Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Marian High School dedicated

BY DENISE FEDOROW

The sun peeked out and the rain subsided in time for the dedication and blessing of the newly constructed Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and altar on the Marian High School campus, Mishawaka, Thursday, Oct. 7, on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided over the Mass and rite of dedication and thanked everyone who made the grotto and prayer plaza possible, including the donors and craftsman who were among the invited guests. The outdoor liturgy was livestreamed for the students in the building.

Several pastors from the area concelebrated the liturgy, including Father Nathan Maskal; Father Daniel Niederer, co-chaplain; Father Glenn Kohrman; Father Zachary Ratheke, CSC, co-chaplain; Father John Eze; Father Jacob Meyer; Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp; Father Benjamin Landrigan; Father Chris Brennan, CSC; a 2008 Marian graduate; Father John Delaney; and Father Jason Freiburger. Several Sisters of St. Joseph were among the invited guests.

The plaza of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Marian High School, Mishawaka, was blessed Oct. 7. More than a year of planning and enduring pandemic-related delays came to an end when the holy place of prayer was dedicated to the school's patroness.

Six charges for former Columbia City pastor

FORT WAYNE — A criminal investigation into charges of sexual misconduct with a minor by Father David Huneck, former pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Columbia City, has resulted in the following charges being filed by the Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney Friday, Oct. 8.

• Count 1: Child Seduction – Level 6 Felony
• Count 2: Sexual Battery – Level 6 Felony
• Count 3: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor – Class A Misdemeanor
• Count 4: Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor – Class B Misdemeanor
• Count 5: Battery – Class B Misdemeanor
• Count 6: Battery – Class B Misdemeanor.

A statement issued Oct. 8 by the diocese thanked the Columbia City Police Department and the Whitley County Prosecutor’s Office for the work done on the case following the diocese’s report that Father Huneck had engaged in sexual and other misconduct, including that with a minor. With the filing of charges, the statement said, the diocese continues to cooperate with civil authorities.

The Church’s investigatory process, called the canonical process, is separate from civil law criminal processes. The initial, internal diocesan investigation resulted in the finding that the allegations against Father Huneck were credible, so in consultation with the Diocesan Review Board, Father Huneck was immediately placed on a public list of clergy credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor. That canonical process will continue, and Father Huneck remains suspended from public ministry.

During a news conference Sept. 28, Bishop Rhoades said great effort has been made to reach out to the victims and to others who are angry, confused and saddened by the allegations. “My heart goes out to the victims,” he said. In a statement issued the same day, it was emphasized that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend extends heartfelt prayers to everyone affected by the news “and stands firm in its commitment to investigate any allegation of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy and to listen to and support anyone who has been abused.”

Bishop Rhoades and vicar general Father Mark Gurtner have been present to the St. Paul of the Cross community, with whom conversation is ongoing. Father José Arroyo has been appointed administrator of the parish until a new pastor is assigned in June.
Bishop Rhoades honored as Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne Person of the Year

BY JODI MARLIN

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radition: it’s a pillar of the Catholic Church and an elemental characteristic of the University of Notre Dame. Since the 1980s, the University of Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne has existed to keep those traditions and the spirit of Notre Dame alive in the hearts of alumni and supporters who live in the Northeast Indiana region. Much beyond reminiscing about the memories of college days gone by, however, the club’s approximately 1,200 members are a philanthropic force that provides hope across the region. In other words, they are a force for good.

Among the annual events organized by the club is the UND Celebration, a dinner honoring the recipient of its Person of the Year award. Signaling its foundational Catholic heritage, this year’s honoree was Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The criteria for the Person of the Year are simple, according to club treasurer Tom Skiba: exemplary service to God, country and Notre Dame. The selection is made each year by prior recipients of the award. Among the more than 60 honorees since 1954 have been Edward Dahm, Father Tom O’Connor, Sam Talarico Sr., and Indiana state Senator Liz Brown.

This year’s UND Celebration took place Oct. 6 at Fort Wayne Country Club. After dinner, honoree Bishop Rhoades recalled his first visit to the University of Notre Dame in 2006 at the invitation of campus IT Manager Patricia Ricks.

A lifelong but long-distance Catholic, Bishop Rhoades recalled the experiences of that weekend – the atmosphere of the campus and the stadium, saying Mass in the Basilica and praying at the Grotto — caused him to hope he would return soon, he recalled. Joyfully, he returned just a few years later as bishop of the diocese.

During the past 11 years, Bishop Rhoades has celebrated dozens of Masses in the student dormitories, brought many students into full communion with the Church, blessed around a dozen chapel altars, offered countless talks and lectures and attended conferences. Some of his favorite experiences, he told club members, are of the closeness he has come to enjoy with certain departments of the university, particularly the theology department — which he called “the best theology department in the United States, and one of the best in the world.”

“These are tremendous scholars who are deeply devoted to the Catholic Church … an intellectual force for good, and of scholarship for the Church,” the bishop said.

He additionally expressed appreciation for a close relationship with two other university organizations, the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture and the McGrath Institute for Church Life.

In addition to honoring Bishop Rhoades, this year’s UND Celebration also acknowledged another award — one received by the club itself. In April, members’ excellence in fulfilling the club’s mission of community service and faith was noted by the Notre Dame Alumni Association, which honored it with the university’s Force for Good Award.

The generous charitable accomplishments include several notable traditions.

The scholarship fund built by the Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne has surpassed $3 million; each year, more than $100,000 is distributed to between 25 and 30 current and incoming students. Club members also mentor high school students interested in Notre Dame, as well as current Notre Dame students. They connect students with members of the community and with opportunities for further education and internships by, for example, sponsoring the cost for a teacher or two to attend an annual teaching conference and underwriting the participation of the same number of local middle school students at a yearly DNA camp offered by the university.

The club supports the charitable efforts of other local organizations as well, and offers a golf outing, Hesburgh lecture and other social events.

Keynote speaker for the UND Celebration was Lou Nanni, Notre Dame vice president for university relations and another award — one received by the club itself. In April, members’ excellence in fulfilling the club’s mission of community service and faith was noted by the Notre Dame Alumni Association, which honored it with the university’s Force for Good Award.

The generous charitable Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades receives the University of Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne Person of the Year Award from club member Tom Skiba. The award was given out at the club’s annual UND Celebration event at Fort Wayne Country Club Oct. 6.

Photos by Jodi Marlin

Lou Nanni, vice president of university relations for ND, was the evening’s keynote speaker.

“For Force for Good,” comes from the founding DNA of the university, Nanni said.

Father Edward Sorin and several Holy Cross brothers traveled from Europe to the Diocese of Vincennes, later coming to South Bend during a ferocious snowstorm to found the school and showing “a tremendous force of will that would be undeterred.”

As one of the few institutions of higher learning that survived the Civil War, the structure fire that nearly destroyed the campus only served to increase Father Sorin’s faith in the institution’s plans for the future. She said, “May the University of Notre Dame stand on the high dome of the university’s main building and gilded in gold. It was at that moment, she recounted, that Father Sorin said the University of Notre Dame would become “one of the most powerful means for good in our society.”

After two decades of considering the three-pronged vision of the university — offer unsurpassed undergraduate academic programs, and graduate education, all while assuring that the school’s Catholic character informs everything — Nanni said his daily motivation is best captured by an anecdote involving a conversation involving university trustee Jim Dunn. A stranger shared with Dunn that early in Father Theodore Hesburgh’s tenure as president of Notre Dame, a tragedy had occurred on campus and a male student was killed. For the next 40 years, on the anniversary of the student’s death, Father Hesburgh handwrote a letter to the student’s family. The letters were perceived to have extended the life of the student’s mother by five years.

“Scandal, by definition, is public,” Nanni concluded. “But holiness is often hidden or seeks the solitude of a university. We’re not just called to greatness, we’re called to holiness. We’re called not just to do the big things, but we’re called to do the little things – the handwritten letters that you don’t think will see the light of day. But when you do they make a difference. And that’s worth living for,” he said.

“That’s worth searching for, ways we can propagate the faith. That’s worth trying to become more understanding, more kind, and to take those steps. If we do that and following the examples of Father Hesburgh and others, and putting ourselves, we can continue to be that force for good in the world that Father Sorin envisioned.”

Membership in the Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne is open to all. For more information about how to join, visit the club on Facebook or contact the University of Notre Dame Alumni Office.
**Indonesia Catholic, former U.S. senator, is Vatican ambassador nominee**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Joe Biden will nominate Catholic lawyer Joseph Donnelly of Indiana, a former member of the U.S. House and Senate, to be the next U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

The White House announced Biden’s pick for the ambassador post Oct. 8. The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate.

