With Thanksgiving approaching, Today’s Catholic would like to share our appreciation for all of God’s many blessings. Tell us what you are thankful for in 75 words or less and your comments may be included in the Nov. 21 edition of the newspaper and online.

Send an email to editor@diocesefwsb.org by Wed, Nov. 11. Photos welcome.

So Grateful

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades accepts a gift basket of food for donation to the Community Harvest Food Bank from a fourth grade student dressed as a saint as part of the All-Schools Mass at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne Monday, Nov. 1.
Legal professionals hear suggestions for holiness

FORT WAYNE — Law is shaped by culture. In fact, the two reinforce each other, which is why one of today’s biggest challenges comes from the direction of modern culture.

At Red Masses celebrated Oct. 5 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, and Oct. 26 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, this and other realities were acknowledged by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for the attorneys, clerks, students and teachers of the law who were present. Catholics, the bishop said, live their faith in a world often at odds with its truths, as evidenced by the extreme individualism, relativism and materialism demonstrated by many people today. It’s a challenge to be a faithful Catholic in the midst of a culture that is not open to the transcendent truths of faith and reason, especially for those engaged in the interpretation of that mutual reinforcement, he told them.

Cooperation, justice and greed

In addition to offering a blessing for those charged with that responsibility, he proposed suggestions for pursuing holiness in such an environment.

“Never cooperate illicitly with evil” was the first suggestion. The bishop explained: “Of course, judges must follow the law in the cases that come before them, but there is a moral duty to recuse oneself if the law would require one to perform an intrinsically evil act or cooperate with evil in a manner that is morally impermissible.”

“Always pursue justice” was the second suggestion. “Your service of the needs of your clients may prove a challenge if your client wants you to engage in conduct that you know to be unjust and immoral, even if it might be legal. You are always obliged to follow your properly formed conscience in these matters.”

“Some legal ethicists hold to what is called ‘role morality,’ a position popular today in legal ethics,” he elaborated. “Proponents of role morality hold that a lawyer must do what the client wants, as long as it is legal. The lawyer thus assumes an amoral role. This theory exalts autonomy above the objective good and it exempts a lawyer from any measure of accountability for assisting his or her client’s immorality.” But Catholic lawyers are to pursue justice above the self-serving interests of their clients. “To exalt one’s client’s will and autonomy above the common good, ignoring the goods of truth and respect for others, is problematic. True justice cannot be reduced to doing whatever one’s client desires.”

Avoiding greed in all its forms was the third suggestion offered.

“This command comes from Jesus and is addressed to all His disciples, to you and to me,” the bishop said. “You are well aware that the noble legal profession has been adversely affected by our materialistic culture. We need only consider the environment of some mega law firms in which profit reigns supreme, despite the human costs. The ultimate aim is not the attainment of justice, but the maximization of profits.” A Catholic lawyer should be troubled by this, he continued, “since he or she knows, as Scripture teaches, that the love of money is indeed the root of all evil.”

“The culture of some law firms reflects the culture of our materialistic society,” he noted. “The Church encourages leaders of law firms to create a different culture, an evangelized culture. One way to do this is to hear the cry of the poor and the needy by serving the least fortunate pro bono or with reduced charges, according to their means.”

Universal call to holiness

The Lord calls all people to be saints, to holiness. The Council Fathers stated the following, Bishop Rhoades said: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father Himself is perfect.”

He invited those present to think about how they could be credible witnesses to Jesus and His Gospel.

“You are called to be Christ’s disciples not only at home or at church, but also in your law offices and courtrooms. You are called to witness to Christ to your co-workers, your clients, and even your opponents by your goodness, by your integrity, and by your charity. The call to holiness includes working in the legal profession with integrity and skill in the service of your clients and also by working for the common good and renouncing personalized gain. The graces of your Baptism and Confirmation are not to be put aside when you go to work nor the Holy Spirit left outside when you enter the courtroom.”

The path to holiness always involves in some way the cross, he added, “heeding our Lord’s words in the Gospel today about denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily in following Jesus. St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, heeded those words as he gave his life for the sake of Jesus. Jesus said: ‘What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?’”

Blessed Rosario Livatino, Catholic prosecutor

An Italian prosecutor who died in 1990 pursued justice in his work, but also upheld the supreme law of the Gospel in the face of notoriously intimidating circumstances. At this year’s Red Masses, Bishop Rhoades recounted Blessed Rosario Livatino’s
Celebrate the feast of Christ the King

FORT WAYNE — On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King in 1925 with his encyclical “Quas primas,” “In the first,” to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early 20th century, in Mexico, Russia and some parts of Europe, militantly secularist regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI’s encyclical gave the Church hope and — while governments around them crumbled — the assurance that the Church, and the King, shall reign forever.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages Catholics to learn more about this important feast day.

