

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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You are the Church, youths hear at NCYC

Joshua Schipper

Attendees from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pray in the Indiana Convention Center during the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis Nov. 20.

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Thursday, Nov. 18, to Saturday, Nov. 20.

A delegation of high schoolers from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend joined an estimated 11,000 attendees at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis from

Thursday, Nov. 18, to Saturday, Nov. 20. The teens had opportunities to listen to keynotes from Catholic speakers in the Indiana Convention Center, celebrate Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium and participate in praise and worship.

Several of the teens participated

in a trend throughout the three-day conference. They would stealthily approach their unsuspecting peers and fasten a wooden clothespin to their clothing, hoping their target wouldn't notice. Oftentimes, these clothespins included Bible verses, social media tags and inspirational quotes.

Even the chaperones got in on the action, attaching as many clothespins as they could to their unwitting small group of students. By the end of the conference, many teens' hats, shirts and

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Communion statement aims to 'retrieve and revive' understanding

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. bishops approved their statement on the Eucharist with 222 "yes" votes Nov. 17, the second of two days of public sessions during their Nov. 15-18 fall general assembly.

Their OK came a day after their discussion of the document — a discussion that took a drastically different tone than their previous debate about what the document could potentially contain during their virtual assembly five months ago.

At that June gathering, a

major focus highlighted whether it would address denying Communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion.

Some bishops said a strong rebuke of President Joe Biden, the nation's second Catholic president, should be included in it because of Biden's recent actions protecting and expanding abortion access, while others warned that this would portray the bishops as a partisan force during a time of bitter political divisions across the country.

The document the bishops discussed and approved does not specifically call out Catholic political leaders, but it does more gen-

erally point out the seriousness of the sacrament.

The discussion, just prior to the vote, focused on some of the statement's wording. Specific amendments were approved but additional comments about wording changes that were raised on the floor did not.

One of the bishops, for example, wanted to add the word "etcetera" after a list of vulnerable people the Church was responsible for in order to show its broad inclusion, but the bishops, who had already added to the list to include the unborn, chose not to add the additional descriptor.

As points of discussion, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, outgoing chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, stressed the prelates must not forget the responsibility they have to "take care of the souls" of Catholic politicians who do not publicly support Church teaching on abortion.

And Bishop Donald E. DeGrood of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, noted that there is a healthy tension for the bishops, to call out what isn't right but to do so in love and to be united as they find

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**USCCB, from page 1**

ways to apply this new document in their dioceses.

The document on the Eucharist states: "One should not celebrate Mass or receive holy Communion in the state of mortal sin without having sought the sacrament of reconciliation and received absolution."

It also says that if a Catholic in his or her personal life has "knowingly and obstinately" rejected the doctrines of the church or its teaching on moral issues, that person should refrain from receiving Communion because it is "likely to cause scandal for others."

Back in June, at the end of the bishops' discussion of the document, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the bishops' doctrine committee, said the draft would not focus on denying Communion to people but would emphasize the importance of the sacrament.

And in his Nov. 16 presentation of the 26-page statement titled "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church," Bishop Rhoades said it "addresses the fundamental doctrine about the Eucharist that the Church needs to retrieve and revive."

In his short presentation to U.S. bishops, followed by just a handful of comments from the floor, the bishop said the document is addressed to all Catholics in the United States and "endeavors to explain the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church."

He also said it is intended to be a theological contribution to the bishops' strategic plan and to the bishops' planned eucharistic revival "by providing a doctrinal resource for parishes, catechists and the faithful."

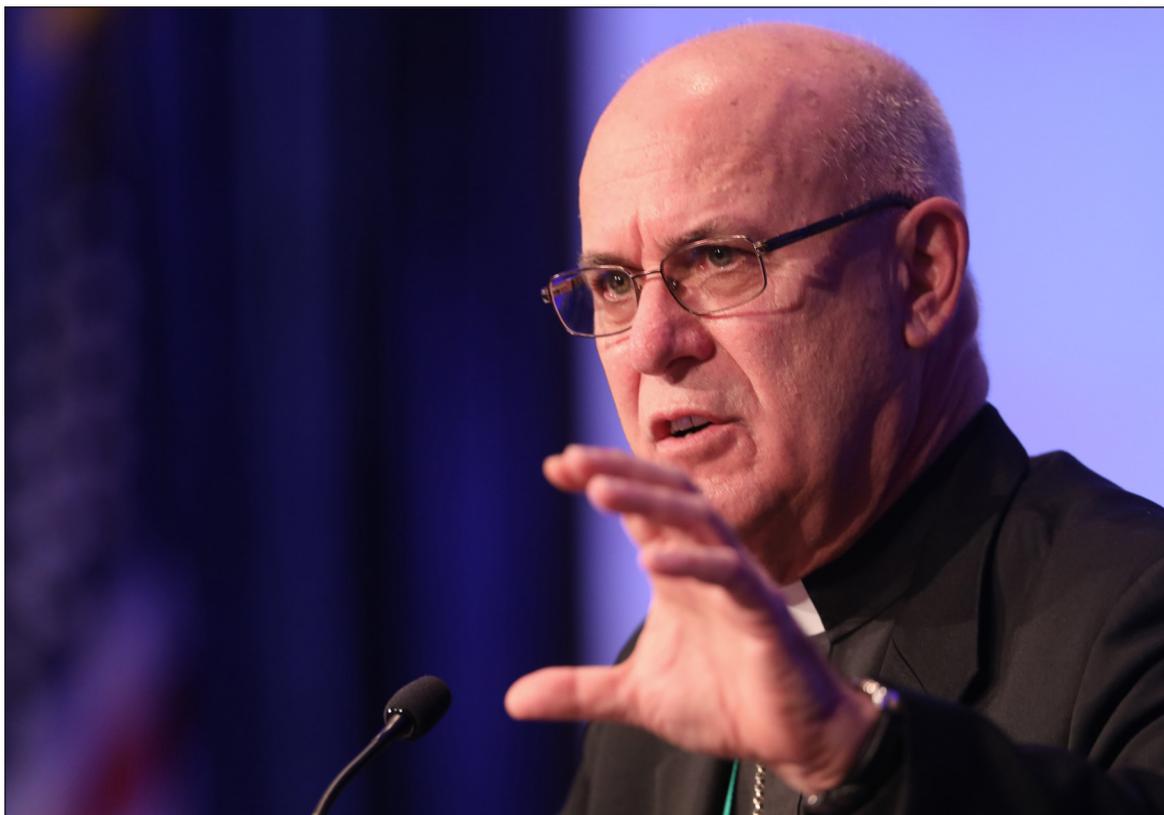
Discussion from the floor

included a request from Bishop Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces, New Mexico, that the document include more about the paschal mystery, or the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tennessee, wondered how the document would be understood by college students, high schoolers or children, noting that "a lot of it's over their heads" and they would have to have some kind of theological foundation to grasp it.

