. This is the way the Church is,” he said.

The pope spoke Nov. 12 of Synod members of his diocese, the Diocese of Rome, in the Paul VI audience hall Sept. 18 as the global Church gets set to begin a “synodal journey” toward the 2023 assembly of the Synod of Bishops, discussing the theme, “For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission.”

Pope Francis is scheduled to formally open the synod process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10, and the bishop of every diocese should open the process in his diocese Oct. 17. The diocesan phase, which runs until April, will focus on listening to and consulting the people of God.

The pope apologized for speaking at great length, but he said that as the bishop it was important he explain how the synodal process should work and why.

Essentially, he said, it will be a period of mutual listening in which everyone — cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laypeople — plays a leading role and “nobody can be considered a plain bit player.”

The purpose is not to collect everyone’s individual opinions, he said, but rather to hear what the Holy Spirit is quietly — and perhaps surprisingly — saying through them.

This will require everyone dialogue in a way that is “familial,” where everyone recognizes their common humanity, reconciles differences and reaches out in order to encounter and engage with one another, he said.

“One of the evils of the Church, rather, a perversion, is this clericalism that separates the priest, the bishop from the people. A bishop and priest disconnected from the people is an administrator, not a shepherd,” the pope said.

The synodal journey will require discussing viewpoints and expectations that are different and seeking out people who have been alienated “to hear not what they say but what they feel, even the insults,” he said.

“Allow yourselves to meet HURTING, page 4
The vocation of a consecrated virgin

FORT WAYNE — Anne Therese Stephens, an advocate in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Tribunal, will be consecrated to a life of virginity during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Oct. 3, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Everyone is invited to attend.

Consecrated virginity is the oldest recognized form of consecrated life in the Catholic Church, predating religious life by centuries. Well-known consecrated virgins from the early Church include the martyrs St. Agnes, St. Agatha, St. Cecilia and St. Lucy. Contemporary consecrated virgins include Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Consecrated virginity is one of the only forms of women’s consecrated life. It involves a deep spiritual bond with the local Church, unlike religious sisters who leave their diocese to live in community. Consecrated virgins are called to dedicate their lives to prayer for, and service to, their home diocese.

Where religious vows are essentially promises that an individual actively makes to God, consecration to a life of virginity is a solemn blessing that a woman passively receives from God through the ministry of the bishop. Because of this, the consecration itself is permanent and can never be dispensed.

One of a consecrated virgin’s most primary obligations is prayer, fulfilled through attendance at daily Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours and spending time in personal prayer and spiritual reading. Consecrated virgins serve as a witness and reminder to the fact that Christ is the ultimate fulfillment, not only of the longings of the human heart, but also of all of time and history.

A consecrated virgin lives within her diocese among family, parish community and others. She must provide for her own material needs, medical care and retirement. At no time is the diocese financially responsible for her.

In the world, there are approximately 3,000 consecrated virgins in at least 42 countries, with an estimated 215 in the U.S. The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins is a voluntary association for women in the United States who have received the Consecration of Virgins for women living in the world, according to the pertinent provisions of Canon Law. The USACV is available to support its members in the faithful living out of their vocation to consecrated virginity. To find out more about the USACV, visit consecratedvirgins.org.

HURTING, from page 3

(others) and be questioned (by them), let their questions be your questions, allow yourselves to walk together. The Spirit will lead you,” the pope told them. “Do not be afraid to enter into dialogue and allow yourselves to be shocked by the dialogue. It is the dialogue of salvation.”

“The Holy Spirit in his freedom knows no boundaries, nor does he allow himself to be limited by affiliations,” he said, if the parish is not to be “an exclusive club, then I suggest you leave doors and windows open” so everyone can be welcomed.

No one should be afraid, impotent or “rigid” in interpreting whatever difficulties emerge, he added, as long as people remain open and docile to the Spirit. “God is not in a hurry,” and he can see beyond present circumstances and contrasts, he said. People need to “acknowledge the freedom of God’s action and (make sure) that there are no obstacles that could keep him from reaching people’s hearts.”