Donnelly, 66, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2013 and a U.S. senator from 2013 to 2019. He is currently a partner at Akin Gump, a Washington firm specializing in public law and policy law.

He was a member of the Afghanistan Study Group and has been a professor at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1977 and a law degree in 1981.

“Joe has been an exemplary public servant in Congress, an invaluable friend of Notre Dame and of me personally,” said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins.

“He will bring to this role a deep understanding of the issues currently facing our nation and the world, a genuine Catholic faith and an understanding of the role the church can play in our world,” the priest said in a statement issued shortly after the White House announcement.

“On behalf of the Notre Dame family, I offer my congratulations and prayers as he prepares for this new responsibility,” Jenkins said. Donnelly is a pro-life Democrat, “committed to protecting the sanctity of life,” he has said, though he also believes exceptions should be made on abortion in cases of rape, incest or when the mother’s health could be at stake.

When Donnelly was running for reelection to the Senate in 2018, Democrats for Life of America said: “Donnelly has been a consistent pro-life voice as well as advocate for women and families, co-sponsoring many important pieces of legislation.”

Donnelly met his wife, Jill, while attending Notre Dame and they were married in 1979. They have a son and a daughter.

Since Ambassador Calista Gringrich’s tenure ended in mid-January, the post has been temporarily filled by American diplomat Patrick Connell, who is chargé d’affaires ad interim.

Gingrich was President Donald Trump’s nominee for ambassador and was confirmed by the Senate in a 70-23 vote Oct. 16, 2017.

**U.S. nuncio says he’ll stay, helps prepare for synod, Biden-pope meeting**

BY VICTOR GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the 75-year-old apostolic nuncio to the United States, said when he met Pope Francis at the Vatican Sept. 6, the pope asked him to remain in his post instead of retiring.

“He asked me to stay, so I stay as long as he wants. And I am happy to do so,” the archbishop told Catholic News Service.

At the top of the nuncio’s to-do list is helping the Holy See prepare for Joe Biden’s first presidential visit to the Vatican, while the president is in Rome for an Oct. 30-31 summit of leading rich and developed nations.

The archbishop confirmed the Biden-pope meeting indirectly: “It would be an anomaly if he did not meet the pope while in Rome,” especially since Biden is the first Catholic president in 58 years.

Despite a “tense situation because of the agenda of the Democratic Party on abortion,” Archbishop Pierre said he believes it will be a good meeting.

Onlookers must think beyond institutions to the people themselves: “These are two human beings with huge responsibilities trying to meet each other. They are not wooden figures. And behind them is a big machine — and the world.” So problematic matters will not be solved quickly, the diplomat said.

Meanwhile, the Church is a major factor in American society, “very much present in all issues,” he said. “You have 80 million Catholics, the huge structure of the Church, and the bishops are very active.”

The nuncio thinks polarization is one of the most difficult things facing the United States because “as long as you are polarized, you don’t find solutions.”

He says the Church defends values without transforming its mission into an ideology.

Ideology quickly gives way to “cultural war,” which leads people to divide reality into those “with us” versus those “against us,” a simplistic framework that the nuncio calls “mystification,” because “reality is extremely complex.”

The Church is called to preach the Gospel, advocate dialogue, and resist extremism, he said.

“When the Church is contaminated by polarization, we go nowhere” — a real danger, the archbishop said. Instead, the Church — simultaneously in the world, but not of the world — is called to be “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.”

As the pope’s eyes and ears in the United States, Archbishop Pierre is the Vatican’s interlocutor with the U.S. government as well as with the bishops. One of his most important assignments is to help the pope select new bishops, “a businesslike thing” that occupies much of his work with the Vatican.

Archbishop Pierre said Pope Francis — whom he’s known since being appointed nuncio to Mexico in 2007, when Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was a leading figure in Latin American
Saint Mary’s College installs 14th president

FORT WAYNE — A daylong schedule of events at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Oct. 9 culminated in its inauguration ceremony of the college’s 14th president, Katie Conboy, Ph.D.

Conboy became the president of Saint Mary’s College on June 1, 2020, but due to COVID-19, the installation was postponed until it was safe to gather in person. More than 500 people attended the inauguration, in addition to about three dozen delegates from national and regional institutions of higher education and the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees.

Inauguration day liturgy

At a morning Mass celebrated in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on campus, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades synthesized the parallel missions of Catholic education. That duality, put forth by Blessed Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, keeps God at the forefront of the pursuit of higher education.

“Dr. Conboy embraces the vision expressed by Father Moreau in these famous words: ‘We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart,’” the bishop preached. “While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven. A Catholic vision of education includes the heart as well as the mind.”

Therefore, an education guided by faith includes formation in true freedom, “which is not the freedom to do whatever we want, but the freedom to do what we ought,” he said. “It is freedom grounded in truth and goodness, the Truth and Goodness of God who revealed Himself in the Incarnation of His Son as love.”

Bishop Rhoades expressed gratitude for Conboy’s dedication to Catholic identity and the mission of Saint Mary’s College to not only educate young minds, but also to prepare them for heaven. Catholic colleges, he noted, seek not only to foster in its students the wisdom of Mary, but also her obedient humility and the virtue of hope she embodies. “Saint Mary’s College, like all Catholic colleges, are called to be schools of hope,” he said.

The students who come to Saint Mary’s have many goals and many hopes, he continued. Saint Mary’s College helps them realize these goals and to fulfill those hopes.

“In the end, however, even if all these goals are reached and these hopes realized, they will not be totally fulfilled. Neither are we. In fact, we can be quite empty and sad, even amid success. The task of a Catholic college is not only to help students to realize these little hopes, but to embrace the great hope which surpasses all others and gives meaning and joy to our lives.”

Pope Benedict XVI wrote the following: “This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain… God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety.”

At Saint Mary’s College, he said, this hope is communicated by the witness of faith-filled faculty and staff. It is cultivated by the prayer and nourished and strengthened by the sacraments lived through service of others, especially of the poor and needy. In and through their service, students learn to be ministers of hope for others.

The bishop asked the Holy Spirit to bless the college’s new president with the gifts of wisdom, counsel and fortitude so that Saint Mary’s College might “grow and flourish” through fidelity to this holy mission.

A leader in Catholic higher education

Following the Mass and other inauguration day events, the ceremony took place at 1:30 p.m. in O’Laughlin Auditorium, Moreau Center for the Arts.

Conboy comes to SMC from the position of vice president at Simmons University, a Holy Cross women’s college in Boston. Prior to Simmons, she was at Stonehill College, a Holy Cross women’s college in North Easton, Massachusetts. There, she served first as a professor of English literature, then as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

She is an award-winning teacher, author and an active scholar. She earned her doctoral degree in English literature from the University of Notre Dame in 1986, and her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas in 1981. Conboy is married to Thomas O’Grady, Ph.D., retired. The couple has three grown daughters.

In her first year at Saint Mary’s College, Conboy’s actions lead the college through the effects of the civil and social unrest and global health crisis felt throughout the nation. She also created an environment that allowed the college to successfully complete the 2020-21 academic year in person.

She said she takes a page from the school’s founders and sponsors, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, “who have boldly evolved their own work over the years, meeting the needs of the times in so many powerful ways.”

Conboy has already shaped a long-term vision for Saint Mary’s and codified it in a document available on the Saint Mary’s College website at saintmarys.edu/office-of-the-president/strategic-plan.
Church deliberations — easy to talk to and not intimidating, while “challenging us all the time.”

“The pope is not a dictator, he is a mobilizer,” said the French-born diplomat. “What he wants is to help the Church be Church here (in the U.S.).”

“That is why I insist a lot on synodality, which means walking together, when I talk to bishops,” the nuncio said. “The strength of the Church is together, a synodal approach, which has to be implemented.”

Archbishop Pierre is intensely at work on the 2023 Synod of Bishops on synodality, which Pope Francis officially opened Oct. 10. In the last two weeks of September alone, he visited Missouri, Massachusetts, Illinois, Nevada and Kentucky, carrying the pope’s message.

“It is exhausting,” he laughed.

The nuncio described a primary function of his job as providing analysis so the pope can play his role in a complex world — analysis that is “never black and white.”

“We try to preach the Gospel in this world; we aren’t creating a new society,” the archbishop said.

Over the past 45 years, he has worked in nine countries, most of them poor.

“I started in New Zealand and the South Pacific. Then I went to Mozambique with (President) Samora Machel. Then I went to Zimbabwe with (Robert) Mugabe. Then I went to Cuba with Fidel Castro,” he recounted.

“Beautiful figures of dictators: Machel, Mugabe, Fidel Castro. Then a bit later, I was with Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti. Then, I was with Trump,” Pierre said.