"We have these beautiful, beautiful documents that sometimes are just ignored," he said, suggesting that it should be made "more readable and understandable."

In response, Bishop Rhoades said the document "as it stands is really meant for adults," but he could see it being used in high



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, speaks during a Nov. 17 session of the bishops' fall general assembly in Baltimore. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the first in-person bishops' meeting since 2019.

schools with a teacher who would explain it better. He also said it could be developed by publishers as a resource for catechesis for grade school students.

Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette, Indiana, said the work put in "laboring over texts should not discourage us," pointing out that often language falls short but that the Church has many other means at its disposal to express the faith such as music, dance, poetry and visuals.

The draft of the document explains the importance of Communion, often calling it a gift, and uses references from Scripture, prayers of the Church and Second Vatican Council documents to back this up. It

also explains, citing words of the saints, how Communion is not just a symbol but the real presence of Christ.

This transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, the

document says, is "one of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith" which is a "doorway through which we, like the saints and mystics before us, may enter into a deeper perception" of God's presence.

It notes, almost halfway through, that the Vatican II document "Lumen Gentium" — "The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church" — describes the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life." It also says that as Catholics understand what the Eucharist means, they should more fully participate in Mass and also reach out to



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

Father John C. Maria prays over the Eucharist at the altar of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown, Pa., March 9, 2020. According to Catholic teaching, the bread and wine, upon consecration, become the body and blood of Christ.

serve those in need, citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which says: "The Eucharist commits us to the poor."

This heavily footnoted statement also has a pastoral message urging those who have left the Church to come back. It ties this return back to the Eucharist, quoting St. Teresa of Kolkata, who said: "Once you understand the Eucharist, you can never leave the church. Not because the church won't let you but because your heart won't let you."

What the document might say and how it could specifically call out Biden and other Catholic politicians has been disputed for months and has not just been a topic for the U.S. bishops and Catholics across the country, but also involved the Vatican.

Prior to the bishops' initial discussion of this document, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of

the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, urged the bishops in a letter to proceed with caution in developing a national policy "to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils."

Pope Francis said on a Sept. 15 flight back from Bratislava, Slovakia, that he preferred not to comment directly on the issue of denying Communion, but he urged U.S. bishops to take a pastoral approach rather than wade into the political sphere.

More recently, after the pope and Biden met at the Vatican Oct. 29, Biden was asked by reporters in Rome if abortion was one of the topics of their meeting and the president said: "We just talked about the fact he was happy that I was a good Catholic, and I should keep receiving Communion."

View the full document, "The Mystery in the Life of the Church," at www.usccb.org/resources/mystery-eucharist-life-church.

Bishops approve new socially responsible investment guidelines

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Bishops approved new guidelines governing financial investments of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that include wider limits on where money would be invested and advance a policy of engagement on corporate practices that impact human dignity.

With 216 votes in favor, 10 opposed and five abstentions, the guidelines that were approved Nov. 17 update the USCCB's investment policy that was last changed in 2003.

Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace, said the new guidelines have been under development for three years among a broad consultation involving nine USCCB committees under the direction of the Christian Brothers Investment Services, which acted as manager of the process.

Bishop Malloy presented the guidelines Nov. 16, standing in for Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of St. Petersburg, Florida, USCCB treasurer, who was unable to travel to Baltimore because an illness.

The guidelines were approved with few changes offered by the body of bishops meeting in person during their fall general assembly Nov. 15-18 in Baltimore.

The new document includes input gleaned from a survey of bishops on what they thought should be included in a revised policy, Bishop Malloy explained.

The policy adds guidance in areas such as telecommunications, media and social impact investing, and expands consideration of steps ranging from no investment to engaging corporations on their business practices.

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego thanked the committee that reviewed amendments offered by bishops overnight for adding a footnote to the document that calls for promoting "responsible investments in social and environmental sectors, for example by evaluating progressive divestment from the fossil-fuel sector."

"I think we're going to have to move to an absolute prohibition on fossil fuels if we're going to give witness to where the world needs to move," Bishop McElroy said.

The document obtained by Catholic News Service includes numerous concerns in which the USCCB will not invest as well as others in which the conference will engage corporations through vote proxies and support of shareholder resolutions to change company practices.

Acknowledging the USCCB is responsible for growing its financial assets in order to carry out the various ministries it undertakes, the document holds that the conference has a responsibility to do so in a manner "to foster the growth of each person and of the whole person," as Pope Francis said in a 2019 address to the Council for Inclusive Capitalism.

The document opens with a review from more than three decades ago of the U.S. bishops' explanation that proclaiming the Gospel in a complex economic world requires "a prudent strategy where decisions are made by following the moral teaching of the church."

Such an effort requires the evaluation of investments by determining how companies and other entities "protect life, promote human dignity, act justly, enhance the common good and provide care for the environment."

The document also reviews stewardship principles that shareholders must undertake to protect human dignity.

"The entangled web of corporate relationships that is today's economy almost makes it impossible to know all the effects investing in a single company, specific security, or investment fund can produce. Nevertheless, we must do all we can to assure that we invest in those corporations and institutions that promote human dignity and enhance the common good," the document says.

It adds, "Companies, securities or investment funds that produce a significant amount of revenue from immoral activities should not be invested in."