After Christ’s death and resurrection, God did not leave behind a “vacuum” that has to be filled by people insisting on taking his place or demanding the Church be modeled on their cultural or historical beliefs — leading the Church to become like a country with “armed borders, guilt-mongering customs houses” with “a spirituality that blasphemes the gratuity of God’s engaging action,” Pope Francis said.

Instead, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, who provides the “drive,” strength and ability to be witnesses in words and deeds of God’s unconditional love and his immense hospitality that knows no bounds or borders, the pope said.

This is the Church’s path and a synodal Church moves in the world knowing the Holy Spirit “will be with us,” he said. “There will always be debates, thanks be to God,” he said, “but the solutions must be sought by giving the floor to God and to the voices of those among us: praying and opening our eyes to everything around us; living a life faithful to the Gospel; and examining Revelation according to a hermeneutic of pilgrimage that began in the “Acts of the Apostles” and continues today.

Reading through Acts can “help us, showing us that communion does not suppress differences. It is the surprise of Pentecost when different languages are not an obstacle,” he said.

It will be thanks to the Holy Spirit that people will be able to “feel at home, different, but supportive along the journey,” he said.

Rather than “erecting hierarchical monuments,” he said, the Church must make certain everyone feels “part of one great people, recipients of divine promises, open to a future where everyone can take part in a feast prepared by God.”

During this pandemic, the pope said, the Lord is encouraging the Church’s mission to be a “sacrament of care. The world has lifted up its cry, shown its vulnerability — the world needs care.”
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, Sept. 19 for couples observing their 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversary this year.

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

The witness of the Whites also spoke to unity, to divine love and examples of everyday kindness. Gregory and Cordelia, of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, joyfully attended the anniversary Mass with their children and grandchildren. Married 50 years this Nov. 25, they walked together, clearly respecting and loving one another, as well as allowing each to shine, speaking to their good qualities.

Cordelia spoke with a Caribbean lilt to her voice of their children and grandchildren, grateful to attend church with them each week. When asked for advice, Gregory shared with a smile, “Don’t take an argument to bed! Clear it all up before bed. Get up the next day fresh, for who knows what you will wake up to, if you don’t!”

Bishop Rhoades also spoke about “everyday kindness,” following the second reading from St. Paul to the Philippians — a reading that invited the community to rejoice, so that “their kindness should be known to all.” He taught, “this simple virtue of kindness is so important for a truly Christian life and good marriage. I often remember Mother Teresa speaking of kindness and thoughtfulness of others as the beginning of holiness. One who is kind speaks words of comfort, consolation and encouragement. How important this is in marriage.”

Tony and Anna Stein of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish showed this kindness to their parish as well. Tony has served as a lector for years, clearly and distinctly proclaiming well the Word of God, while Anna serves as a sacristan as well as teaching classes of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

They are looking forward to celebrating their winter wedding anniversary next summer. She shared that “50 years goes too fast,” a sentiment to which her husband quickly nodded in agreement.

A second wedding anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Fort Wayne, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sept. 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Gerald and Lourdes Espiritu of St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend, bring up the gifts to be blessed and broken during the anniversary Mass.

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You receive a charitable deduction; you are building the future of the sisters through a gift to the Sisters of Providence.

ONE LIFE

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Bishop praises House members for proposing citizenship path for immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' migration committee chairman Sept. 15 welcomed a move by House members to include language in the $3.5 trillion budget reconciliation bill to provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship for beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and other immigrants. "We are pleased that the House Committee on the Judiciary has taken this important step, setting up an opportunity for many undocumented persons to receive legal status and a pathway to citizenship," said Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, who heads the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration. "Undoubtedly, Catholic social teaching will be implicated by many aspects of this budget reconciliation bill, but this is a welcome milestone for many families and the common good," he said in a statement. Bishop Dorsonville added: "For decades, the bishops of the United States have been proponents of such reforms, which promote integration and family unity. We cannot persist in regressing these members of our society to the margins, especially when we simultaneously depend on so many of them for our collective well-being." If the budget reconciliation bill passes, the language on citizenship would apply to those covered by DACA, often called "Dreamers," as well as Temporary Protected Status holders, Deferred Enforced Departure beneficiaries, and agricultural workers and other essential workers in the country without legal permission.