“We are not like foreigners. As soon as we arrive in a country, we are part of the country, because we are in the Church,” he said. “This is our specificity.”

Gazing down on the nuncio as he spoke were portraits of several predecessors.

The largest portrait depicts Italian Cardinal Amleto Cicognani, who built the substantial nunciature. He represented the Vatican in Washington as apostolic delegate — the two countries did not yet have formal diplomatic relations — from 1933 to 1958.

Archbishop Pierre said then-Archbishop Cicognani was hardly utilized by Pope Pius XII, but with the ascent of Pope John XXIII, in a “twist of history,” the Italian diplomat was named to the College of Cardinals in 1958, joining his brother, Gaetano, already a cardinal.

Pope John XXIII named Cardinal Amleto Cicognani secretary of state in 1961. He served as the Vatican’s top diplomat until 1969, when he resigned at age 86.

“He is inspiring,” said Archbishop Pierre. “But I don’t identify with him.”

A smaller painting features Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, nuncio from 2011 to 2016 and author of scandalous statements against Pope Francis.

Asked why the portrait remains on the wall, Archbishop Pierre replied, “Because we are not Americans (who) want to take away the statues. We respect history.”

Besides, Archbishop Pierre added, “I’ve known him for 40 years.”

Gaetan is an occasional contributor to Catholic News Service and the author of “God’s Diplomats: Pope Francis, Vatican Diplomacy, and America’s Armageddon.”

NUNCIO, from page 3

Pope Francis shakes hands with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, at the Vatican Nov. 10, 2018. In a recent interview, Archbishop Pierre, 75, said when he met Pope Francis at the Vatican Sept. 6, the pope asked him to remain in his post instead of retiring.
Some see growing trend in women choosing vocation as consecrated virgins

DETROIT (CNS) — Amanda Ross and Hanan Ismail lay prostrate before Christ in the Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit and vowed themselves to the Lord as consecrated virgins. During a liturgy rich in symbolism and imagery, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron presided over their consecration. There are now seven consecrated virgins in the Detroit Archdiocese, who are part of a worldwide movement of women choosing to live a radical, ancient vocation as brides of Christ in the world. Their small, but growing, presence in the archdiocese mirrors something of a trend seen nationwide, said Judith Stegman, president of the U.S. Association of Consecrated Virgins, based in Lansing, Michigan. The vocation dates to the early days of the Church, and is considered the first form of consecrated life, Stegman said. “Women in the early Church would go to the Apostles and ask to be consecrated as a bride of Christ,” Stegman told Detroit Catholic, the archdiocesan news outlet. “This has always been an act of the Church through the bishop (consecrating) women; the setting aside and setting apart of the person as a bride of Christ.” Although there is no formal registry for the number of consecrated virgins, Stegman said the association’s records show there are 267 living consecrated virgins in the United States.

Common humanity key to achieving world peace, religious leaders say

ROME (CNS) — The coronavirus pandemic has not only shed light on the issues and societal ills plaguing the world, it also has provided a unique opportunity for humanity to band together for the common good, said Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. Addressing the opening assembly of the 35th International Meeting for Peace in Rome Oct. 6, the patriarch said that although the world before COVID-19 “is no more,” all men and women “have in their hands the possibility to build a new beginning, a new beginning that can only be togetherness.” Let us begin again by affirming what the pandemic has made more evident: The belonging to one humanity, family of one peoples of the earth and the attention to caring for creation, which has been able to rest and renew itself, allowing us to rediscover life in many places where it was impossible to imagine it until a few months before,” he said. The Oct. 6-7 gathering was organized by the Rome-based Community of Sant’Egidio. The community has invited religious, political and cultural leaders from around the world to gather for dialogue and to pray for peace each year since St. John Paul II’s interreligious prayer for peace in Assisi in 1986. The meetings include panel discussions and workshops on various themes related to peacemaking, interreligious dialogue and service to the poor.

Barron: If religion becomes an afterthought, ‘our society loses its soul’

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — With tensions rising over the proper role of religion in society, the broader culture appears to be compartmentalizing religious faith and moral thinking into something akin to “a hobby,” said Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron Oct. 4. He made the comments in his homily at St. Louis Cathedral at the Red Mass of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which drew judges, lawyers and politicians. “Today, it seems to me the far greater threat is coming from the side of an ideological secularism that would like to shuffle religion off the playing field altogether or, at the very least, to confine it to the realm of privacy so that it would function as a kind of hobby,” said Bishop Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. The annual Red Mass was attended by Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, members of the Louisiana Supreme Court, other members of the judiciary and public officials. If religious principles were relegated to an afterthought, Bishop Barron said, “then our society loses its soul, our laws lose their rootedness in the moral and spiritual law and our democracy loses its cohesion. I would say that resistance to this sort of secularizing attack on religion should be of paramount importance for Catholics within the legal and political establishment.”

Pope meets Pelosi; both speak at legislators’ pre-COP26 meeting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis met privately at the Vatican Oct. 9 with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was in Rome to speak at a meeting of legislators from around the world in preparation for the U.N. climate summit. The Vatican released photos of Pelosi’s meeting with the pope, but provided no details of the encounter, which took place before Pope Francis addressed the Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting. Pelosi, a Catholic, supports legalized abortion. In September, her archbishop, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, asked “all Catholics and others of goodwill” to join a prayer and fasting campaign for Pelosi’s “conversion.” In her keynote address to fellow legislators from around the world meeting in Rome Oct. 8, Pelosi said world governments must take bold action in their own countries and when they meet for COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. “It would be a dereliction of duty for us not to go into the future in a green way (and one) that responds to the urgency of the climate crisis. It’s all about the children,” she said. “We will leave them a world where they can be healthy, where they can thrive and reach their fulfillment.” In his speech to the parliamentarians Oct. 9, Pope Francis spoke of the “important, and indeed, crucial” role of governments in slowing climate change and restoring a healthy environment.

Honoring the legacy of the first Americans

A woman in Austin, Texas, performs a dance during an Oct. 9 event to mark Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the U.S. to the north, in Canada, the country’s Catholic bishops have “unequivocally” apologized for the Catholic Church’s role in the residential school system. “The meetings include panel discussions and workshops on various themes related to peacemaking, interreligious dialogue and service to the poor.”

Women religious have key role in synodal process, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Women religious have an essential role in the process of creating a more synodal Church and in preparations for the Synod of Bishops, not only through their prayers and participation, but also by listening to people not usually part of such Church activities. Pope Francis, who has encouraged women are an irreplaceable presence in the great community on the move, which is the Church, said in his Oct. 11, 2021, address to a Catholic, supports legalized abortion. In September, her archbishop, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, asked “all Catholics and others of goodwill” to join a prayer and fasting campaign for Pelosi’s “conversion.” In her keynote address to fellow legislators from around the world meeting in Rome Oct. 8, Pelosi said world governments must take bold action in their own countries and when they meet for COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. “It would be a dereliction of duty for us not to go into the future in a green way (and one) that responds to the urgency of the climate crisis. It’s all about the children,” she said. “We will leave them a world where they can be healthy, where they can thrive and reach their fulfillment.” In his speech to the parliamentarians Oct. 9, Pope Francis spoke of the “important, and indeed, crucial” role of governments in slowing climate change and restoring a healthy environment.

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Honoring the legacy of the first Americans

A woman in Austin, Texas, performs a dance during an Oct. 9 event to mark Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the U.S. To the north, in Canada, the country’s Catholic bishops have “unequivocally” apologized for the Catholic Church’s role in the residential school system and have raised the possibility of a visit by the pope to Canada as part of the “healing journey” between Canada’s Indigenous peoples and the Church.
South Bend Red Mass scheduled

FORT WAYNE — A Mass for those in the legal profession will be celebrated at 5:15 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The Red Mass is a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. Every year at this Mass, prayers are offered for members of the legal profession, lawyers, judges, students and professors of the law, and for civic officials.

The first recorded Red Mass was in the year 1245 in Paris, France. The tradition had spread to England by 1310 and the start of the Michaelmas on Sept. 29, the feast of the Archangel Michael. To this day, a Red Mass is still celebrated at Westminster Cathedral in London. The name derives from the color of the scarlet robes worn historically by the judges, as well as the red liturgical vestments worn by the clergy.

Evangelium Vitae Medal awardee announced

FORT WAYNE — The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame will present the 2022 Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal to Dr. John T. Bruchalski, MD, founder of Tepeyac OB/GYN, one of the largest pro-life clinics in the nation, at a celebration April 23, the center has announced on its website.

“Dr. Bruchalski is a shining example of the Church’s uniring commitment to directly serving mothers, children, and families,” said O. Carter Snead, director of the center. “His personal conversion story is a compelling example of the power of God’s grace to transform hearts, and his visionary work at Tepeyac OB/GYN over the past 27 years is an invitation to each of us to employ our talents in service to building a civilization of life and love.”