The document offers three corporate strategies to follow: avoid doing harm, actively work for change and promote the common good.

In carrying out the strategies, the USCCB will continue to build on current efforts and monitor how Catholic teaching and conference policies are advanced or undermined by corporate actions, according to the document.

The draft guidelines also call for the USCCB to work with investment advisers "to articulate clearly its goals and policies"; apply common sense and prudence in carrying out investment strategies; and require financial advisers to report every three years on the effectiveness of the guidelines and how they are being implemented.

Investment policies in the document cover five categories: protecting human life, promoting human dignity, enhancing the common good, pursuing economic justice and saving our global common home.

The policy calls for no investments in any company directly involved in abortion; euthanasia;

assisted suicide; in vitro fertilization; human cloning; contraceptives or embryonic stem-cell and fetal tissue research that ends the life of a child in the womb or makes use of tissue derived from abortions "or other life-ending activities and/or develops products and services from such research."

Other companies where investments would not occur include those involved with pornography or sexual exploitation or those that "directly participate in the performance of sex reassignment surgery or in the administration of drugs or hormones for the purposes of delaying normal puberty or of changing the body of an individual to correspond to a sex discordant with biological sex."

Investments also would not occur in corporations "that derive any revenue from the production of weapons inconsistent with Catholic teaching on war" such as biological and chemical weapons, landmines, first-strike nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Beyond such investment restrictions, the policy calls for the USCCB to "actively engage" companies through proxy votes and support of shareholder resolutions involving other concerns stemming from the church's social teaching.

One effort would find the USCCB encouraging firms that make life-sustaining drugs and vaccines available to do so at affordable prices in the U.S. and developing countries, the guidelines said.

Another area of engagement cited in the guidelines involves urging companies "to advocate for an understanding of marriage or sexuality that is consistent with church teaching and natural law."

Beyond engagement, the USCCB "will seek opportunities to collaborate with other investors to invest in corporations, organizations and other financial initiatives that not only aim at financial return but also actively intend to address the common good, generating positive and environmental change," the guidelines said.

The draft policy calls for engagement, rather than not investing, with companies regarding climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, environmental protection, water depletion, human rights, racial and social discrimination, human trafficking, hate speech in social media, discrimination or infringement on religious freedom, privacy and civil liberties.

The document also seeks to maintain investments to allow for efforts to encourage companies to improve labor standards, encourage social, environmental and financial responsibility, adopt ethical and responsible banking, and support affordable housing initiatives.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, November 28: 11 a.m. — Mass, Annunciation Woman's Vocation House, Fort Wayne
 Sunday, November 28: 6:30 p.m. — Lighting of Diocesan Christmas Tree for an Evening of Heavenly Lights, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Monday, November 29: 9 a.m. — Blessing of St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, November 30: 10:30 a.m. — Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
 Thursday, December 2: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Randallia Place, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, December 2: 6:30 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, South Bend
 Friday, December 3: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Christ the King Church, South Bend
 Saturday, December 4: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka

December feasts and the calendar

FORT WAYNE — Two December feasts fall on the 2021 calendar in a way that's worth noting. For parishes and individuals, it may mean some additional planning this year.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

According to the Office of Worship of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, because the Third Sunday of Advent falls on Dec. 12 this year, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe does not get celebrated in 2021. There is no provision for the actual feast itself to be transferred to another day.

However, since this feast is so meaningful — especially to Hispanic communities — Office of Worship Director Brian MacMichael noted that one way to continue to observe the occasion is by celebrating a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, Dec. 11. It would have to be celebrated before 4 p.m. or on a nearby available weekday evening. The readings and Mass prayers from the feast would be used, with the main change being the replacement of "feast" with "commemoration in the proper prayers," and since the General Instruction of the Roman Missal No. 53 allows for the Gloria to be sung "at particular celebrations of a more solemn character," including a Gloria during this special votive Mass would still be possible.

Dual obligations for Christmas and Holy Family

Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, Dec. 25, and remains a holy day of obligation. The next day — Sunday, Dec. 26, the feast of the Holy Family) — also has its own, distinct obligation. There are thus two separate obligations to fulfill.

Since Christmas outranks Holy Family, on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 25, the prayers and readings of the Christmas "Mass during the Day" would still be used, and Evening Prayer II of the Nativity would be prayed.

Nonetheless, attending Mass on Saturday evening — any time after 4 p.m. — can count toward either the Christmas obligation or the Holy Family Sunday obligation, but not both.

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Friday, Dec. 24 (starting 4 p.m.) through the end of Saturday, Dec. 25.

For example, one may attend:

- Vigil Mass on Dec. 24
- Mass during the Night (celebrated at any time overnight on Christmas Eve)
- Morning/afternoon/evening Mass on Dec. 25

Holy Family

Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, Dec. 25 (starting 4 p.m.) through the end of Sunday, Dec. 26.

For example, one may attend:

- Afternoon/evening Masses after 4 p.m. on Dec. 25 (even though the Mass texts will be for the Nativity)
- Morning/afternoon/evening Mass on Dec. 26

For example, someone can actually go to a Christmas Mass in the morning on Saturday — Christmas Day — to fulfill the Christmas obligation, and then go to another Christmas Mass after 4 p.m. on Saturday to fulfill the Holy Family obligation.

No matter how it is accomplished, the key is that the two obligations must be fulfilled separately.

Plans for three-year National Eucharistic Revival approved

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' focus on the significance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church isn't just about the statement they approved at their fall meeting.

It also is about something bigger: a three-year eucharistic revival that will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress 2024 in Indianapolis.

The bishops approved a motion Nov. 17 during their general assembly in Baltimore to host this congress with 201 votes in favor, 17 against and five abstentions.

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, who was recently named bishop of Crookston, Minnesota, gave the bishops details about this planned revival just before they voted on it.

The bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of



Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis listens to a question during a Nov. 17 session of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

CNS photo/Bob Roller

Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, said the revival could be a time of healing for the entire Church

as well as a movement of evangelization and a reawakening of understanding of the sacrament of the Eucharist for Catholics

across the country.