Illinois success story shows strength of CCHD grant funding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Helping workers win their rights and achieve dignity in the workplace is just one of the many activities funded by national grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty program. Workers' rights were front and center during a Sept. 15 webinar, "CCHD and Worker Justice," sponsored by the Catholic Labor Network. The focus was on the Chicago Workers' Collaborative, which has been the recipient of national CCHD grants since the 2000s. "The Catholic Church was the first grantor, and has supported us throughout our journey," said Tim Bell, executive director of the collaborative. The collaborative helped Barry Rose, who took part with Bell in the webinar. Rose called himself "a temp worker and returning citizen." After his release from prison, Rose said, he heard the familiar taunts that he would soon be returning to jail. Rose signed up with a temp agency in Chicago called Elite Staffing, which sent him to a factory. "It was OK, but the conditions I saw were really, really hot," he recalled. "We were sweating up a storm." Rose lasted eight months until he complained. He next got a temp job at Gold Standard Bakery, which supplies bread products to Burger King and Starbucks locations in the Chicago area. Once he was hired as a permanent worker — no longer a temp — "the people elected me to be on the (union) bargaining committee. So when I was fighting for their raises ... they elected me to be the union steward," Rose said. Bell said there are an estimated 800,000 temp workers in Illinois. "Barry helped get the Responsible Jobs Creation Act passed, the strongest temp workers law in the country."

Pope: Bishops must handle Communion debate as shepherds, not with censures

ABROAD THE Papal Flight FROM SLOVAKIA (CNS) — The debate about denying Communion to politicians who support abortion must be handled in a pastoral way, not by public condemnations that seek to "excommunicate" Catholics who are in line with Church teaching, Pope Francis said. During his return flight from Bratislava, Slovakia, Sept. 15, the pope said that while there is no question that "abortion is homicide," bishops must take a pastoral approach rather than waste into the political sphere. "If we look at the history of the Church, we can see that every time the bishops did not act like shepherds when dealing with a problem, they aligned themselves with political life, on political problems," he said. The pope told journalists that when defending a principle, some bishops act in a way that is not pastoral and "enter the political sphere. And what should a shepherd do? Be a shepherd. Not going around condemning. They must be a shepherd, in God's style, which is close ness, compassion and tenderness."

Leadership is distorted by thirst for power, betraying charism, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis praised Catholic lay movements and associations for living out the Gospel in their everyday lives and for promoting education, social support and evangelization in the world's peripheries. They show how "we don't have to wait for a priest to come, for the priest to evangelize or a mission ary," he said, applauding the way many movements have reawakened the understanding that all the baptized have the duty to evangelize and be a missionary of the Church. However, just like the world's religious orders and congregations, the pope said, lay movements and associations of the faithful are just as susceptible to abuses and problems, all of which stem from an abuse of power. All associations, not just some or just the large ones, must learn what good governance entails, he added. The pope spoke Sept. 16 in the Vatican's synod hall to people taking part — online and onsite in Rome — in a meeting organized by the Diocesany for Laity, Family and Life, focusing on the issue of responsible governance in lay movements and associations. Participants included "moderators" of associations of lay faithful, movements and new communities. The pope told them: "To govern is to serve. The exercise of governance within associations and movements is a topic that is particularly close to my heart, especially considering — what I said before — the cases of different kinds of abuse which have occurred in these situations, too, and that they always find their roots in the abuse of power."

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, set to welcome home remains of Father Kapauon

Workmen in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kans., move a marble tomb Sept. 15, where the remains of Father Emil Kapaun will be interred. The tomb was empty during a memorial Mass for Father Emil J. Kapaun celebrated Sept. 29, 1953, after word of his death in a North Korean prisoner of war camp reached the Diocese of Wichita, where he had been ordained a priest in 1940. Seventy years later, a U.S. government forensics team announced that it had identified the remains of the U.S. Army chaplain. A candidate for sainthood, he has the title "Servant of God."