The Lectionary readings this year depict Christ as the king who reigns in triumph, yet who also suffers. In the Gospel passage, John 18:37, although He is heading toward what appears to be defeat, Jesus announces His victory in His response to Pilate: “For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.” The Word of God has entered the world to open the way for fallen humanity to live in accordance with the true beauty of its heart. This is His mission, and no earthly authority can prevent Christ from carrying it out. Even in the face of suffering, Christ’s reign is not defeated, because He and all who are conformed to Him testify to the truth.

Jesus tells Pilate that everyone who belongs to the truth listens to the voice of Jesus, the king. As Catholics, the USCCB has said, “we contribute to the building up of the common good in our society by bearing witness to the reign of Christ in public life. The Solemnity of Christ the King is a day for Catholics to rededicate themselves to the truth by listening to the voice of Christ and by obeying his word. It is only under the reign of Christ our sovereign king that we will experience true freedom and see renewal in our Church and in our country.”

On Nov. 12-20, the nine days preceding the solemnity, the USCCB encourages Catholics to participate in a novena to Christ the King. Daily intentions and a concluding Prayer to Christ the King can be found at www.usccb.org/religious-liberty/christ-king-2021-novena. This is an appropriate time to offer prayers to the Christ for the freedom of the Church.

Connect with the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty by Text FREEDOM to 84576 and Sign up for First Freedom News, the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty’s monthly newsletter.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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RED MASS, from page 2

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a concluding Prayer to Christ the King-2021-novena.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and U.S. President Joe Biden had an unusually long meeting at the Vatican Oct. 29, talking about the climate crisis and poverty, among other issues.

The president later told reporters that the two did not talk about abortion.

Some U.S. bishops have argued that Biden, who regularly attends Mass, should not receive Communion because of his support for legalized abortion, while Catholic Church teaching emphasizes the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death.

Asked if abortion was one of the topics of his meeting with the pope, Biden responded, “We just talked about the fact he was happy that I was a good Catholic, and I should keep receiving Communion.”

Biden spoke to reporters at Rome’s Palazzo Chigi, where he was meeting Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

The Vatican described the president’s meetings with both the pope and with top Vatican diplomats as consisting of “cordial discussions,” with both sides “focused on the joint commitment to the protection and care of the planet, the health care situation and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.”

They also discussed “refugees and assistance to migrants,” the Vatican said, and “reference was also made to the protection of human rights, including freedom of religion and conscience.”

The pope and the president also exchanged “views on some matters regarding the current international situation, also in the context of the imminent G20 summit in Rome, and on the promotion of peace in the world through political negotiation,” it said.

According to a statement released by the White House, “President Biden thanked His Holiness for his advocacy for the world’s poor and those suffering from hunger, conflict and persecution.”

“He lauded Pope Francis’ leadership in fighting the climate crisis, as well as his advocacy to ensure the pandemic ends for everyone through vaccine sharing and an equitable global economic recovery,” the statement said.

During a nearly 90-minute meeting in the library of the Apostolic Palace, which included 75 minutes of closed-door discussions between the two leaders, Pope Francis gave Biden a large painted ceramic tile of a pilgrim walking along Rome’s Tiber River and pointing to St. Peter’s Basilica in the distance. It and its red and gold designs symbolize “protection from adversity” during one’s spiritual growth and the hope of reaching a deeper connection to God, the pope said.

As he left the end of this spiritual journey, according to an explanation of the artistic piece generated by Pope Francis, the president signed a copy of his message for World Day of Peace 2021, a collection of his major documents, including his document on human fraternity, and the book, “Why Are You Afraid? Have You No Faith? The World Facing the Pandemic.” The book contains photographs and homilies, messages and prayers the pope delivered during the pandemic, emphasizing the importance of love, hope, solidarity and the common good.

Biden presented Pope Francis with a framed, handwoven “fidieback” chasuble that had been made by Gamarelli, the famous Rome tailor shop, in 1930, for Jesuits in the United States. The White House was also making a donation of winter clothing to charities in the name of Pope Francis to commemorate the World Day of the Poor Nov. 14.

Biden also gave the pope a copy of his memoir, “Promise Me. Dad. A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose,” about losing his firstborn son, Beau Biden, to brain cancer at the age of 46 and a presidential command coin inscribed with the unit of his late son, who had been deployed to Iraq in 2008.

Biden explained the reason for the coin to the pope. “I’m not sure this is appropriate, but there’s a tradition in America that the president has what is called a command coin that he gives to warriors and leaders and you are the most significant warrior for peace I’ve ever met.”

The president thanked the pope for “for giving to warriors and leaders and you are the most significant warrior for peace I’ve ever met.”

“The tradition — I’m only kidding about this — next time I see you, if you don’t have it, you have to buy the drinks.” Biden said, adding, however, “I’m the only Irishman you’ve ever met who’s never had a drink.”