Bruchalski began his career in obstetrics and gynecology in 1987, practicing the full range of reproductive medicine, including sterilizations, artificial reproduction, embryo destruction and late-term abortions. He experienced a profound conversion following a live birth during a late-term abortion procedure and thereafter resolved to practice exclusively pro-life medicine that supported women, children, and their families.

The Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal, named after Pope John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical on life issues, is the nation’s most important lifetime achievement award for heroes of the pro-life movement. Previous recipients of the medal include the Women’s Care Center Foundation; Congressman Chris Smith, co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and his wife, Marie Smith, director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues; Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus; the Little Sisters of the Poor; the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation; and Mary Ann Glendon, professor of law at Harvard Law School.

For more information about the Evangelium Vitae Medal, visit ethicscenter.nd.edu/ev2022.

Around the Diocese

Observing Hispanic Heritage Month through art

Students at St. Adalbert School in South Bend observed Hispanic Heritage Month in September with various activities. Grade four through eight honored the culture by creating images of famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, which were displayed at the Western Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library during the month.

Fort Wayne Red Mass prays for those in legal profession

Members of the Fort Wayne St. Thomas More Society stand with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades after the annual Red Mass Oct. 5 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. From left are Clerk Chris Nancarrow, Attorney Scott Hall, Attorney Jeremy Reidy, Attorney Mark Scudder, Attorney Colin Andrews and Judge Kenton Kiracofe.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates the Red Mass at the cathedral for those who serve in a legal profession.
Parish invokes protection of St. Gerard in caring for moms and moms-to-be

BY JEANNIE EWING

At Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne, supporting expectant mothers and women who have young children arose naturally from parishioners recognizing the needs of those within the parish and responding accordingly. Today, Sarah’s Suppers, the St. Gerard Prayer List for Expectant Mothers and Walking with Moms In Need are three ministries that reflect the pro-life message of today.

St. Gerard Majella is known as the patron saint of pregnant women. He lived from 1726 to 1787 and spent most of his adult life as an Italian lay brother in the Congregation of the Redemptorists (also known as the Redemptorists), founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori. He became the patron saint of mothers and women expecting babies because of a reported miracle that happened shortly before his death.

St. Gerard was visiting the Pirafalo family and accidentally dropped his handkerchief. When one of the young girls in the family picked it up to return it to him, he told her, “Keep it. You might need it one day.” Several years later, the Pirafalo family was married and expecting a baby, and came near to death during childbirth. Suddenly, she remembered the words of St. Gerard and requested that the handkerchief be brought to her. Within minutes her pain disappeared, and she delivered a healthy baby. Word spread quickly throughout Italy among mothers who affectionately adopted St. Gerard as the intercessor for their needs. He is also known today as the saint of happy childbirths.

Nern is a patron saint devoted specifically to the St. Gerard prayer line or receiving a meal from Sarah’s Suppers, she notices that they have formed a connection with her and that they feel valued and cared for.

The benefit of the merging of the St. Gerard’s prayer list and Sarah’s Suppers is that there’s a natural transition between praying for women and their unborn babies and then offering a homecooked meal after the baby is born. The two ministries illustrate the relationship between the Spiritual Works of Mercy (intercessory prayer) and Corporal Works of Mercy (feeding the hungry).

Despite setbacks during the pandemic, both ministries are thriving. In fact, a new ministry called Walking with Moms in Need has begun during the past year at Our Lady and focuses on accompaniment and support for moms who feel alone or overwhelmed in their maternal vocation.

It’s easy to call oneself pro-life, but to see it lived in a parish that cares for its moms and moms-to-be is a reflection of God’s love touching the hearts and lives of those most in need of comfort. Our Lady of Good Hope is focused on helping others in need and because of his intercession. In the weekly parish bulletin, expectant mothers who have desired prayer for both themselves and their babies are listed by name — or, if they prefer, anonymously — under the section devoted to the St. Gerard prayer ministry. Right below it is Sarah’s Suppers, with contact information on how to request meals following the birth of a baby or while recovering from a surgery or long-term illness.

Nern gathers the requests and shares the information with those who have volunteered to either pray, cook or both as gifts for those in need. She finds the intercessory prayer of parishioners at Our Lady to be a powerful and comforting means of encouragement to others in need. More than 200 people are praying for the women on the St. Gerard list and those who are registered on the parish prayer line.

Prayer can feel like an extended family of support throughout what might be an uncertain or difficult or painful pregnancy,” Nern shared. “Knowing that you have both the earthly intercession of your parish and the heavenly intercession of the saints — like St. Gerard — can serve as a reminder to the women that they are not alone and that they can entrust their babies and their pregnancies to God.”

For Nern, involvement in leading these two ministries has allowed her to form more personal relationships with other members of Our Lady.

“It feels more like a family,” she explained, “because of the relationships and contacts I am able to make and the conversations I’ve had, in order to learn about who might be sick or which families might be expecting their first grandchildren.” She feels a sense of friendship with those to whom she reaches out because even if they decline being publicly named on the prayer line or receiving a meal from Sarah’s Suppers, she notices that they have formed a connection with her and that they

Laura Nern holds one of the holy cards featuring the image of St. Gerard Majella. The back side of the card contains a novena to him. Nern gives the cards to expectant mothers at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, to encourage them to pray to the patron saint of mothers, of women expecting babies and of happy childbirths.

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Dear friends in Christ:

Once again, we are publishing an accounting of the financial operations of the diocese for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021. As we have done in past years, we have also included a consolidated financial report of our high schools and parishes. This is done in the spirit of accountability and transparency.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, our total gain was $12,610,357 (from our audited financial statements), which you see on the attached with a comparison to 2020. This is only for the central operations of the diocese. It does not include the activity of the parishes, schools or missions in the diocese. A detailed breakdown of our financial picture can be found inside.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph G. Ryan, Chief Financial Officer

DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL
Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades
Very Rev. Mark Gurtner, JCD
Deacon James Fitzpatrick, Business Owner
Mr. Thomas Skiba, CPA
Mr. George Witwer, Business Owner
Mr. Michael Hammes, Retired Banker
Ms. Linda Teeters, CPA
Mr. Christopher Murphy, Bank Chairman/President/CEO
Mr. Timothy Dolezal, CFA
Ms. Meg Distler, Executive Director, Community Foundation
Mr. Bob Doelling, Attorney
Mr. Tom Schuerman, Parish Business Manager
Mr. James Schindler, II, Business Owner
Ms. Donna Lamberti, Controller, Religious Congregation
Mr. Joseph Ryan, CFO, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Financial Report

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/21</th>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Quotas</td>
<td>2,509,546</td>
<td>2,509,546</td>
<td>2,570,885</td>
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<td>Donations and Bequests</td>
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<td>109,861</td>
<td>1,966,789</td>
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<td>Net Investment Income (Loss)</td>
<td>(14,411)</td>
<td>(301)</td>
<td>(14,712)</td>
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<td>Unrealized Investment Gain</td>
<td>15,519,780</td>
<td>155,640</td>
<td>15,675,420</td>
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<td>Fundraising - Bishop’s Appeal</td>
<td>5,104,726</td>
<td>5,104,726</td>
<td>5,597,019</td>
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<td>*Insurance Premiums</td>
<td>20,030,405</td>
<td>20,030,405</td>
<td>20,228,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest - Loans</td>
<td>470,429</td>
<td>470,429</td>
<td>460,235</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>244,522</td>
<td>244,522</td>
<td>230,594</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
<td>128,711</td>
<td>128,711</td>
<td>113,532</td>
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<td>Sale of Merchandise</td>
<td>393,028</td>
<td>393,028</td>
<td>317,141</td>
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<td>Fees, Rentals/Workshops</td>
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<td>793,191</td>
<td>1,022,226</td>
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<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>77,480</td>
<td>77,480</td>
<td>66,534</td>
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<td>Management Fee</td>
<td>94,854</td>
<td>94,854</td>
<td>131,919</td>
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<td>Change in Value - Beneficial Trust Interest</td>
<td>(11,904)</td>
<td>(11,904)</td>
<td>(19,025)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain on Sale of Assets</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>(11,313)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction</td>
<td>195,616</td>
<td>(195,616)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/21</th>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$47,405,405</td>
<td>$47,463,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>$57,680</td>
<td>$34,454,406</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/21</th>
<th>Total Funds 6/30/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry Services</td>
<td>2,783,425</td>
<td>2,783,425</td>
<td>3,072,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>5,016,785</td>
<td>5,016,785</td>
<td>4,843,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>735,818</td>
<td>735,818</td>
<td>830,486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>420,562</td>
<td>420,562</td>
<td>387,233</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Other Services</td>
<td>20,051,673</td>
<td>20,051,673</td>
<td>19,702,985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>5,844,465</td>
<td>5,844,465</td>
<td>4,683,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,852,728</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,852,728</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,519,667</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>12,552,677</td>
<td>57,680</td>
<td>12,610,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>25,357,479</td>
<td>6,550,856</td>
<td>31,908,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at End of Year</td>
<td>$37,910,156</td>
<td>6,608,536</td>
<td>$44,518,692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note on insurance premiums and other services**

The diocese is self-insured for medical benefits, unemployment compensation, automotive losses and property and liability losses as described below. Various religious organizations, parishes and schools participate with the diocese in the self-insurance plans. Premiums paid to the diocese by these organizations are included in the insurance revenue. The diocese purchases an excess loss policy from an independent insurance company to provide medical benefits on all claims exceeding $225,000 per employee and dependents per year.