Donation called expression of U.S. Catholics' affection for Paris cathedral

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington has collected and donated nearly half a million dollars to assist the restoration and rebuilding efforts of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, which was extensively damaged in a fire two years ago. The donation was made Sept. 16 during a Mass celebrated by Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory in the national shrine's Crypt Church. He called the gift to "our sisters and brothers in France" for the cathedral's repair "an expression of our deep affection and beauty for those who visit that world famous shrine in the centuries that will follow."
Fifth annual Corrections Ministry Conference

FORT WAYNE — The Corrections Ministry Conference is a regional conference for clergy, lay jail and prison volunteers, those in corrections professions and anyone interested in learning more about corrections ministry.

This year’s fifth annual event will be in-person and livestreamed from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at Roncalli High School Auditorium, 3300 Prague Rd., Indianapolis. It is free to attend.

Christine Montross, M.D., will give the keynote address, “Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration.” Also slated to speak on “Political Law 101: An Overview,” is the Hon. William J. Hughes.

For more information or to register visit www.archindy.org/corrections/ or contact Deacon Marc Kellams, coordinator of Corrections Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, at mkellams@archindy.org or (812) 345-3276.

Come and see life as an Adrian Dominican Sister

ADRIAN, Mich. — All young, single Catholic women ages 19 to 35 who are contemplating God’s will for their life are invited by the Adrian Dominican Sisters to a weekend of discernment to see if God could be calling them to life as Adrian Dominican nuns.

The Come and See weekend is Oct. 8-10 at Weber Retreat and Conference Center on the Adrian Dominican Sisters’ motherhouse campus, 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr. in Adrian, Michigan. The weekend offers the opportunity to meet other women discerning God’s call; join the Adrian Dominican Sisters for Sunday liturgy; spend time in prayer, reflection, silence, sharing, and fun; learn about the life of an Adrian Dominican Sister; and tour the motherhouse campus, engaging in conversation with the sisters.

There is no charge for the weekend. Register online at tinyurl.com/ADSDiscern, or for more information, contact Sister Katherine Frazier, OP, at vocations@adriandominicans.org.

Giving Tuesday is Nov. 30

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana will sponsor the #IGiveCatholic Day of Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30. This year, the foundation will pay the entire cost of the program so that parishes, schools and Catholic ministries in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that would like to participate will receive 100% of the proceeds of their fundraising need.

Giving Tuesday is a global movement that began in 2012 as a means of encouraging generosity to charitable organizations. It takes place on the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year’s date is Nov. 30.

A group of Catholics took Giving Tuesday one step further, creating the organization IGiveCatholic to specifically support Catholic ministries. This website serves as a way for the faithful to counter the commercialism and materialism of society’s secular celebration of Christmas by giving to Catholic organizations in need.

Information has been sent out to parishes, schools and Catholic organizations of the diocese. Registration for those entities that would like to include their particular fundraising need will continue through Nov. 5. For more information, contact Sarah Shively at sshively@ccfnel.org.

Students invited to travel to National March for Life

FORT WAYNE — As legislation protecting the unborn continues to be challenged across the country, this fall students from every state are making plans to advocate for young lives by taking part in the National March for Life. In January, the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., will swell with their efforts, their signs of support for life and revealing the realities of abortion visible as they walk toward the Capitol.

After a hiatus in their participation due to COVID-19 concerns last year, high schoolers from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be part of this year’s march. Buses will travel from several locations in the diocese to the capital, leaving the evening of Jan. 20 and arriving in time for Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a March for Life Rally and the 1 p.m. march itself on Jan. 21. All Catholic high school students are welcome, both those who attend diocesan Catholic schools and those who participate in parish religious education and youth events.

Participants will have the afternoon of Jan. 21 open for sightseeing. The next day, they will board their buses home, possibly stopping along the way.

Due to ongoing concerns about the virus and its potential impact on the National March for Life, different registration procedures are in place this year. Instead of registering and paying a fee in advance for travel and lodging, young people, adult leaders (chaperones), priests and religious who are interested in attending the march are asked to fill out an RSVP form on the diocesan website, diocesefwsb.org/march-for-life. Space is limited and the RSVPs are first-come, first-served.