Later, as the pope walked Biden to the door, he thanked him for the visit and “for this,” he said, clenching the coin.

After meeting the pope, Biden went downstairs to meet Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister. In addition to his wife, Jill Biden, the president traveled with a 10-person entourage of senior White House staff, including U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Jake Sullivan, his national security adviser.

The White House said in a statement that those discussions included “efforts to rally global support for vaccinating the developing world against COVID-19” and Biden thanked the Vatican for its “leadership in fighting the climate crisis” and for “speaking out on behalf of the wrongfully detained, including in Venezuela and Cuba.”

The leaders committed to continue using their voices to advocate for personal and religious freedoms worldwide,” the White House said.

The Vatican’s statement noted the president had unexpectedly canceled — about 24 hours before Biden’s arrival — a scheduled livestream of the visit to the objections of reporters. Accredited journalists covering the Vatican had not been present for the beginning and concluding portions of any meetings with heads of state in the papal library since late February 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A group of reporters was given permission to be present for Biden’s arrival by car in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace and a livestream was aired only of the presidential vehicle arriving at the Vatican and stopping in the courtyard.

The only explanation the Vatican provided was that no livestreams of the pope’s meetings with heads of state have been provided since the pandemic began. However, as is customary, Vatican Media provided photographs and edited footage of some parts of the meeting.

Reaching the courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the U.S. flag had been raised and a formation of Swiss Guards stood watch, Biden and his wife were welcomed by Msgr. Leonardo Sapienza, regent of the papal household. Shaking his hand, Biden said, “It’s a pleasure to see you.” He praised his wife, and added that he was “glad to be here.”

“It’s good to be back,” he said. “I’m the only Irishman you’ve ever met.”

He thanked each of the awaiting papal gentlemen who would accompany him upstairs.

“Mrs. Biden,” he told one member of the papal household, and, “If I had had your hair, I would have been elected much earlier,” he joked to another gentleman, blessed with a full head of salt-and-pepper-colored curls.

The monsignor then led them upstairs to the papal library before the live footage was cut off.

The private papal audience was Biden’s first presidential visit to the Vatican. Pope Francis had previously met Biden three times when Biden was vice president; the previous time was in 2016, after they both spoke at a conference on adult stem-cell research at the Vatican.

Biden is now the 14th U.S. president to have met a pope at the Vatican and the second Catholic president after President John F. Kennedy met Pope Paul VI almost 60 years ago.

The White House had said in mid-October that Biden planned on discussing working together on efforts promoting the respect of basic human dignity, ending the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the climate crisis, income inequality and migration, and caring for the poor.

Concluding this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.
Catholics urged to respond to gender ideology with love ‘rooted in truth’

BY KEVIN SCHWEERS

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Virginia public schools, most notably in Loudoun County, have generated national headlines for enacting controversial new policies embracing gender ideology for the current academic year.

In response, concerned Catholics around the Arlington diocese recently organized educational conferences to inform the faithful about the issue and urge them not to be afraid to speak up when confronted by transgender advocates but to do so with love rooted in the biological truth about men and women.

At St. Theresa Church in Ashburn, Virginia, about 125 people attended an Oct. 23 program on “Gender Ideology: The Cultural Challenge and the Catholic Response.”

That same day, parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church hosted a similar conference at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia.

The previous week, the Blessed Sacrament Church men’s group in Alexandria, Virginia, hosted a guest speaker on the subject.

Earlier in October, Catholics and other Christians attended a Family Research Council event in Leesburg, Virginia, which included two panel discussions touching on gender ideology in public schools.

In Loudoun County, the new policies enacted Aug. 11, for example, require the use of pronouns that may not correspond with biological sex. County school board meetings have drawn hundreds of protesters and become fodder for national cable TV and talk radio programs.

Several teachers represented by Alliance Defending Freedom have filed litigation against the policy, citing concerns that it would compel “faculty and students to speak a message contrary to their beliefs.” A court hearing is scheduled for Nov. 8.

This year, Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge promulgated “A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology” as a resource to help Catholics respond to questions of gender with clarity and charity.

In an Oct. 19 appearance on “Catholic Answers Live,” a radio show syndicated on hundreds of Catholic radio stations across the country, he discussed the reaction that the catechetical resource generated.

“I would say overall, within my diocese and even beyond, we have received a very favorable response,” Bishop Burbidge said.

Many Catholics who believe God created people as man and woman, he said, have told him the document provided the principles and wording to compassionately present that truth, in spaces such as in the workplace. “They know it’s true, we just wanted to give them the language to communicate,” the bishop said.

Bishop Burbidge said he was struck by the speed with which the transgender movement was embraced by some segments of the broader society over the past decade but at the same time he was “not surprised” because it was predictable “once you begin denying basic realities about the human person.”