The diocese administers a self-insured pool to fund medical benefits on claims up to $225,000 per covered employee. An independent administrator processes all claims. Claims amounted to $15,982,018 for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020 respectively.

The diocese is self-insured with respect to unemployment compensation. Claims and benefits paid amounted to $91,267 and $57,689 for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020.

The diocese’s worker’s compensation coverage is insured by Church Mutual Insurance Company with Catholic Mutual Group as the broker.

The diocese is self-insured for individual automotive losses of $100,000 or less, and has purchased excess loss policies covering individual losses exceeding $100,000 and aggregate losses exceeding $500,000 per policy year. The diocese has excess liability in the amount of $200,000 per occurrence and $400,000 annual aggregate per location. Claims and premiums totalled $3,292,485 and $3,238,166 for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020 respectively.
### CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>June 30, 2021</th>
<th>June 30, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary-Religious</td>
<td>548,118</td>
<td>508,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary-Lay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissions</td>
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<td>15,337</td>
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<td>FICA</td>
<td>202,139</td>
<td>212,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Claims</td>
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<td>57,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Accident Insurance</td>
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<td>962,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pension and Benefits</td>
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<td>Education, Seminars and Conferences</td>
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<td>105,291</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>44,028</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
<td>65,412</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
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<td>34,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>136,803</td>
<td>71,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment and Furniture</td>
<td>7,013</td>
<td>4,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>77,718</td>
<td>105,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>44,288</td>
<td>45,687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>425,466</td>
<td>427,241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and Professional</td>
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<td>301,338</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
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<td>6,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Ssearch</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and Ministry Support</td>
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<td>776,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>94,793</td>
<td>64,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs, Maintenance and Utilities</td>
<td>511,103</td>
<td>470,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>73,873</td>
<td>82,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Liability-Self Insurance</td>
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<td>3,398,166</td>
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<td>Student Insurance</td>
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<td>Memberships and Subscriptions</td>
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<td>102,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising and Promotion</td>
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<td>48,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Expense (Religious Ed, Catechesis,</td>
<td>990,973</td>
<td>1,106,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelization)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Distribution</td>
<td>150,751</td>
<td>155,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freelance and News Service</td>
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<td>53,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessments (USCCB, ICC, Canon 1271)</td>
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<td>140,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,014,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding-Ministry, Education, P.I.N.</td>
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<td>390,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Subsidy</td>
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<td>1,132,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance Claims</td>
<td>16,204,250</td>
<td>15,962,018</td>
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<td>High School Scholarships</td>
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<td>150,000</td>
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<td>Tuition and Allowances</td>
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<td>1,141,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities Subsidy</td>
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<td>325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Endowment Fund Distribution</td>
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<td>280,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>6,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision for Uncollectible Accounts</td>
<td>1,485,402</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses** $34,852,728 $33,519,667

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### GROUPS RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL

- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Vincent Village
- Women’s Care Center
- Christ Child Society, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- St. Augustine Soup Kitchen
- Little Flower Food Pantry
- Chiara Home
- Franciscan Center
- Sister Maura Brannick Health Center
- Catholic Charities
- Center for the Homeless
- Logan Center
- St. Martin’s Health Clinic
- Hannah’s House
- Life Athletes
- St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen
- Dismas House of South Bend
- Matthew 25

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### PARISHES RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL

- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Holy Cross, South Bend
- Holy Family, South Bend
- Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
- St. Adalbert, South Bend
- St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend
- St. Bernard, Wabash
- St. John the Baptist, South Bend
- St. Joseph, Fort Wayne
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur
- St. Michael, Plymouth
- St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart

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Learn more about the work of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Visit diocesefwsb.org
DIOCESAN AUDIT

The diocese is audited every year by Leonard J. Andorfer & Company, a certified public accounting firm, and, as in the past, no exceptions were noted. This means that the diocesan books, records and accounting policies are conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This audit, along with the management letter, is presented not only to the Audit Committee, but to the entire Diocesan Finance Council; and the council is given time alone with the auditor, without the presence of diocesan officials, to be sure that they were given full access to all appropriate financial records.

For the past several years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has required that the Diocesan Finance Council sign a report indicating the following: 1) that the council has met quarterly; 2) that the audit and the management letter have been reviewed; 3) that the budget has been reviewed. This report and certification must then be sent to the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province, which, in this case, is the Archbishop of Indianapolis. We require similar reporting from our parishes to the diocese.

PARISHES

It is also important that there be accountability and transparency in parishes. According to canon law, every parish must have a Parish Finance Council. We have an internal auditor who does a financial review of every parish every two years; in addition, every parish is audited at the time of a pastoral change. During the past 14 years, we have sent this financial report, done by our auditor, to each member of the Parish Finance Council. This enables the review to be discussed at a regular meeting. As indicated above, controls have now been established similar to the accountability of each diocese.

It is important to understand how the Annual Bishop’s Appeal has sustained the parishes. It was the hope of our lay leadership prior to the institution of the appeal that the parishes would benefit. This has become a reality. The appeal has increased the incentive of parishes to seek funds. During the 35 years since the appeal began, our parishes have engaged in major capital fund drives. Since the appeal began, fund drives for parishes have brought in more than $178 million for new buildings and renovations approved by the Diocesan Finance Council. This includes parish initiatives linked to the Legacy of Faith. Also, more than $255 million, which would have been paid to the diocese under the previous system, now remains in the parishes. In addition, $6.6 million from the appeal has been given in grants to parishes in need throughout the 34 years of the appeal. The 34th Annual Bishop’s Appeal attained $6,149,292 for the diocesan central office, with an additional $527,890 being returned to the parishes.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Over $89 million has been raised for building projects in our four high schools. The four high schools continue to flourish; but not without challenges. The Annual Bishop’s Appeal gives $1.7 million to the high schools every year, which has created a sense of stability. Next year, tuition will increase by $300-$600 in our high schools. Our high schools are audited every year by an independent CPA firm. Each high school has presented a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Two high schools have debts to the diocese and are paying on those debts. One high school has done pledge financing with an external source in connection with a capital campaign.

INVESTMENTS

Our investments are overseen by Catholic Investment Services. Investments are placed carefully so as to avoid excessive risk. We have a very diversified portfolio, fully in keeping with Catholic moral teaching. CIS meets with our Investment Committee on a quarterly basis. In the fiscal year ending 6/30/21, investments gained 3%. The current asset allocation is detailed in the pie chart below. We expect continued volatility through the coming year.

Learn more about the work of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at diocesefwsb.org
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

October 17, 2021

Attend a special Memorial Mass to pray together with others who have suffered the loss of their children, and to take home a silk rose in honor of a child(ren). Siblings and grandparents are also welcome.

‘You’re not alone’ —

Diocese offers memorial Masses for infant loss

BY JENNIFER BARTON

When Katharine Lewis and her husband, Keith, lost their son Romeo two days after his birth, she knew she needed grief support that fed her Catholic faith. She reached out to Lisa Everett, director for Marriage and Family Ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

To help in her healing process, Lewis attended a memorial Mass for infant loss last year at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, sponsored by the Marriage and Family Ministry. The Memorial Mass helped Lewis cope with the loss of their son, as well as another child.

This October, four Masses are offered in the diocese to aid those grieving such a tremendous loss: two in Spanish and two in English. The Masses are open to parents, siblings, grandparents — all who are affected by infant loss.

About the ones Katharine attended, she stated, “There were a lot of families there … grandparents were there, too, so it’s kind of like you’re not alone.”

“It’s a privilege to sponsor these memorial Masses in order to gather together with other individuals and families who have lost a child or grandchild, to entrust our little ones again to the Lord during the celebration of the Eucharist, and to pray for the healing that only He can provide,” said Everett.