If, by Nov. 15, it is still likely that diocesan participation in the march will take place, an email and registration window will open on the same website. At that time, and before Dec. 6, anyone still interested in participating will need to register and submit payment to keep their seat on the bus. Student cost will be $180. The cost for adults will be $65.

America Needs Fatima Holy Hour of Prayer

FORT WAYNE — An America Needs Fatima National Holy Hour of Prayer will take place at Christ the King Church, South Bend, Oct. 16 at noon. The parish is located at the corner of S.R. 933 and Darden Road.

The prayer will take place outdoors, so participants should bring a lawn chair in addition to their rosary and a mask.

For more information, contact Dorothy Wheeler at 574-885-3915.

Father/son retreat bonds relationships

A father and son build crucifixes during a daylong retreat at St. Patrick’s County Park, South Bend, organized by the Office of Marriage and Family Life. The Sept. 19 outing brought the fathers and sons together for Mass, prayers, arts and crafts and group activities.
St. Junípero Serra, California’s fall guy

California’s legislature now has in it for St. Junípero Serra, who has long been considered the founding father of the Golden State. The authorities let an angry mob tear down the Franciscan missionary’s statue in Los Angeles. Now they aim to lay at his feet all the offenses of the Spanish Empire and its Angle successor. Assembly Bill 358 would repeal a legal requirement for a state monument to America’s first Hispanic saint. The bill offers this explanation: “Enslavement of both adults and children, mutilation, genocide, and assault on women were all part of the mission period initiated and overseen by Father Serra.”

Note the careful wording. The resolution tries, without actually saying so, to leave the impression that Father Serra personally committed these atrocities. In fact, the phrase “mission period” is also intentionally vague. It avoids saying even that the mission system caused these atrocities.

The bill recites that in the 1530s, Pope Paul III and the king of Spain inveighed against the massacre and enslavement of native peoples. This was more than two centuries before Father Serra came to the New World. These facts, the bill, says, were ignored.

No doubt they were, at various times and places in the 300-year history of New Spain. But the bill makes no specific claims about St. Junípero’s actions, or about anything done specifically in his time. Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez and San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone recently wrote in the Wall Street Journal on the legislature’s implied slander that St. Serra enslaved and massacred natives. They say that “no serious historian has ever made such outrageous claims about Serra or the mission system, the network of 21 communities that Franciscans established along the California coast to evangelize native people. The lawmakers behind the bill drew their ideas from a single tendentious book,” “A Cross of Thorns,” by the late journalist Elias Castillo, which was published in February 2015. It is the only source of information mentioned in the bill.

Six years ago this week — seven months after the publication of Castillo’s book — Pope Francis canonized St. Junípero here at The Catholic University of America. Pope Francis holds little sympathy for the abuse of native peoples or colonial triumphalism.

But he had this to say about Father Serra’s life: “He learned how to be born to birth and make God’s life in the faces of everyone he met; he made them his brothers and sisters. Junípero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it.”

This is a far more plausible account of Father Serra’s life. We know that he was an outspoken advocate for the native peoples of Alta California, that he drafted a bill of rights for them and that he complained loudly about their treatment by Spanish authorities — especially about the treatment of women.

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Learning all about Jesus

Over the summer, we took a family road trip to the thi...
How to live a meaningful life

L ast week, I had the great good fortune to sit down for a Zoom interview with Jordan Peterson, Jonathan Pageau and John Vervaeke. As I’m sure you know, Peterson, professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, is one of the most influential figures in the culture today. Pageau is an artist and iconographer working in the Orthodox Christian tradition, and Vervaeke is a professor of cognitive psychology at the University of Toronto. All three of these gentlemen have a powerful presence on social media.

The topic of our conversation was a theme that pervades all four of us — namely, the crisis of meaning in our culture, especially among the young. To kick things off, Peterson asked each of us to give our definition of meaning and, more specifically, of religious meaning. When my turn came, I offered that a meaningful life is one that is fruitful in the sense that it contributes to human flourishing, to the well-being of others, and to the flourishing of the world.