“I think now we really have reached an extreme,” Bishop Burbidge said. “We have reached the point where we really have to speak out clearly and compassionately, but in bold truth. It’s the only way we’re going to reverse the situation.”

Bishop Burbidge acknowledged that, even though speaking up can invite “false labeling” that paints Catholics as hateful or discriminatory, the faithful should not be deterred because transgender advocates “want us to be silent.”

Father James C. Hudgins, pastor of St. Theresa, echoed that the point where we really have to speak out clearly and compassionately, but in bold truth. It’s the only way we’re going to reverse the situation.

“Every time you speak or act in defense of what’s good and true or stand up against the power of the mob, you inspire thousands, sometimes even millions of people to do the same,” he said. “Don’t be afraid to defend the good even when it’s attacked. Secondly, don’t be afraid to take a stand no matter how small it might be.”

“We as Catholics need to begin from the starting point that every person has dignity,” said speaker Mary Hasson, the Kate O’Beirne fellow at the Ethics and Policy Center in Washington.

A parishioner of St. Veronica Church in Chantilly, Virginia, she has followed the gender ideology movement for years. The common ground she has found with those who disagree on this issue is the shared desire to help individuals experiencing gender dysphoria — even if their methods vary drastically.

“Living the truth is how people flourish. There is tremendous harm that comes to individuals and families when they go down this transgender road,” she said.

Hasson’s presentation offered advice to Catholics whose child or relative identifies as transgender: Convey warmth to that individual as a child of God and empathy for their feelings, without supporting actions or interventions that are ultimately destructive.

Frank J. Moncher, a psychologist who is the Arlington diocese’s director of victim assistance, said that medical studies that purport to demonstrate the efficacy of transitioning between genders are deeply flawed because they lack data on long-term physical and emotional outcomes.

The vast majority of individuals who experience confusion about their identity ultimately embrace their biological sex over time, he said.

Despite this, medical referrals for gender dysphoria conditions have grown astronomically in recent years, he noted, especially for adolescent females.

Schweers is executive editor of content at the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington. Contributing to this story was Claire Chapman.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of the most important “servants of life” in the world was the late French geneticist, Jérôme Lejeune, who dedicated his “scientific genius” to serving children with Down syndrome and their families, said the woman officially promoting his sainthood cause. He was also “a servant of char...
**Fall hayride at St. Aloysius**

The St. Aloysius Parish Knights of Columbus Council No. 13142 sponsored its annual bonfire and hayride Oct. 23 in Yoder, in conjunction with the parish school’s trunk-or-treat event. Steve Heckber drove the tractor that provided the hayride for costumed students and adults.

**Knights support seminarians’ education**

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola closed out Respect Life Month activities Oct. 31 with a rosary for life outside the church. Around 20 parishioners had been gathering to recite the rosary each day since the start of the month. Additionally, the parish set up white crosses near the highway at the parish and at St. Paul Chapel in Fremont to memorialize those lost to abortion during the year. Members also showed their support for the unborn with an interactive bulletin board inside the church and welcomed speaker Ann Freeman from the Women’s Care Center of Northeast Indiana Oct. 9 and 10.

**Carrying the cross of infertility**

FORT WAYNE — The annual Evening of Hope and Healing for those struggling with infertility is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. at St. Thérèse, Little Flower, Parish in South Bend. This year, Ed Dolphin, a Holy Cross seminarian whose ministry placement is with Hope for the Journey and Springs in the Desert infertility ministries, will provide the reflection for the evening based on a Scripture reading. Couples experiencing infertility or secondary infertility and the individuals who care about them are encouraged to attend and accompany each other as they walk through this unexpected journey.

For those in attendance, there will be eucharistic adoration, prayer prompts, inspirational music and the opportunity to receive prayer for healing as individuals or couples. Additional information is available by contacting Lisa Everett in the Office of Marriage and Family Life at leverett@diocesefwsb.org or 574-968-2439.
National Vocations Week —
‘There is great joy in accomplishing His will’

By Jennifer Barton and Jill A. Boughton

At the heart of any vocation is joy. The call to religious life brings joy and spreads joy to others. For Vocations Awareness Week Nov. 7-13, clergy and religious men and women in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend share the role of joy in their vocations.

Msgr. Bernard Galic

After 51 years as a priest and the former vocations director for the diocese, Msgr. Bernard Galic knows a little something about joy-filled vocations.

“I dreamed of being a missionary,” Msgr. Galic disclosed. As a child, he was inspired by Maryknoll magazines that his parents received, which often featured photos of young missionary priests heading off to African countries to spread the Gospel message.

He was ordained in Wisconsin as a Sacred Heart priest. Instead of missionary work, “I was assigned to teach for the first 10 years of my priesthood” at Divine Mercy Seminary in Donaldson.