It has been more than a year since Romeo, who was born with trisomy 18, passed away in the arms of his parents. In those two days, the couple was able to introduce him to their other three sons, and arrange for him to be baptized and confirmed.

The Lewis family then suffered another loss six weeks into pregnancy following Romeo’s passing.

“We’re not going to understand fully until we pass. I don’t understand the pain, I don’t understand the sorrow sometimes,” Katharine admitted.

Through the last year, Katharine has found the Mass to be a source of comfort and healing. During each one, “heaven comes down. Mass is the closest thing to heaven we have,” she said, and the moment of consecration is when she feels closest to Rome.

She has been teaching her sons that they are closest to the saints in that moment as well, and her son is who makes his first Communion, “realizes at 7 years old that it’s bigger than us. The Body of Christ is bigger than us.”

This was especially profound at the memorial Mass last year, she said, when she was surrounded by others who have been in a similar situation. She remembers seeing relatives there who she hadn’t realized had lost a child.

Though she could only describe her own feelings at the event, it seemed that there was a certain unity among those present. “It was like, OK, this is the closest thing we have to being reunited with our babies.”

St. John the Evangelist pastor Father Andrew Budzinski brought out a statue of Our Lady of Sorrow for last year’s memorial Mass and elaborated on the similar pain that Mary, too, felt. It was through this that Katharine was better able to relate to Mary’s suffering.

“I remember Father Andrew talking about her humanity. He said it’s OK to be sad and it’s OK to feel those feelings … This is where Mary’s fiat comes in; she still had faith, she still cried, she still was sad.”

In addition to the memorial Masses, the diocese also sponsors Ava’s Grace, a support group for anyone who has suffered the loss of a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss.

The group has gone to an online platform during the pandemic and meets once a month, every third Wednesday. Katharine began faithfully attending the meetings.

“Ava’s Grace has just been the most beautiful — I wish more people knew about it,” she said.

Katharine credits the ministry for a “faith explosion” that has taken place in her home.

Grief takes many forms and can devastate an entire household. Katharine’s family struggled to deal with not only the loss of Romeo, but the unborn child they named Fiat, whose gender was unknown. Through Ava’s Grace, Katharine has connected so strongly with her faith that she has been able to give God control over her life — like Mary’s fiat.

The year 2020 became a year of surrender for her. She completed the consecration to St. Joseph, and despite the fear of another loss, her sons began to pray to him for another sibling.

By God’s grace, Katharine and Keith are now expecting a baby within a matter of weeks.

For now, Katherine is using her experience to help others find healing. “I want people to know about Ava’s Grace, and I want people to know about the memorial Masses,” she stressed.

“I know for some people, faith gets weakened in those kinds of moments. I really am blessed that we had the opposite effect, and I think part of that was because of our sons — seeing them play and realizing that there was a piece of them missing, I didn’t want them to be angry or mad. It was such a hopeless situation, and I wanted them to have something to hope for. I feel like there’s nothing better to hope for than heaven.”

Katharine reminds herself that for a brief time, she held a saint in her arms. Each time she attends Mass, she said, she knows that Rome and the entire communion of saints is present with her.

Memorial Mass
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD
(including through miscarriage or abortion)

Friday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
St. Thérèse, Little Flower, South Bend

Friday, Oct. 29, 5:45 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

For more information, contact Lisa Everett
574-968-2439 | leverett@diocesefwsb.org

diocesefwsb.org/avas-grace
It’s ‘wrong’ to let Title X cover abortion, says USCCB’s pro-life chairman

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Biden administration is ‘wrong’ to allow Title X family planning funds to be used for abortion, said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

It is “wrong to allow taxpayer dollars to fund abortion providers who participate in a pre-pregnancy program specifically designed to exclude abortion,” Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., said in an Oct. 7 statement.

“Abortion is not family planning. Abortion takes the life of an already-conceived and growing child,” he said. “The violence of abortion wounds countless women physically, spiritually and emotionally.”

The administration announced late Oct. 4 that it had officially reversed the Trump-era “Protect Life Rule” enforcing Title X’s ban on taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide elective abortions.

“Title X was intended and authorized to be a program entirely separate from abortion,” Archbishop Naumann said, “and it plainly states that ‘the funds authorized under this legislation (shall) be used only to support preventive family planning services, population research, infertility services, and other related medical, informational and educational activities.’”

Enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, Title X covers reproductive health care services for low-income patients such as wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, contraceptives, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Section 1008 of the law states that “none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.” In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented its rule to enforce Section 1008, and the rule was upheld by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Feb. 24, 2020.

On Jan. 28, eight days after he was inaugurated, President Joe Biden announced he would rescind the Trump-era rule.

In a Jan. 29 statement, Archbishop Naumann objected to the move by Biden, a Catholic who supports legal abortion, and he reiterated the bishops’ objection in an April 16 statement, a day after the Department of Health and Human Services published the administration’s proposed rule in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

The archbishop called it a “terrible policy” that “would reintegrate abortion into what is supposed to be a pre-pregnancy family planning program.” He said the “Protect Life Rule” “draws a bright line between abortion and family planning.”

He urged Biden “to suspend this proposed rule and leave the Title X program as it was intended and authorized to be — a program entirely separate from abortion.”

In addition, the USCCB filed comments objecting to the proposed rule.

Effort needed to bridge racial divide in Church, society, says Black bishop

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The racial divide in American society and within the Catholic Church is one that needs to be bridged so that healing and progress can take place, said retired Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill.

“My hope is to move some people to make realistic efforts to bridge the racial divide. This can only come about by deep interior conversion of hearts and minds,” Bishop Braxton said Oct. 8.

He made the comments in an address, “The Catholic Church and the Racial Divide in the United States,” for Department of Africana Studies’ Colloquy on Black Church Studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

“This is a high and distant goal,” he added.

His address came during the 31st annual meeting of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium Oct. 7-9 at the university.

Bishop Braxton said he prefers to use the term “racial divide” as a broad description, from which he singled out racism as “the most damning and most egregious example.”

The racial divide, he said, began with slavery “to provide free laborers ... by working as beasts of burden” on plantations. The divide, Bishop Braxton added, includes time in U.S. history spanned by the Civil War, “the Lost Cause era” and the Dred Scott decision.

“This Dred Scott opinion was written by Chief Justice Roger Taney, himself a Catholic who owned enslaved human beings,” Bishop Braxton said. “Taney did not allow his faith in Jesus Christ to open his eyes.”

It has continued, he said, with “Jim Crow laws, the frequent lynching of African American men, women and children” as well as “the cruel murder of Emmett Till, the murder of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and now as we reflect upon the death of George Floyd and so many African American people since him in the name of law enforcement.”

Bishop Braxton said the Catholic Church and its institutions “have helped perpetuate this divide.”

He recalled one time when he, still a priest in Chicago, took a group of black non-Catholic schoolchildren to a Catholic church.

“Typical of the questions posed to him that day, he said, were ‘Father, does the Catholic Church believe that only white people are in heaven?’ ‘Why are they all pictured with blond hair, blue eyes and rosy cheeks?’ and ‘Why are there no Black, Asian or Latino saints in the windows of this church?’”

Doing something about “the invisibility of color” in religious art could be ‘one small step that could bridge the racial divide,” Bishop Braxton said. “Wouldn’t Catholics find that a welcome change, or would they object,” he said, and stop giving money to the church.

Acknowledging the Church “was largely on the wrong side of history from the beginning of the racial divide,” Bishop Braxton said, “does not lead to the conclusion that all Catholics are intrinsically racist.”

It takes reflection and conversation to begin the process of conversion into change, he noted — something forgotten by one speaker on the topic he remembers hearing years ago.

“The first words that came out of his mouth were, ‘Whether you know it or not, all of you are white racists.’ The possibility of dialogue ended right there,” Bishop Braxton said.

Nor are Americans in general able to dive deeper into the racial divide and its effects, using the subject of reparations as an example.

Bishop Braxton cited a House bill to create a commission to explore the possibility of reparations. “What would be appropriate remedies for slavery? Money? To whom, from whom?” Poor
Superstars of service — Jonathan Evangelista

BY TAMMY DELUCENAY

S t. John the Evangelist Parish’s vision statement says, “We have encountered Jesus Christ in His Church and desire to share the joy of that encounter with the whole world. We believe that Christ’s true Church is the place He has chosen for us to know, love and serve Him.” This statement is the heart of what has brought Jonathan Evangelista to serve his Church in whatever God is calling him to do in Goshen. Evangelista is currently serving St. John as the pastoral associate.