Peterson followed up my definition by asking me to consider the question of how one can make such a life possible. I said that one way to do so is to order one’s life in such a way that one consistently seeks the good, the true, and the beautiful. That is, one should strive to develop a sensibility that is open to the great institutions of the tradition, to the wisdom traditions, to the scientific form of knowledge, and to the artistic beauty — a Cézanne still-life, a Beethoven sonata, Whitman’s Leaves of Grass — stops us in our tracks and compels us to think about what it means to be human.

Now, I continued, the perceptive soul intuits that there is a transcendent source of these values: a supreme or unconditional good. This is the ultimate aim of our pursuit of the good, the true, and the beautiful. But how do we know what this good is? How do we know what it looks like to live a meaningful life? From my perspective, I said, we need great Catholic scholars, who understand our intellectual tradition thoroughly and who believe in its powers of cognitive psychology at the University of Toronto, is one of our four of us — namely, the crisis that preoccupies all of us, that is, the crisis of meaning on social media. The topic of our conversation was a theme that is a topic of expertise, all of us agreed that the “wisdom tradition,” which classically presented and defended these truths, has been largely occluded in the culture today, and this occlusion has contributed mightily to the crisis of meaning.

Much has contributed to this problem, but we put emphasis especially on two causes: scientism and the postmodern suspicion of the very language of value. Scientism, the reductionism of all legitimate knowledge to the scientific form of knowledge, effectively renders claims of value unserious, merely subjective, expressive of feeling but not of objective truth. Combined with this reductionism is the conviction, baked into the brains of so many young people today, that claims of truth and value are simply, disguised attempts to prop up the power of those who are making them or to sustain a corrupt institutional superstructure. Accordingly, these assertions have to be demythologized, dismantled, and deconstructed. And along with this cultural assault on the realm of values, we have witnessed the failure of many of the great institutions of the culture, including and especially the religious institutions, to present this realm in a convincing and compelling manner. Far too often, contemporary religion has turned into superficial political advocacy or a pandering echo of the prejudices of the environs of culture. So, what do we need for a meaningful life? From my perspective, I said, we need great Catholic artists, who reverence Dante, Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Mozart, Hopkins and Chesterton, and who are also on point to produce fresh works of art, imbued with the Catholic sensibility. And we need, above all, great Catholic saints, who show concretely what it looks like to live one’s life in purposive relation to the sumnum bonum.

We can and should blame the culture of modernity for producing the desert of meaninglessness in which so many today wander, but we keepers of the religious flame ought to take responsibility too, acknowledging our failures and resolving to pick up our game. For people today will not enter into relationship with values and with the supreme value unless they can find mentors and masters to show them how.

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

WORD ON FIRE

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Justice Thomas discusses faith, modern views in ND lecture

(CNS) — In an address at the University of Notre Dame Sept. 16, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spoke about being personally grounded by his Catholic faith — which he said he “ran away from” when he was young and “crawled back” to 25 years later.

He also spoke more broadly about how the country in previous decades had been more rooted in the values of the Declaration of Independence and demonstrated a sense of patriotism and overall unity that is less prevalent today.

“We have failed the Declaration of Independence, but it has not failed us. It endures because it articulates truth,” he told a crowd of about 800 people attending the 2021 Tocqueville Lecture for Notre Dame’s new Center for Citizenship and Constitutional Government.

Thomas, who was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, stressed this document — signed by the Founding Fathers with its emphasis that all are created equally — has “weathered every storm” and still has something to say today.

He also said he has seen signs that values inspired in this text still hold true, something he observed firsthand this summer when he and his wife, Ginni, spent three weeks traveling across the country in their RV.

“There is something true, something transcendent, something solid, something that pulls us together rather than divides us,” Thomas said, referring to campground conversations he had with people, before they recognized him, and the proud American flag displays he and his wife noticed.

Thomas spoke about growing up in Georgia in the ‘50s and ‘60s, “as being in a different world where there was a ‘deep abiding love for the country’.”

He said he learned from his grandparents and the sisters who taught him at St. Benedict the Moor School in Savannah, Georgia, how to “navigate through and survive the negativity of the segregated world without negating the good that there was.”