It was work he came to love. “I look back on it with joy when I see what has become of many of these men,” he exuded. At a recent retreat, Msgr. Galic was amazed to see the great works that nearly a hundred of his former students have accomplished in their lives.

When the seminary closed, he moved to the life of a parish priest. He became incardinated as a diocesan priest and found great joy in that vocation as well. “I think the greatest joy of the priesthood is knowing that you’re close to these people for the most important times in their lives: that you can give them what no one but a priest can give them, and that is the sacraments – the Eucharist, penance, anointing of the sick. Bringing them the grace of God in these important moments was very, very rewarding. And joy-filled,” he added.

But the greatest lesson he has learned is that joy follows obedience. As vocations director, he taught this lesson to the seminarians in whose formation he was instrumental.

“God knows what he’s doing with us. God knows best. And when we can accept that and see God’s will, what He allows in our lives and what He calls us to do with our lives, there’s great joy in accomplishing His will.”

Father Daniel Niezer

Ordained in 2019, Father Daniel Niezer is still relatively new to his vocation. He was installed at St. Dominic Parish, Bremen, just this year as his first pastorate.

“There is an immediate joy that I saw right away when I became pastor here at St. Dominic,” he shared. A parochial vicar, he felt did not “have the spiritual authority of a father over his sons and daughters, his parishioners. When I became a pastor, I noticed a huge shift in the way I thought about preaching, celebrating the sacraments and offering counsel to many families and individuals.”

One humbling, happy realization has been that his parishioners truly respect the priesthood. “I have been so amazed by the number of families who immediately welcome me into their family as if I was their own. I hardly know them ... yet the love, generosity and acceptance has been an unexpected joy.”

What he most looks forward to each day is the celebration of the sacraments. In the two years since his ordination, his love for the celebration of Mass has deepened.

“When I was first ordained, I was more stressed thinking about saying the right words and preparing the right homily, but now I notice myself entering more deeply into the prayerful mystery of the sacraments. I look forward to this growth year by year.”

Father Niezer encourages young people not to be afraid of following God’s call. “There is not greater joy than to find and live your vocation for Christ and in the Church. This is something that the world does not see, so I pray that more youths see the great opportunity to stand out as truly extraordinary models of Christian living. Responding generously to God’s call is something that will attract so many to the Catholic faith.”

For those discerning a call to the priesthood, he said: “As priests, we experience in a unique way our sonship to God our Father, as well as share in our Heavenly Father’s role over his adopted sons and daughters. Priests are also adopted in a special way by Mary, the mother of the Great High Priest.”

Priests and religious serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend say they find much of the joy in their vocations from being with the people of God, administering sacraments and spending time with them at parish events, in formation and in friendship. Father Daniel Niezer, above, said he has also found both happiness and humility in the welcome extended to him by parishioners at St. Dominic, Bremen, where he was appointed pastor in June.

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Serving in Love for over 150 years!

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) is an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious who minister with the poor, the sick and children in 9 countries.

As a child, Father Daniel Niezer was instrumental.

The PHJC Volunteer Program offers single, Christian women unique opportunities in a faith-based context to live out their Baptismal call to share God’s presence in the world.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Discernment Retreats 2022
February 25-27 May 20-22
The Solanus Vocation Society prays for and promotes vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Monthly lunch meetings begin with Mass and followed by a presentation from a priest or seminarian.

For information about joining, contact svs.fwin@gmail.com.

Check us out on Facebook. Solanus Vocation Society - Fort Wayne, IN.

“National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated in our country Nov.7-13. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God’s gift of vocation.”

Father Mark Enamali, CSSp

Father Mark Enamali, CSSp, is of the religious order of Spiritan fathers, or the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He is from Kogi State in Nigeria and was ordained 15 years ago in New Haven, Enugu State. He first came to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2007 to study theology at the University of Notre Dame after spending a year as a missionary in Tanzania. He received his doctorate in 2014 and was assigned to St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven. Then he went back to Nigeria to teach in the seminary for three years before returning to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

While teaching at seminary, he had the opportunity to return to Indiana each summer, going wherever Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades sent him. During those summers, he visited friends that he had made in the area. He is now serving as administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn.

Father Enamali first felt called to the priesthood when Canadian Spiritan priests came to serve in his home diocese of Idah. He said, “The first time the thought came to me, I thought to become a missionary, to go far away.” His vocation was inspired in part by the joy of these missionary priests.

“The Canadian Spiritans worked in the diocese, and when

Vocations are everyone’s business.

Pray for specific men you know to consider the priesthood... ...then personally invite them to do so.
they gathered, they would be so happy and joyous, so that was an attraction to me.”

Now he finds great joy in his own vocation. “I love celebrating the sacraments, especially reconciliation and Eucharist.”

Another aspect of his priesthood that brings him joy is “working with the Scriptures.”