He was born in Acapulco, Mexico. “My family moved to Goshen in 2000, and we started to attend St. John. We found a home here and have been very involved in the apostolates of the church. My parents serve as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the holy Eucharist and I was an altar server. I had a very good Catholic family upbringing, we pray the rosary as a family, have a deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and my mom prays the Divine Mercy chaplet every day at 3 p.m.” shared Evangelista.

“I am the oldest of three. I have two sisters, my middle sister, Yarel Mancera, is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Ariel, have three very active boys, Santiago, Mateo and Gabriel. My youngest sister, Rosabel Evangelista, is a junior at Goshen College in the nursing program. Growing up, we attended Goshen community schools and attended religious education classes on Sundays at St. John.”

Being an active member of his parish youth group and attending diocesan retreats, along with a strong Catholic family upbringing, may be why Evangelista heard the call to the priesthood.

“I first felt the attraction to the priesthood as a teen. I was a sophomore in high school, and it was during adoration that I felt the first call to discern my vocation. I spoke with my pastors at that time, Father Christopher Smith and Father Constantino Rocha, and made a decision my senior year to enter formation. Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Tony Steinacker, the subsequent pastor and parochial vicar, were also a very big influence in my discernment and gave me spiritual direction to enter the seminary.”

Evangelista graduated from the Josephinum in 2017 and spent that summer on a spiritual retreat in Omaha, Nebraska. “IPF, the Institute for Priestly Formation, was awesome. It helped me with my decision to continue my formation, and I enrolled that fall to Mount St. Mary’s University to continue my studies in theology. As I continued to learn and grow in my faith, and through my spiritual direction, I deepened my relationship with the Lord. I was still listening and discerning what God was calling me to do, through much prayer and discernment and with the guidance of the vocation director, Father Andrew Budzinski, and Bishop Rhoades. We came to the conclusion that I was no longer going to continue in formation in order for God to continue to work in my life.”

The formation years had allowed time for Evangelista to mature in his faith and to really listen to how God was calling him to serve.

“I was looking for a job and asked Father Gregerson if he needed any help at the parish. I started working at St. John on Jan. 4. I am now able to implement everything I learned in seminary and apply it to my ministry,” he said. “First Father Gregerson was going to have me work as the director of religious education and then realized he had other plans for me. I currently serve the young adults and the youth of our community. I also coordinate social events, train the altar servers, and teach first-year Confirmation.” Evangelista is often in prayer and listening to how God wants him to know, love and serve Him.

“To live out my faith every day can be simple but also difficult, but it is in prayer that I find my strength to live boldly and do God’s will in my life. I want the young people of St. John to fall in love with the Lord, deepen their relationship with Him and strive to become holy every day. I also want them to know that it is not about not making mistakes, but about learning from mistakes so that we can continue to grow every day and be a witness to others with our love, faith and actions.”

RACIAL DIVIDE, from page 14

Americans? How poor? Whose money?” he asked aloud. “Most Americans do not support the idea of reparations, period.”

He said in one poll, 59% of Black Americans favored cash rations, he contrasted that to the 19% of whites who did; 63% of Black Americans favored cash reparations, he added, “Reparations mean repair — healing what has been broken.”

“The idea of reparations is to understand that slavery is a sin and we cannot fix it, but we can work to make it right,” said Bishop Braxton. “Some of the descendants have asked for a $1 billion fund for the bishops to make a helpful request. Some of the descendants have asked for a $1 billion fund to meet the education, housing and health needs,” the bishop said, although the university has not given an answer to that request. “It has the potential of being addressed to some degree,” he said. “When and to what degree, who knows.”

Retired Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill., gives a lecture on “The Catholic Church and the Racial Divide in the United States” Oct. 7 at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana during the 31st annual meeting of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium.
What conscience dreads and prayer dares not ask

The Collect, or Opening Prayer, for last week’s Masses on the 27th Week of the Year, though directed to God, teaches us that our prayer is not always about things with which we are comfortable. It sometimes leads us to examine aspects of our life in which we struggle with sin or struggle to desire to be free of sin. Here is the prayer:

“Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness, surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.”

After asking for God’s mercy and acknowledging that He offers us more than our minds can grasp, we make the following two petitions:

2. [May you] give what prayer does not dare to ask.

Pardoning what conscience dreads

The Catechism states the following regarding our conscience:

“Deep within his heart the person has a voice, which he must obey. Its voice, heard internally, is not always about things with which we are comfortable. It is not always about things with which we can grasp, we make the following regarding our conscience:”

Pardon what conscience dreads. Who likes to do what is good and to avoid what evil, sounds in his heart at the displeasure of his conscience. While sins offend God and are objectionable to Him, the sinfulness of the sin is not itself the reason why the sinner should be punished. The reason is rather the degree of the sinfulness of the sin, its power over the sinner, its own nature, and what the sinner in the sin does to himself. The theology of the subject of sin and its punishment is therefore a difficult and complicated one. We must not misunderstand the importance of the doctrine of sin as a necessary element in the plan of salvation. Nevertheless, we must not think that sin is the end of God’s thoughts and the reason for His punishment. Sin is only the means by which God brings about His ends. The end is God’s glory and our salvation. The means is sin, but it is not the end.”

The voice of God echoes within, less pleasing things in our life. However, prayer must often be to look honestly at the less pleasing things in our life. This prayer bids us to listen to the dread of conscience (the dread of sin and of its due punishments) and to seek pardon.

What prayer does not dare to ask

Some argue that the translation of this clause is not a good one. The Latin word “quod non praesumamus” is a softer translation in which the phrase asks God to give us the things that we are not worthy of receiving, thus expressing by prayer the things we do not dare to ask for because it would be too bold for us to do so. Such a translation does not offend the Latin text but does seem to miss the overall context: asking God to help us to overcome personal resistance.

We have already seen how and why many of us resist what conscience dreads and would rather not hear the voice of God echoing inside us. But consider that we are hesitant to ask for many things out of fear.

The classic example of this is St. Augustine’s request that God make him chaste … but not yet! Though he could see the value of chastity, Augustine enjoyed his promiscuity and was afraid to ask the Lord to take it away. There are many things we dare not ask because we fear the likelihood of the like to be more generous. If we begin to desire what God is offering, we will be more chaste and more generous because we want to be. The fear of what prayer does not dare to ask abates. Then we are ready to ask God for what He really wants to give us.

The prayer is asking us to look at our resistance and fear and to pray out of that very experience rather than suppress- ing or denying it. Consider well, then, the beautiful though difficult and daring invitation of this prayer. Though it may be contrary to our natural desires, it also bids us to look within and to admit our fears and our resistance.

Holiness is found by giving of ourselves as Jesus did

[Image 39x315 to 90x384]
Baseball exhibit pays homage to Blessed McGivney’s love of the game

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven has opened an online exhibition centering on the Knights of Columbus connection with baseball, which spans almost a century and a half.

The center, at the Knights’ headquarters, is named for the fraternal order’s founder, a candidate for sainthood.

“Baseball unites people. Whether at a professional ballpark, a community diamond or a church picnic, baseball brings people together in activity and in spirit,” said a news release announcing the exhibit. “Blessed Michael McGivney (1852-1890) realized this. He played the game as a seminarian and introduced it to others during his priesthood.”

Andrew Fowler, a content producer for the Knights of Columbus Communications Department, has researched Blessed McGivney’s attraction to baseball.

In a four-part series, “Knights of Columbus Baseball: An American Story,” Fowler recounts the Catholic-American story of how the Knights of Columbus as an organization and individual Knights — including some of baseball’s mightiest heroes — stepped up to the plate to produce memorable moments and shape the sport “for the better.”

The series, accompanied by numerous photographs and illustrations, is free and can be viewed online at michaelmcgivneycenter.org.

“The first segment, which opened Oct. 1, details Blessed McGivney’s personal experiences with the game and the appeal it had among the members of his fledgling organization.

“Many who followed him shared his affection for the game. Some enjoyed it socially and recreationally; others pursued it passionately, even to the Hall of Fame,” the release said.

“For the Knights of Columbus, the game served as an early avenue of assimilation for Catholic immigrants and first-generation Americans.

“Today, baseball continues to serve as a path toward spiritual bonds and friendship for Knights and their families. These values stem from Father McGivney, who founded the fraternal organization on the principles of charity and unity.”

Subsequent segments in Fowler’s series, to be introduced at key points during the 2022 Major League Baseball season, will explore the growth of the game as a professional sport and chronicle developments during significant events in American and world history.

Some of baseball’s stars from yesteryear and today who were Knights themselves include: right fielder George Herman “Babe” Ruth; first baseman Gil Hodges; third baseman “Scramton Bill” Coughlin; pitcher Ed Walsh; managers John “Muggsy” McGraw, Danny Murtaugh and Connie Mack; and catcher/first baseman/designated hitter Mike Sweeney.