The revival will officially start on the feast of Corpus Christi June 16, 2022, with a diocesan focus that will include eucharistic processions and other events of adoration and prayer around the country.

In 2023, the emphasis will be on parishes and resources aimed at increasing Catholics' understanding of what the Eucharist really means.

Part of the impetus prompting this effort was a Pew study in the fall of 2019 that showed just 30% of Catholics understand the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishop Cozzens noted the price tag for the National Eucharistic Congress — \$28 million — is expensive, but said it is worth it and can be doable with fundraising.

He said many apostolates and ministries are donating time and resources to help make the eucharistic revival a reality.

Some bishops questioned the

cost of the congress that wraps up this venture, but others spoke about the potential this will have to bring Catholics back to the Church and bring those in the Church to a deeper sense of devotion and a stronger faith.

Bishop Cozzens pointed out that such large-scale Church events can be transformative and said the National Eucharistic Congress may end up being something the Catholic Church revisits 10 years from now.

Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the patron for the first year of the revival. The Italian teen, who was beatified in October 2020, died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15. He was a programmer who used social media to unite many people and spread Christian values.

In his apostolic letter proclaiming the youth "blessed," Pope Francis said he "cultivated a friendship with our Lord Jesus, placing the Eucharist and the witness of charity at the center of his life."

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Fortin answers call to service in the diaconate

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

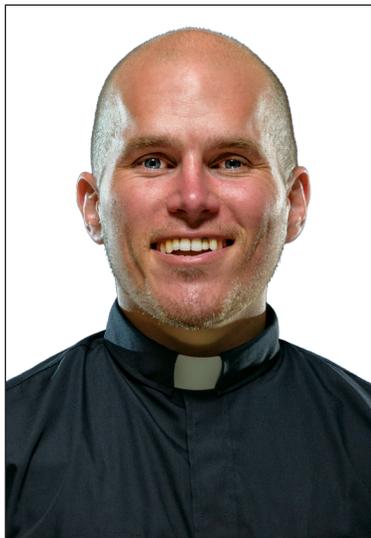
Dedication to the Eucharist and devotion to the Blessed Mother has helped seminarian LeeAllen Fortin realize another step toward his vocation to the priesthood. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain the South Dakota native to the diaconate at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. It's a much anticipated day, because his original ordination date in September of this year had to be postponed due to illness.

Fortin recalled living on a "little hobby farm," when he was young, and having to travel 25 miles to the local parish, Immaculate Conception. "It's actually really beautiful — I was baptized in Immaculate Conception Parish, and I'll be ordained in Immaculate Conception Cathedral."

Bishop Rhoades assigned the seminarian to St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, this past summer. There, he led a Bible study on the minor prophets.

He attributes his having answered the call to the priesthood to an experience with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

"I had a real powerful experience of our Lord's presence — His true presence — in the Eucharist at a Catholic summer camp," he said. After a



LEEALLEN FORTIN

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will call LeeAllen Fortin to the diaconate through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

friend suggested he begin going to daily Mass during his first year of college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it soon became clear to Fortin that he should enter the seminary.

Fortin graduated college seminary in Fargo, North Dakota. During his subsequent pastoral year, after a discussion with another friend, he decided to travel to Fort Wayne to visit the Poor Brothers of Saint Francis — known as the Franciscan Friars Minor order — that existed at the time.

After a second visit to Fort Wayne, Fortin joined the Franciscans. And while he thought he had found a path to holiness with the brothers, in 2020 the order disbanded.

"That grace came was so clear. I thought I was called to be a brother for the rest of my life unless God took the community away — and then He did."

Fortin had to reevaluate his vocation. He realized God would provide opportunities for him to pursue his vocation to either radical Franciscan life or to the priesthood.

"My spiritual director said it was pretty clear: There are two things you're drawn to, and there's an open door to one of them and there's not an open door to the other. So, it seems like you should go where there's the open door. So, I continued on toward the priesthood."

For those discerning their own

vocation, the seminarian suggests devoting time to prayer — beginning with the Mass.

"Give as much time to prayer as possible," Fortin recommended. "The vocation is about how God wants you to receive and share His love for the rest of your life. And that's what prayer is: It's receiving and, in a sense, sharing His love."

Some, however, may find it difficult to engage in quiet, contemplative prayer at first. Fortin suggested reading about saints who immersed themselves in lives of prayer in order to "better understand the value of it, and thus to cultivate an ardent desire for prayer and sanctity."

"What makes us desire something is understanding how valuable it is. So, my encouragement would be to read about the saints. Read spiritual theology. Learn about the importance of silence."

"To be inspired," Fortin continued, "you have to encounter the prayer and sanctity in the source where it's kept: the lives of the saints."

Fortin had received the name "Joseph" as a brother at Our Lady of the Angels Friary, the home of the Poor Brothers. He said that name highlights his heartfelt relationship to the Blessed Mother — a devotion that Fortin believes aided in his journey to the diaconate.

"So much of the journey has been characterized by her inter-

cession in so many different ways, but at the same time it's a constant. My devotion to other saints leads to a greater devotion to her."

Fortin attended high school in South Dakota. He has a younger sister and a nephew. Adopted at birth, he also recently connected with his birth mother and sister and has found that this experience of family mirrors what he has experienced in realizing his vocation.

"It kind of speaks to my whole journey in general, as I've gotten into my vocation. My family just keeps growing," Fortin said, also mentioning his more than 20 Franciscan brothers.

Fortin expects his family to continue to grow after his ordination to the priesthood.

"It's like Jesus says: 'Who is my mother, my brother and my sister? He who does the will of My Father.'"

After his ordination to the diaconate, Fortin plans to use the following nine months before priestly ordination to "grow in friendship with the Lord and fellow seminarians through all that is to come."

Editor's note: This article appeared in Today's Catholic Aug. 22, 2021.