The compliments he receives from parishioners whose lives he has touched through a homily or by other means encourage him in his vocation. He also enjoys meeting with other priests from his order and visiting the friends he has made in northern Indiana.

Sister Karolyn Grace Wertner

There may be no vocation more sacrificial than that of the cloistered life. To give up worldly comforts and conveniences requires tremendous dedication to one’s calling. Sister Karolyn Grace Wertner of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare in Fort Wayne spoke to Today’s Catholic about her vocation to the consecrated life.

She explained that, as cloistered nuns, “We’re here to show that heaven is not boring. In heaven, we’re all going to be worshipping God, we’re all going to be belonging to Him. So, our vocation shows that we want to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and that nothing on earth is more important or fills us with more joy and happiness than being in union with Him.”

Additionally, she said, “We’ve given up the ultimate sacrifice of raising our own family. But all these goods of the world — nothing can compare to what’s coming next.”

Sister M. Mercy Briola, OSF

“My greatest joy is knowing I’m right where I’m supposed to be,” said Sister M. Mercy Briola of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka. “God never gives up on me, even when suffering makes me feel like a failure.”

Now in her fifth year as a junior sister, Sister Mercy plans to make her final profession next August. Her vocation is being a nun, but she also feels called to teach and is in her third year teaching math at Marian High School.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, she attended public schools. Her family went to Mass every Sunday, even her non-Catholic father. The real presence meant a lot to her, so she offered every Holy Communion for her dad’s conversion until he enrolled in RCIA after 12 years. But the thought of a religious vocation never entered her mind.

Everything changed when she made a last-minute decision to matriculate at a Catholic college. She first sought comfort in the brand-new chapel due to homesickness and academic pressure, but before long she was spending an hour a day before the Blessed Sacrament. “Some people fall away from their faith in college,” she said. “I fell into mine.”

A Dominican chaplain who arrived her junior year started a eucharistic prayer group. After a month, he told her something Jesus had put on his heart: he asked if she’d ever considered a religious vocation.

She was in a dating relationship at the time and dismissed the idea, but she and four friends eventually began setting aside a weekly holy hour for discernment followed by fellowship. Of that group, one is a Dominican priest, one is married, one single, and one hopes to become a consecrated virgin.

After college, she sold everything and entered a monastic community. However, six months later she was sent home after becoming very ill with meningitis. She couldn’t help feeling like a failure, as if God had left her at the altar.
With only a prom dress and a pair of jeans in her closet, rebuilding her life, health and spirits took time. She found teaching jobs and made a pilgrimage to Poland, home of her three holy heroes: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pope St. John Paul II, and St. Faustina. Walking in their footsteps felt almost like a rebirth, rekindling hope. She began to believe God might want to offer her a second chance.

Her Dominican friend had a brother from this diocese who suggested the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. When she made a visit, the pieces seemed to fit: the sacrifice of round-the-clock prayer and the joy of teaching. People who visit the convent are often struck by how joyful these sisters are, she said; and Sister Mercy loves sharing life with several generations of women.

Surprised by grace, Sister Mercy said, "Joy is clear evidence of God's will. Jesus is the source of my joy. I'm deeply loved by Christ, and I love life in this joyful community."

Father Matt Fase, CSC

A religious vocation was always presented as a viable option in the Fase household in Rockford, Michigan, where Father Fase grew up as the fourth of five children. His three older siblings have married, giving him 10 nieces and nephews. By his senior year in a public high school, he was serious enough about exploring a vocation to the priesthood that he made a visit to Notre Dame’s Old College. The men he met there were full of joy and fervor about what they were doing.

“If they’d been dour and solemn, I might not have considered entering seminary,” he admitted, but he moved into Old College as a Notre Dame freshman. Another inspiring occasion was a bonfire on the congregation’s property in LaPorte at the conclusion of a seminary camp week during freshman orientation. The men, who were in various stages of formation, and their formators, were enjoying music, snacks and cigars. They were such joy-filled, authentic human beings, he wanted to join them in figuring out how best to serve the Lord.

He made his final vows in 2014 and was ordained in April 2015. He’s had three assignments since then: parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer in Portland, Oregon, campus minister at Stonehill College in Massachusetts, now parochial vicar at St. Joseph, South Bend.

What gives Father Fase the most joy is knowing that his whole job is bringing Christ to others. “What a beautiful gift to do that all the time,” he said. He also loves moving in and out of peoples’ lives at key moments. A highlight of every morning is walking past the preschool playground on the way to his office; the children crowd the fence to greet him.

Many priests, brothers, religious and those called to consecrated life say that answering the call to a lifelong vocation of serving the Lord brings deep peace and joy. Above, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, priests and seminarians rejoice in fraternity after their ordination of two of their brothers, Deacons Mark Hellinger and Brian Isenbarger, in May.
Cardinal speaks on protection of human life at Notre Dame

BY ANN CAREY

The former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith spoke at the University of Notre Dame Oct. 27, where he stressed the importance of proclaiming the human dignity of every person, from conception until natural death.