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Dealing with the desire for authority. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**SCRIIPTURE SEARCH**

Gospel for October 17, 2021

Mark 10: 35-45

**SERVANTS**


**DOWN**

1 Fly 2 “As the ____ longs for flowing streams”
3 Roman wool cloaks 4 Jesus did, to heaven
5 Government agency 6 Faction
7 News 8 “Our great high ____”
9 Tao 10 Danish physicist 11 Female college student
19 “… the sorrowful” 20 Work of Mercy
21 Foliage 23 Move away
25 “A high priest with out ___”

**ACROSS**

1 Central Daylight Time 4 Fable writer 9 Alphabet
12 Popular pope name 13 Pierced Jesus’ side 14 Card game
15 Electromyography 16 Desert plants 17 “Blessed is ____ believed”
18 God’s goodness 20 (2 wds) “His” will shall be accomplished 22 “I believe in ____ God”

56 Precedes an alias 57 “I am the Alpha and the ____”
58 Cold 59 Representative 60 (2 wds) “You are ____”
61 Positive vote

The 1915 baseball team of the Pere Marquette Knights of Columbus Council No. 271 in Boston is seen in this photo from a new online exhibit on baseball put together by the Knights’ Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven, Conn. The team was considered the “fastest baseball team representing the Order in Greater Boston.” This photograph is a gift of the family of Bernard J. McDonnell, member and manager of the 1915 team.
Adoration under the stars
FORT WAYNE — Spend some quality time with Jesus Christ in the monstrance under the night sky of God’s creation on the lawn in front of Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Saturday, Oct. 16. The evening will close with Benediction. In case of inclement weather, adoration will move inside the church. Prelude music will begin at 6:45 p.m. before the Adoration at 7 p.m.

St. Jude Parish mission
FORT WAYNE — A parish mission, “Gather Us In,” will be Oct. 24-27. Father Peter Schavitz, a Redemptorist priest from St. Louis, will lead the mission each night beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be an adult program and a children’s program for K-5 students each night.

White Mass and banquet
FORT WAYNE — A White Mass for all health care workers, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C Rhoades will be Monday, Oct. 18, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1102 S Clinton St., at 7 p.m. Mass will be followed by a dinner at St. Mary, Mother of God parish hall with OSV’s Jason Shanks, the guest speaker, talking about his miraculous recovery from Covid-19. Cost is $15; free for students and religious life. For information, visit www.fortwayne.catham.org or Julie Bryan at 260-222-6978.

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit
MISHAWAKA — The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue is coming to St. Monica on Friday, Oct. 22. The 8-15 a.m. Mass will be followed by adoration and devotions. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the statue will be in church for personal prayer and devotions throughout the day. At 6 a.m., adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, Scapular enrollment, talk offered by the Pilgrim Virgin Statue’s custodian and a candlelight procession ending at Battell Park will conclude the visit. For additional parishes on the tour, visit www.todayscatholic.org/event or contact Terry Horban at 574-621-0572.

Sacred Heart Cemetery fall cleanup
SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart Cemetery, 1826 Kemble Ave., will conduct a fall cleanup from Monday, Oct. 25 through Saturday, Oct. 30. All summer decorations should be removed by this time. Contact Patrick Nowak at 574-287-7125 or naro-haz@aol.com.

Queen of Angels card and social luncheon
FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels annual card and social luncheon will be Friday, Oct. 29, from noon to 4 p.m. Enjoy card playing and socializing. There will be raffles, attendance prizes and lunch will be served in the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 West State Blvd. Cost is $10 per person.

Discussion with Catholic health care professionals
GRANGER — An engaging, spiritually uplifting discussion on the practice of medicine from a Catholic perspective will be Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in the church basement meeting room. Enter at the back of church off Fir Road next to the playground. Stairs and elevator access are available to the lower level. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Craig, O.D. at cma@stpius.net or 419-305-0244. All are welcome. Sponsored by the St. Andre Bessette Guild of North Central Indiana, a charted guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

Rosary rally for an end to abortion
FORT WAYNE — During the 40 Days For Life Campaign, gather to pray the rosary for the end of abortion in front of Planned Parenthood, 2930 Lake Ave., Saturday, Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. This event is sponsored by St. Aloysius of Yoder parishioners and by America Loves Fatima.

A Day Of Remembrance for theEvangelization of the World.
FORT WAYNE — A Day Of Remembrance for the Evangelization of the World will be Saturday, Oct 30th at 7 p.m.排序：

Fort Wayne Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception 11:30 a.m. | 2nd Sunday of the Month

South Bend | St. Matthew Cathedral 11:00 a.m. | 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month

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@cssisters.org, or visit www.cssisters.org/employees.
Francis of Perpetual Adoration, neighbors of Marian High School, were present as well.

Bishop Rhodes blessed the grotto at the beginning of Mass, asking the Lord to grant that all who in its presence would pay devout homage to the Blessed Virgin, may know her protection, trace in their hearts the pattern of her holiness and be aided by her to obtain her grace in this life and everlasting glory in the life to come.

“This grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the altar and this prayer plaza is so beautiful and it gives me so much joy because this will be such an important part of the campus of Marian High School,” he said during the homily. “It will be a place of prayer and reflection. I can only imagine the many graces that will flow through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother from the prayers that are offered here—many, many graces.”

“This community and the people who visit will bring candles and light candles with prayers for special intentions,” said the bishop. “It’s a beautiful custom we have as Catholics, so I know there will be thousands and thousands of candles lit at this grotto in years to come,” he predicted. “The light of the candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, and Mary is like the moon, the mothers of the Church. She reflects the light of her Son. She reflects the light of Christ.”

“That’s my prayer, that it will be the principle lesson the students of Marian learn in their Catholic education here—that they live as children of the light and, like Mary and assisted by her protection, spread that light into the world.”

**Journey to fruition**

Marian High School principal Mark Kirzeder and Director of Mission Advancement Alicia Redinger shared how the grotto came to be.

Redinger said it was Jan. 9, 2014, when Bishop Rhodes announced that Our Lady of Lourdes was Marian’s official patroness and consecrated the school to her. She said it was in that timeframe that the bishop asked them to consider making a grotto on campus.

She said they started with a small group of people to come up with a way to “make the grotto a beautiful place for students to go as well as the community.”

Kirzeder said the planning and construction was a team effort that included Father Niezer, Father Rathke and Campus Minister Corrine DeLucray. They collaborated on the design and construction and each took responsibility for different aspects of the project.

Donors made the grotto possible. Kirzeder said, “We couldn’t do it within the budget so we met with donors and for the last two years, the annual appeal was allocated to the project.”

“There were so many teachers and parents dedicated to the project and helped to move it forward, all the donations and those who donated time,” Redinger added. “It really has been done by the grace of God. We worked with so many people who guided and directed us to others who could help.”

Construction began in the spring of 2019, but the pre-planning had begun in 2016. COVID-19 slowed things down for more than a year, “but everyone has been so good at working with us,” Kirzeder said. “And the community has been very patient.”

Redinger said they obtained beautiful statues of Mary and St. Bernadette. The statue of Mary came from Italy and was said to be very similar to the original at Lourdes.

“We started praying the rosary at the grotto space when it was still just a grassy area. We were out there in the snow just asking Our Lady’s intercession to make this happen,” she recalled.

**Mary’s intercession**

Kirzeder began as principal at Marian High School the year the bishop dedicated the school to Our Lady of Lourdes. At the time, his wife, Lesley, was pregnant with their third child. He said there had been some complications with all of her pregnancies, so they were praying to Our Lady of Lourdes for protection.

He also shared that Lesley had done some freelance graphic and communications work for Father John DeRosi, a priest who was stationed in France during that pregnancy. Father DeRosi went to Lourdes to pray for their unborn child.

Kirzeder said he and his wife are Notre Dame graduates, and that the grotto on campus was a special place for them. For all those reasons, their third child was named Bernadette Rose; she is now a perfectly healthy 6-1/3 year old who lit the first candle at the grotto during the dedication. Lesley spoke before the Mass and said, “Since I had a re-version in my 30s, St. Bernadette and the whole story of Our Lady of Lourdes has had a special place in my heart so this is very special and beautiful and I’m glad to be here today.”

Rosemary Ravotto MeNeely and Del Lupe also lit candles. MeNeely said, “I think it’s a wonderful thing that they’ve done. This is a great place to come, light a candle, meditate and pray. It’s good for the campus, and it’s beautiful.”

The grotto includes room for many votive candles to be lit. The candles will represent prayers to Jesus, the light of the world.