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St. Joseph reminds Church to pay attention to the essential, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During this time marked by global crisis, St. Joseph can offer people support, consolation and guidance, Pope Francis said. St. Joseph is a man full of faith in God and his providence, the pope said Nov. 17 at his weekly general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall. The saint also "reminds the Church to keep her eyes on what the world deliberately ignores" and to consider as important what others discard, he said. "He is truly a master of the essential: He reminds us that what truly matters does not attract our attention, but requires patient discernment to be discovered and appreciated," he added. The day's audience talk was the first of a new series of talks dedicated to the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. Pope Francis had proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021, to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. The saint is held up as an example of sacrificial fatherhood and purity and as an intercessor in healing and fighting the world's evils. "Never like before, today, in this time marked by a global crisis," the pope said, "can he offer us support, consolation and guidance."

Bishops affirm dioceses' sainthood causes for three U.S. laypeople

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops agreed Nov. 17 that the sainthood causes for three laypeople from the United States should be advanced by their respective dioceses. Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel of Lafayette, Louisiana, presented the causes of Auguste Robert "Nonco" Pelafique and Charlene Richard. Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu presented the third cause — Joseph Dutton. The 2007 Vatican document "Sanctorum Mater" requires the diocesan bishop promoting a sainthood cause to consult with the body of bishops on the advisability of pursuing the cause. The bishops affirmed advancement of all three causes via voice votes with no audible dissent on the second of two days of public sessions during their Nov. 15-18 fall general meeting in Baltimore. All three sainthood candidates have the title "Servant of God," given to them when their causes were officially opened. Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan of San Diego urged his fellow bishops that during November, which is Black Catholic History Month, that they "beg our heavenly Father" to further the sainthood causes of six Black Catholic

Men from around U.S. gather in Baltimore to pray, march for end to abortion



CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review

Gabriel Vance of Columbus, Ohio, seen pushing stroller, and his three children and extended family participate in the National Men's March to End Abortion rally in Baltimore Nov. 15. Joe McClane, another participant, shared his story of participating in an abortion with an audience of hundreds of Catholic men from around the country who gathered outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in downtown Baltimore Nov. 15 to pray for an end to abortion, to repent for their role in abortion and to call on all men to defend unborn life. They then marched to the hotel where the U.S. bishops were meeting Nov. 15-18 and prayed the rosary outside.

Americans: Sister Thea Bowman, Mother Mary Lange and Julia Greeley, who all have the title "Servant of God"; and Mother Henriette Delille, Father Augustus Tolton and Pierre Toussaint, all of whom have the title "Venerable."

Archbishop: Pandemic hasn't stopped Church from aiding moms in need

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative may have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic, but it has by no means stopped helping expectant mothers from any walk of life, according to Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas. This initiative "has the capacity to take what is often seen as a partisan divide and transform it into pastoral unity, bridging the divide

between Catholics who describe themselves using the labels of 'pro-life' or 'social justice,'" said Archbishop Naumann, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "The vision of WWMIN is that a pregnant or parenting mother in need can turn to any local Catholic parish and be connected with the life-affirming assistance and accompaniment that she needs," Archbishop Naumann said Nov. 17 during a presentation at the bishops' annual fall general assembly in Baltimore. The initiative was timed to launch on the 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical "The Gospel of Life" ("Evangelium Vitae"). The date was March 25, 2020, which fell during the second week of the pandemic. "The good news is that all of the WWMIN resources, including timelines and schedules, are fully adaptable to meet the specific needs and circumstances of your diocese and parishes," Archbishop Naumann told

his fellow bishops. The initiative's website is WalkingWithMoms.com.

Bishops urged to implement framework for marriage and family ministry

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth called on his fellow bishops Nov. 17 to work "in every way possible" to implement the national pastoral framework for marriage and family ministry that they approved in June. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco said that addressing marriage and family life is vital in a time when families are under rising threats from "sweeping ideological currents that destroy and undermine our sexual identity as man and

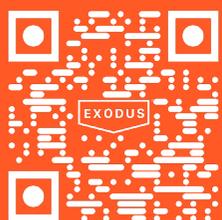
woman and God-given vocations as father and mother, son or daughter." Bolstering marriage and family ministry is an appropriate undertaking to start during the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year," declared by Pope Francis, the archbishop said in remarks on the second day of public sessions during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general assembly Nov. 15-18 in Baltimore. Titled "Called to the Joy of Love: A Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry," the document can serve as a practical guidebook to serve couples and families because it offers an adaptable set of principles and strategies for pastoral care, Archbishop Cordileone explained. To help implement the framework, the Catholic Marriage Initiatives Fund, seeded with \$1 million, has been established, the archbishop said. Funds will be distributed on a competitive basis in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000, provided a diocese or eparchy can match the amount being awarded. Applications for the first round of awards are due Dec. 10. Applications are online at CatholicMarriageFund.org.

Bishops give approval for new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops approved a revised English edition of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Under a separate action, they also did the same with a revised edition in Spanish. Both actions took place Nov. 17, the second day of two days of public sessions during their Nov. 15-18 fall general meeting in Baltimore. The English version passed 215-0 with two abstentions. The Spanish version passed 218-3 with one abstention. Both needed two-thirds of the U.S. Latin-rite bishops' approval; they still require a subsequent "confirmatio" and "recognitio" by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. More commonly known over the past two generations as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, the name is being changed to Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, or OCIA. However, for those adults joining the church at the Easter Vigil, there continue to be several rites they go through to mark their emergence as full members of the Catholic Church. (The Spanish edition will retain its acronym of RICA, for Ritual de la Inicacion Cristiana de Adultos.) Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, reminded the U.S. bishops they had authorized in 2019 a new translation of the texts used in the RCIA/OCIA by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

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The gift that keeps on coming

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Subscription gifts are all the rage lately and what child doesn't get excited over their own personal piece of mail? There are many Catholic companies that have delved into the world of subscription gifting with t-shirts, recipes, activities and more. Here are a few such subscriptions recommended with Catholic children in mind.

Catholic Family Crate

The first product is a monthly box subscription called Catholic Family Crate. Presentation of the crate was attractive, with drawings of saints and religious symbols on the outside, something that children could be excited to find in their mailbox monthly. Similarly, the materials inside were eye-catching, with bold, kid-friendly colors on sturdy paper. The kit comes with a materials list, feast day calendar stickers of two saints and introduction cards for those saints, activities and learning



materials. The materials list even has a website link for additional resources.