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, who was prefect of the CDF from 2012 to 2017, told an audience of Notre Dame faculty, staff and students that this proclamation is particularly necessary in “a secularized society that has surrendered to relativism and thus to the destruction of ethics.”

Life on earth is a “pilgrim state,” he explained, for humans are on a journey toward the ultimate goal of eternal salvation; however, this lofty goal doesn’t mean that they have no responsibility toward the world and the people around them.

Cardinal Müller cited “Lumen Gentium,” “The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,” to explain that the two goals of the Church go hand in hand: to bring people to Jesus and to work for “the unity of mankind.” These goals include not only adoration, worship and striving for holiness, but also civic responsibility, care for the earth and working for better living conditions.

To this end, he continued, the Church addresses the moral principles of human action to promote the truth that “every human being exists for its own sake and must never be a means to an end.” Rather, “Humans are individually called by God, adopted as his children and regarded as his friends.”

The popes, over the centuries, “as universal teacher and shepherd of the Church” have led this effort by the Church to be in the world to “illuminate” and “educate” the conscience of people and to speak up about threats to human freedom, equality and the common good, he said, citing various papal encyclicals.

Cardinal Müller observed that one of the greatest challenges of our time is the protection of all human life, and he said that “The Church is the only community that has always risen to the occasion” by emphasizing Catholic social teaching and moral theology principles.

The Church should not just passively react to problems, he continued, but rather “All Christian communities can shape the future by emphasizing the vocation of humanity in the story of God’s creation.”

On the other hand, rejecting God degrades humans to a mere biological life form without “objective standards, values and virtues.” The result is a world based on arbitrary decisions that is ever-changing and without hope or love, he said:

“After all, human rights need to be rooted in more than consensus in order to last and be truly universal: They must be based on the recognition of an authority that is beyond the reach of man.”

While people of good will can and should work together to build a more just world, Cardinal Müller stressed that “We can never replace the final goal of human existence: being with God.”

The cardinal’s presentation was co-sponsored by Notre Dame’s Theology Department and by the Religious Liberty Initiative of the Notre Dame Law School.

Cardinal Müller was in the United States on a tour to promote his book, “The Pope: His Mission and His Task” (The Catholic University Press, 2021). The book originally was published in German in 2017; the English version is a translation by Father Brian McNeil.

According to the publisher, the book covers the theological and historical aspects of the papacy and “addresses in particular, those dimensions of the papal office which are crucial for understanding more deeply the pope as a visible principle of the Church’s unity.”

The cardinal meets with the faculty and students over lunch prior to his afternoon talk.

PHOTOS BY MATT CASHORE/UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
God loves us deeply and wants our love in return

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 12:38-44

T he First Book of Kings furnishes this weekend’s first reading from the Scriptures. Political governance, in the minds of the ancient Hebrews, was not the chief function of their kings. Rather, assuming the nation’s faithfulness to Yahweh and to the law of God given through Moses, was their kings’ primary duty.

Since this religious function was so vital, it is not surprising that many stories in the Books of Kings revolve not around the monarchs, but around the prophets who were active at the time. Such is the case this weekend. The central figure in the story is Elijah, the prophet. In this story, Elijah appears at the gate of a city and encounters a woman cooking food and branches to use as firewood.

The impression left is that she was a widow, and her son was a child. She obviously is quite poor. She must forage for fuel. She needed food to provide for her son.

In fact, she is so poor that she tells Elijah that after she and her son consume whatever she can bake using the meager amount of flour and oil on hand, she and the son will die. There is nothing else.

The prophet called her to trust. Elijah tells her that she and her son need not worry. If she will feed the prophet, then God will provide. The story ends by telling us that she prepared food for Elijah, and her flour and oil never ran out.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend gives us a passage from the Letter to the Hebrews. Building upon traditional Jewish themes, the author writes about the church as the most sorrowing language.

The reading declares that God has ordained that all people must die. But God also has ordained that all may live if they turn to Jesus. St. Mark’s Gospel offers the last reading. It is a familiar story in which the Lord spoke quite sternly about scribes, who, being able to read and write in a era when religious knowledge mattered more than anything else, were specialists in interpreting the law of Moses. They were well regarded as such.

Jesus did not belittle the law of Moses but criticized the self-satisfaction and even sinful pride of the scribes.

Reflection

The widow’s mite has been a story beloved by the church since the time of Jesus, and a challenge for Christians, for generations. God wants our heartfelt, deep, genuine, love.

Christmas symbols already festoon every store. People are planning for Christmas.