To this day, “I revere, admire and love my nuns. They were devout, courageous and principled women,” he said of the Franciscan sisters who ran the school from its start in the early 1900s until it closed in 1970.

He said that even though he was in the segregated South, the sisters emphasized that all were equal in God’s eyes. As a young man, he said, he was less focused on rights than on what was required of him and had “no room for self-pity.”

This assurance left him when he was 19, following the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He left the seminary where he was studying, saying: “I lost faith in the teachings of my youth and ‘thought my country and my God had abandoned me’.

At that point, he said he was “consumed by negativism, cynicism, animus and any other negative emotion that you could conjure up. Sadly, the destructive disposition that I exhibited then appears to be celebrated today.”

As a college student, he said he rejected his faith, family and country and “filled that void with victimhood — a Black man with an ax to grind” focused on racial differences and grievances, which he once again likened to current responses.

In 1970, after returning to his campus at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, after a riot, his view changed. He said he stood outside the chapel and asked God to “take hate out of my heart” and began what he described as a return to familiar ground.

In a quiet moment at the end of his Notre Dame speech, a few students in the auditorium chanted, “I still believe in Anita Hill,” which was followed by boos from the crowd, the students being escorted out, and then applause. Hill, who worked for him from 1982-83, accused him of sexual harassment during his 1991 confirmation hearing.

Thomas bemoaned that too often people think the justices make policy, which he said the media and interest groups promote and this concerns him because he thinks it could “jeopardize faith in the judiciary.”

He said his Catholic faith does not conflict with judicial opinions and that his favorite prayer, one which hangs on the wall of his office, is the Litany of Humility.

“Having been humbled, I have every reason to be humble,” he told the students and faculty members before adding advice: “I think you start with that, and being true, being honest with yourself about what you know (and) what you don’t know. Also, do not lose sight of the good in people.”
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.

World Apostolate of Fatima annual Mass and breakfast
FORT WAYNE — The World Apostolate of Fatima will have a Mass and breakfast Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The event begins with confession at 7:30 a.m. followed by the novena and Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at 9 a.m. A Marian procession to the Grand Wayne Center with speaker Father William Casey, CPM, of the Fathers of Mercy will follow Mass. Cost is $15. Contact Seth Ball at seth@fatimafwsb.org for information or visit fatimafwsb.org.

Mother/daughter quinceañera retreat
MISHAWAKA — A mother/daughter retreat will be Saturday, Oct. 2, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, in the gym with check-in at 8:30 a.m. The retreat will consist of talks, fun activities, conversation and prayer. There will also be a special session just for moms in the afternoon, and the retreat will conclude with eucharistic adoration in the church. The cost is $20 per family payable at the conclusion in the church. The cost is $15. Contact Seth Ball at seth@fatimafwsb.org for information or visit fatimafwsb.org.

Mass of Healing in Remembrance of the Miami Tribe
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades invites all to attend a Mass of Healing in Remembrance of the Miami Tribe on Saturday, Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This Mass marks the 175th anniversary of the forced removal of the Miami Tribe from Fort Wayne and the Wabash River valley in 1846. Cathedral Square in Fort Wayne, home of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, is burial ground to members of the Miami Tribe, some of whom have since been relocated. Following Mass, participants are welcome to visit the Diocesan Museum, 1105 S. Calhoun St., for an exhibit commemorating the Miami community. The exhibit will remain open through Oct. 30. Diocesan Museum is free and open to the public. For more information, visit diocesefwsb.org/museum.

Abandonment to Divine Providence:
How Truth and Reconciliation Can Become a Path To Healing Sex Abuse in the Catholic Church
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

Sponsored by a Church Sexual Abuse Crisis research grant, University of Notre Dame
Co-Sponsors: Center for Citizenship and Constitutional Government

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 worshiping 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@ccsisters.org, or visit www.ccsisters.org/employees.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two Catholic archbishops Sept. 17 objected to two House committees advancing portions of the $3.5 trillion budget bill, known as the Build Back Better Act, with language that funds abortions being added to wording they support to improve access to affordable health care for all.