A big plus for the Catholic Family Crate is its visual appeal. It is aptly named, as it is definitely geared toward family life and is a great way for parents to bond with their children. For homeschooling families, this would make a good lesson to start the month and maintain focused on throughout the month.

It does have a couple of minor weaknesses. One, the writing on the saint feast day stickers is so small that it is almost unreadable, so the saint must be relatively well-known by sight to be easily identified. The other is that, while the crate is designed to appeal to a broad spectrum of ages, some of the activities might be a little more advanced than younger children would understand. Overall, though, it is a beautiful tool to help teach the faith to youngsters.

Makers of the Catholic Family Crate have even offered a discount for Today's Catholic read-

ers through December 24: 20% off the first month of a subscription or 20% off anything in the store by simply using the code TODAYSCATHOLIC.

catholicfamilycrate.com

OSV Kids

Our Sunday Visitor puts out a monthly magazine for children called OSV Kids. Each issue features a "Happening this Month" intro, a saint's story, tear-out bookmark and more. Children will likely love doing the cutout craft and displaying their artwork in the home. The reading is easy and the pictures engaging so that young readers could get through the magazine on their own and parents could read it to younger children. Children can even do some of the activities together. There is also a page in the back with suggestions for parents on utilizing the magazine in their family faith life.

The one downside is that there is only one craft that children will probably fight over, though this problem can be solved by printing or hand copying the design onto thick cardstock.

teachingcatholickids.com/osvkids/

MagnifiKid

Many Catholic parents are familiar with Magnificat, the monthly magazine featuring daily devotionals and daily Mass readings.

MagnifiKid is the child's companion to the adult version, providing each Sunday's readings in a missal format so youngsters can follow along during Mass. One of the ways parents can use MagnifiKid is by preparing their children for Sunday Mass ahead of time; looking ahead to the new week and introducing the weekly theme. For example, one week's theme was generosity, and the "Bringing it all Together" section wrapped up the week and gave children a chance to reflect on how they lived generously throughout each day. MagnifiKid also includes a colorful comic and other fun resources for learning about saints and prayers.

The downside of the magazine is that it primarily covers the Mass, so it is very wordy and looks a bit overwhelming, especially for early readers who

might struggle to follow along in it. However, it does take some of the harder words and phrases from the readings and gives easy-to-understand explanations of them.

Most likely this will appeal to children in the 8-11 age range.

us.magnificat.net/home/magnifikid

Sock Religious

Socks can be a fun gift, and the company Sock Religious, based right here in Indiana, creates fun socks featuring popular saints. Their website offers a novena subscription in which the recipient gets not only a pair of saintly socks, but also a pamphlet with the coordinating novena to that saint for nine months of the year. Some of the novenas



STANDS FOR THE FANS CAMPAIGN

Our bleachers are more than just raised, tiered rows of benches. They provide comfortable, safe support for watching our student competitions, theatre and musical performances, and Eucharist celebrations. It is in our gymnasium bleachers that parents, grandparents, friends, and faculty watch our students achieve victory, agonize over defeat, raise the curtain, and receive school recognition.

You have the opportunity to contribute to the **STANDS FOR THE FANS** campaign with a minimum contribution of \$250. Your gift will help support the new bleachers and gymnasium sound equipment and it will be acknowledged on our Stands for the Fans recognition wall plaque to be located in the gymnasium lobby.

Contributions may be made by cash or check to Bishop Luers High School, or you may donate online by credit card on our website: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BishopLuersHighSchool/GymRenovation.html>

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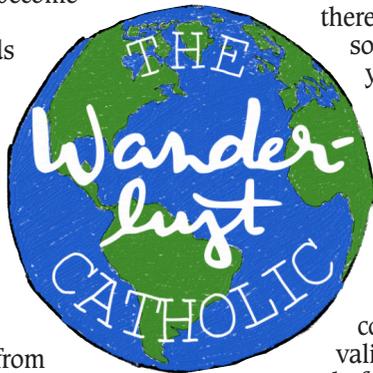


included in this are St. Joseph, St. Francis and our Lady of Guadalupe. This would be a more appropriate gift for a teenager or adult, potentially a college student living away from home who would like to show off his/her faith in a comfy way. Orders can be placed at sock-religious.com and the website sells "That One Sheep" t-shirts featuring fun puns about various saints.

sockreligious.com

Wanderlust Catholic

Perhaps because traditional mail service has become less mainstream, when a child finds an envelope in the mail with their name on it, it is a special moment. Even more special is when the letter that they receive looks like a handwritten, illustrated letter from a "friend on pilgrimage," as the website states. Wanderlust Catholic was started



annunciationdesigns.com/

by Catholic wife and mother Elayne Miller. One of the best values at only \$6/month, these detailed letters help children explore exotic locations and unique traditions throughout the world through Catholic eyes. Focused on saints, churches and Catholic culture, the letters are well-researched and in line with the Magisterium. Additionally, each letter contains a surprise gift, such as stickers and bookmarks.

The letters are in print, not cursive, so they are easier for younger children to read. However, with some of the different cultures featured, there will likely be some words that young children will not be able to read on their own. A special discount is being offered for 15% off a yearlong subscription with the code TODAY15, valid through the end of the year.

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Speaker explains importance of miracles

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

A secular television program on miracles inspired Catholic speaker Tim Francis to learn more about his faith. After drifting away from the Church for a time, the discovery of an old VHS tape his mother had recorded led him on a journey to find out more about Catholicism.

Francis, the founder of the Catholic catechesis organization "You Shall Believe," spoke about the miracles that led him back to the Church during a presentation on the evening of Nov. 15 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

After Father Jay Horning opened with a prayer, Francis spoke about his faith journey. He recalled that he fell away from practicing his faith around the time he was in college at Ohio State University. He was challenged by the culture, he admitted, although "by the end of my Ohio State years, I never got into drugs, thankfully."