An old European legend tells of a Christmas custom in a great, medieval city. People thronged to Christmas Mass in the magnificent cathedral. After Mass, the rich and mighty marched to the Nativity scene and laid before it gifts of stunning value, sparkling and beautiful, awing the congregation.

That cathedral was unusual in that its massive bells, on rare occasion, just spontaneously rang. People said that the bells rang when God was pleased.

A young orphan boy, poor, forgotten and ignored, found a broken gold button on the street, fallen from someone’s coat. He worked and worked to clean it and polish it.

At Christmas Mass in the cathedral, he stood in the shadows, embarrassed by his shabbiness. When the church was empty, and the grand presentation of gifts by the rich completed, he crept to the crib and placed his little, bended button before it.

Suddenly, the bells rang. People said their melody had never been more lovely.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
10700 Aboite Center Road, Fort Wayne

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and School are looking for a full-time second-shift (2-10 p.m.) janitorial/supervisor. This is a Monday through Friday position. It requires cleaning school classrooms, adult ed rooms and school offices. It also requires monitoring and closing the building on these five days. Start date would be on or around Dec. 1, 2021.

Contact diocesefwsb.org/careers for additional information.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

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

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**St. John the Baptist parish mission**

**FORT WAYNE** — St. John the Baptist, 4500 Arlington Ave., will have a parish mission on the evenings of Nov. 7, 8, and 9 with talks presented by Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap., titled “The Greatest Threat to Holiness Today.” “Forgiveness – the Gospel meaning and method,” and “Virtues of St. Joseph – model of family life and holiness.” A rosary and confessions are from 6:30-7 p.m., the conference is from 7-7:45 p.m., and confessions are available again from 8-8:30 p.m. Attend the entire evening or just the conference. Visit www.StJohnFortWayne.com or contact Karen Eckrich at 260-744-4393 or parishsecretary@stjohnsfw.org for more information.

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**John Bosco Jam basketball game**

**SOUTH BEND** — Diocesan priests will take on Holy Cross seminarians Friday, Nov. 12, at Saint Joseph High School, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave. Friends and family are invited to celebrate the diocesan community over a game of hoops. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., tipoff is at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Contact Father Andrew Curry at 260-692-9578 or FrAndrewCurry@yahoo.com for more information.

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**Vocation House open houses**

**FORT WAYNE** — In commemoration of Vocation Awareness Week, the vocation discernment houses will be open Saturday, Nov. 13, from 2-4 p.m. for men and women ages 16 and older who may be discerning a possible religious vocation or other Catholic life choice. House parents will host a prayer session followed by a tour of the houses and a question and answer session. Refreshments will be served. Locations are 2637 Schele Ave. for women and 2508 Chestnut St. for men.

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**St. Matthew Holiday Craft Bazaar**

**SOUTH BEND** — St. Matthew Holiday Craft Bazaar will be Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium, 1015 E. Dayton St. Multiple vendor items, concessions and refreshments will be available for purchase. Masks may be mandated due to local COVID-19 conditions. Local guidelines will be followed for everyone’s safety. Contact Mary Jordan at 574-360-1462 or valentine101103@yahoo.com for information.

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**St. Charles fine arts craft fair**

**FORT WAYNE** — The St. Charles Borromeo School fine arts boosters are sponsoring the school’s annual craft fair in the school building, 4910 Trier Rd., on Saturday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The proceeds of this fair support the school fine arts programs, which include general art, general music, choir, band, orchestra, drama and hand chimes. More than 100 vendors have registered to sell their products. Lunch/concessions are also available. Please park in the large church lot and enter the school through door No. 9.

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**St. Joseph High School plans open house**

**SOUTH BEND** — Prospective students of all ages and their families are invited to attend an open house on Sunday, Nov. 7 at the school, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave. RSVPs are recommended by visiting www.saintjoehigh.com.

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**Rosary Society hosts craft show**

**FORT WAYNE** — A craft show will be Saturday, Nov. 6, at Most Precious Blood school gym, 1529 Barthold St., from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch items will be available along with baked goods. For more information, contact Ann Kenny at 260-579-2895.

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**CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Christ the King Catholic Church is seeking an Administrative Secretary**

The Administrative Secretary is a full-time, hourly member of the parish staff at Christ the King, South Bend, with benefits. The Administrative Secretary reports to the pastor and will work closely with the pastoral team. He or she works a regular Monday through Friday, 40-hour week. The Administrative Secretary is expected to maintain a professional appearance and represent the parish in a professional manner.

To view additional job duties and to apply, go to www.diocesefwsb.org/careers.
“The priest is not a priest for himself. He does not give himself absolution. He does not administer the sacraments to himself. He is not for himself.

He is for you.”

~ St. John Vianney

INFO@DISCERNPRIESTHOOD.COM
(260) 422-4611
Fr. Andrew Budzinski, Vocation Director