The funding of abortion, “the deliberate destruction of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — those in their mother’s wombs — cannot be included,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

“Congress can, and must, turn back from including taxpayer funding of abortion in the Build Back Better Act,” they said. “We urge all members of Congress and the administration to work in good faith to advance important and life-saving health care provisions without forcing Americans to pay for the deliberate destruction of unborn human life.”

Archbishops Naumann and Coakley’s joint statement came in response to the markup of the legislation by the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to include the abortion funding provision.

On Sept. 13, in advance of the markup, the two prelates wrote to House members “to reject provisions that would expand taxpayer funding of abortion and include the Hyde Amendment principle of ‘not funding elective abortions.’

In both their letter and follow-up statement, they reiterated the U.S. bishops’ long-standing support and advocacy for provisions “at both the federal and state level that ensure all people will have access to affordable health care, including Medicaid expansion provisions.”

“We are encouraged by several health care provisions in portions of the Build Back Better Act that will improve health care coverage for those in need, the prelates said Sept. 15.

“These include ‘enhanced postpartum coverage and other investments to address the high rates of preventable maternal deaths in the United States, expanded access to in-home care for family members, support for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and pre-release Medicaid coverage for returning citizens,’ they said.

The archbishops’ statement about health care access and abortion coverage echoed a Sept. 7 letter from five USCCB chairmen to all members of Congress and the Senate on priorities they urged the lawmakers to include in the Build Back Better Act.

The letter called on Congress to “respect the rights and dignity of every human life in health care” by making sure the final bill allows everyone “to have access to affordable and comprehensive care that promotes life and dignity,” they said.

The USCCB insists that health care provisions in this bill, such as Medicaid expansion, be governed by the long-standing Hyde Amendment principle of not funding elective abortions. The destruction of human life through abortion is not a form of health care, and taxpaying citizens should not be compelled to fund it,” the five committee chairs said.

“Should this bill expand taxpayer funding of abortion, the USCCB will oppose it,” they said.

Archbishops Naumann and Coakley signed the letter along with Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Michael C. Boulette of Oakland, California, Committee on Catholic Education; and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, Committee on Migration.

In August, House members and senators passed their respective versions of a framework, or blueprint, for the $3.5 trillion budget measure, and now they are filling in the details.

The USCCB “insists that departures from energy transitions,” they added.

In urging a pathway to legalization and citizenship for migrants and refugees, the committee chairmen in their Sept. 7 letter noted their “deep concern for family unity and the obstacles facing many mixed-status families.”

Regarding jobs for the poor and vulnerable, the bishops said: “We have long held that work is fundamental to human dignity (and) consistently call for the creation of decent work at decent wages as the most effective way to build a just economy.”

“Job creation should focus on just wages, include a right to organize, and resources for job training and apprenticeship programs,” they said.

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The five committee chairs called climate change “a serious challenge that requires investments in mitigation and adaptation to achieve rapid decarbonization, curb other greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and protect the most vulnerable.”

“Disadvantaged and marginalized communities who suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change should receive priority for investments in clean energy infrastructure and climate resilience,” they said.

“Special attention must be paid to jobs and the needs of coal and fossil fuel industry workers and their families, whose livelihoods face the uncertainties of energy transitions. The bishops outlined provisions they said are needed to strengthen families: “We have long taught that ‘economic and social policies as well as the organization of the work world should be continually evaluated in light of their impact on the strength and stability of family life.”

“The long-range future of this nation is intimately linked with the well-being of families, for the family is the most basic form of human community.”

They urged the expanded child tax credit be made permanent and called for increasing access to in-home care for family members, strengthening child nutrition programs, ensuring quality and affordable child care options, paid sick leave, parental leave “and other forms of support for working families.”

“The bishops called for expanding access to early child care education and said this “must take into consideration the desires of parents, the unique needs of their children, and include a variety of educational opportunities, including programs provided by the faith-based community.”

They also said that Congress must preserve religious liberty by ensuring the “benefits of this legislation are available to all.”

“Too that end, Congress must avoid saddling programs and funding partnerships with obligations that exclude people and organizations who hold certain religious beliefs,” they said. “For example, recipients of funding under the bill should not be required to assent to a false understanding of gender and sexuality.”