However, around the end of his time at the university, the owner of a bar where he worked as a bouncer asked Francis to accompany him during a drug deal.

"I saw cocaine for the first time in my life. The first time he asked me, I said no. The second time he asked me, I said 'Why



Joshua Schipper

Members of the audience listen attentively as Tim Francis, founder of the Catholic catechesis organization "You Shall Believe," speaks about the miracles that led him back to the Church during a presentation Nov. 15 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

not?" And that put me on a tailspin — a very dark tailspin."

After that, he married someone with "no religious upbringing at all."

His mother persisted in pushing Francis to return to the faith. In 1999, she recorded a two-hour-long FOX program called "Signs from God," which followed a woman who said she was receiving "profound theological teachings" from Christ.

Francis' mother gave him the

tape, which he subsequently lost. Ten years later, he received a phone call from the person who found it.

"Somebody called me randomly, an old friend, and said 'I was cleaning out my house and you left a tape there.' My mother had since passed away. It was my mom's VCR tape. I knew that from the other side my mom was pushing me to find out what this [miracle] meant."

Francis spoke extensively



TIM FRANCIS

Mike Willesee, an Australian journalist, began researching Rivas and her story.

According to Francis and the video clips he presented, Rivas, who was uneducated, had been writing messages from God in Greek despite never having learned the language. She had also received the stigmata — the physical wounds that Christ suffered during his crucifixion — and told Willesee the exact time and date that she would again experience the wounds.

The skeptical Willesee and his team filmed the seemingly spontaneous formation of the wounds of Christ on Rivas' body. The journalist soon returned to see that the extensive wounds he watched appear had almost completely healed.

Francis explained that Willesee had fallen away from the Catholic faith but reverted before his death in 2019.

In addition to this miracle, Francis also talked about the more well-known Miracle of Lanciano, a eucharistic miracle

about the woman depicted on the recording, Catalina Rivas, and miracles that took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He explained that

that occurred during an Italian Mass in the 700s.

At the time, a monk celebrating Mass had doubts about the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation, in which the unleavened bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

When the monk said the words of consecration, the bread and wine physically transformed into living flesh and five globules of blood.

"Each clot is a different size," pointed out Francis. "But one clot weighs exactly the same as the sum total of all the clots together. The bishop said the reason is because Jesus was showing us what the Church teaches, which is one drop of consecrated blood, one little speck of consecrated host, is the entire Christ."

Christy Howe, an attendee at the Monday presentation, commented that Francis' presentation was motivating. She said she had not heard of the miracle of Catalina Rivas's stigmata until that evening.

In addition to discussing miracles, Francis stressed other important moral aspects of the Catholic faith, including the criteria that contrast venial sins and mortal sins.

To learn more about Francis' organization or about the miracles he discussed at his presentation, visit www.youshallbelieve.com.

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HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY

Offers spiritual, emotional and practical support rooted in the Catholic faith for couples who are experiencing infertility. Currently, women's support groups meet in the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas. diocesefwsb.org/hope-for-the-journey

BELONGING

Working to ensure meaningful participation for individuals with disabilities and their families in all aspects of the life of the Church. Initiatives include sensory-friendly Masses, Masses interpreted for the deaf, and more. diocesefwsb.org/belonging

MIRIAM'S BLESSING

Providing comprehensive support to parents who receive a poor prenatal diagnosis. Peer ministers engage parents and journey based on the shared experiences. diocesefwsb.org/miriams-blessing

PROJECT RACHEL

Offering hope and healing for all those who suffer from the pain of abortion and its aftermath. If you are hurting, know that your church cares and understands. diocesefwsb.org/projectrachel

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

This is just a partial listing of some ministries and initiatives supported by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Find more ministries at:
diocesefwsb.org/offices-ministries

Give joyously to help others this Christmas

As we enter the 2021 Christmas season, I want to share a donor story related to last year's ministry-wide Christmas Gift Catalog featuring the various ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The donor, who gives anonymously, is a grandmother of 12 children: eight boys and eight girls ranging in age from 5 to 19 years old.

Last year, COVID-19 restrictions made it even harder for her to shop for gifts, on top of some mobility issues that she has endured for the past three years. At the family Thanksgiving celebration, this generous grandmother showed the gift catalog to her 12 grandchildren and asked them to choose an initiative of the Poor Handmaids they wanted to support. They also had a wonderful discussion about the importance of giving back. A couple weeks before Christmas, this lovely grandma made a \$1,200 gift to honor her 12 grandchildren and the eight different ministries they collectively chose to support. The grandmother then wrote the Poor Handmaids a thank you note for giving her the opportunity to give the gift of generosity.

If you are struggling to find the perfect gift for someone, we hope you will consider a gift of "Love, Hope & Light," the theme of this year's catalog. With outreach from Indiana to other parts of the world, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ engage in a process of attentive listening and courageous response. Their foundress, St. Katharina Kasper, inspired the sisters to minister to God's people by listening prayerfully, living simply and serving joyfully.

Throughout her life, St. Katharina told her sisters to care for the poor, the sick and the children. That inspiration remains as alive today as it was in 1851 when she founded the congregation in Germany. With central offices in Donaldson, Indiana, the sisters of the American Province have provided more than 150 years of ministry in the United States. You can be a part of the various ministries by supporting the work of the sisters with a generous gift this Christmas season.

— Amanda Maynard, Director of Development Services, The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Photos provided by Alicia Hammonds

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ collected materials and made thousands of masks to give away to the Plymouth community last year.

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To Donate or Learn More



Life is looking up for Ellen Dodge, a resident of the Maria Center on the campus of the Center at Donaldson, now that she's using her UpWalker. The walker was made possible for Dodge through the generosity of donors to the Greatest Needs Fund from the 2020 PHJC Gift Catalog.

Bishop's Advice for a Holy Advent: 'Pray

The following is a message from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend enter into the Advent season.

With Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. The Latin word "Adventus" means "coming." The meaning of Advent can be summed up in two words: "God comes." God comes to dwell among us and to stay with us. He comes to free us from sin and death. He comes to save us. God's coming to us in the present is linked to His coming in the past, His Incarnation, and also His coming in the future, His glorious return at the end of time. The Advent season focuses on these three comings: His coming in the flesh in the fullness of time (which we celebrate at Christmas), His coming now in the present (in our souls), and His final coming at the end of time (to judge the living and the dead). Our God is the God-who-comes.

Why does God come to us? It is because of who He is: "God is love," St. John teaches us (1 John 4:16). Our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, explained:

The one true God, 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the God-who-comes. He is a Father who never stops thinking of us and, in the extreme respect of our freedom, desires to meet us and visit us; he wants to come, to dwell among us, to stay with us. His 'coming' is motivated by the desire to free us from evil and death, from all that prevents our true happiness. God comes to save us.

The season of Advent is a time to remember and to celebrate God's coming, but also a time to prepare for His coming, to prepare to welcome Him at Christmas, to prepare for His second coming, and to welcome Him now into our souls by receiving His grace.

In the liturgies of Advent, the prayers and Scripture readings urge us to be ready for Christ's coming. Jesus Himself urges to be watchful, vigilant and alert, to stay awake. So does St. Paul.

We are called to throw off the lethargy of sin and to receive the energy and vigor of grace, by welcoming and opening our hearts to God our Savior.

pray

How can we have a fruitful Advent? The best advice I can think of is "Pray and love."

To be watchful, alert and ready for the Lord's coming, we need the vigilance of prayer. Pope Francis has

warned us often about the danger of our faith, indifference to the world, warns us about letting drowsiness overtake us in our Christian lives and about a dangerous kind of sleep, what he calls "the slumber of mediocrity." The Holy Father gives us the remedy to rouse ourselves from this slumber: *the vigilance of prayer*. Pope Francis preached the following:

Prayer rouses us from the torpor of our mortal existence and makes us lively. It makes us attuned to the Lord. It makes the Lord be close to us; it frees us from the torpor of hope. Prayer is vital for life: just as we cannot breathe, so we cannot be Christian without prayer.

I invite you to make a prayerful Advent. Make watchfulness or vigilance a part of this often too hectic and busy season. Do not be just another thing on our "to-do" list. In fact, prayer will reduce the torpor we tend to feel during this season.

Here are a few ideas to choose from: be vigilant in prayer during Advent; pray the Blessed Sacrament, daily rosary; pray the readings of Advent, a special devotion to Christmas. There are many ideas. The most important thing is that we pray. Let the Lord be in the inn of our hearts for Jesus as He comes. We all need to slow down a bit to receive the myriad of holiday preparations. Let us try to reduce some of them by making prayer a priority.

The other word of advice is "love." The word of Pope Francis can be helpful here: "Be watchful about rousing ourselves from the slumber of the *watchfulness of charity*." The word of Advent about this watchfulness is:

Charity is the beating heart of the Christian. One cannot live without a heart. One cannot be a Christian without charity. So, being compassionate, helping the poor, the weak, the losers. Yet these are the only ones who will remain, since they are already at the day of the Lord, when all others will be destroyed. It is by working in charity that we will be close to the Lord.

While I was meditating on the word of Pope Francis for the First Sunday of Advent, the word of St. Paul stood out to me. In the Colossians, he writes: "Be ready to run forth to meet your Lord, to do his deeds at his coming." This is not just about deeds, works of mercy, acts of charity. St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as you love one another, to bring about the perfection of our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his holy ones.

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The Church emphasizes Advent as a season of hope.
Christian hope is founded in our faith in God and His

love, a love so great that He gave us His
only-begotten Son so that we might have
eternal life. Ours is not some vague hope.
It is hope that is anchored in Christ, the
Word made flesh, who came and who
comes, to save us. In this season of
hope, we prayerfully watch and wait for
Jesus' coming by the commitment to love

one another as He has loved us. In this sense, the Advent
season of hope is also a season of love.

We are all called to holiness. St. Paul prayed that the
Thessalonians would be "blameless in holiness" at the
coming of Jesus. How? "Through love for one another and
for all." This is the path to holiness. "Charity is superior
to all the virtues." (CCC 1826) "If I... have not charity," St.
Paul says, "I am nothing."

I invite you to make a resolution to practice a work or
works of mercy and charity during Advent. As you buy
Christmas gifts for loved ones, think about a gift for the
poor, perhaps a donation to our Catholic Charities, the St.
Vincent de Paul Society, the Christ Child Society, or another
charitable organization. Remember especially relatives,
friends, or neighbors who may be having a hard time and
reach out to them through a visit, phone call, or card.
Reach out to those in your life who are sick, lonely, or suf-
fering during this season and keep them in your prayers.

Throughout Advent, let us keep in mind the prayer from
the First Sunday of Advent – for "the resolve to run forth
to meet Christ with righteous deeds at his coming."

May righteous deeds, works of mercy, acts of
charity, be part of our observance of Advent
and preparation for Christmas!

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the icon
of Advent. She who lovingly bore
the Son of God in her
immaculate womb is
Our Lady of Advent. In
this season of grace,
we will celebrate her
Immaculate Conception
and her appearance as
Our Lady of Guadalupe.
She is our greatest
human model of prayer
and love. May she help
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Collaboration brings Afghan refugees to Fort Wayne

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide aid to all those in need “as Christ would have us do,” stated Dan Florin, interim CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in a news conference at the University of Saint Francis Historic Women’s Club in Fort Wayne. The conference addressed the Afghan Refugee Resettlement program currently taking place in the country and the city. Present also at the conference were Fort Wayne mayor Tom Henry; Nicole Kurut of Catholic Charities; Aaron Batt, Homeland Security Federal Coordinating Officer for Operation Allies Welcome at Camp Atterbury; along with other community representatives including police and school district members.

“At this time, Catholic Charities is committed to resettling 75 individuals, though we are consistently measuring the need and reassessing the humanitarian aid we are able to provide,” Florin continued. “To date, we have already resettled 60 individuals, and we will continue our work with the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program to support the national effort.”

Catholic Charities began operating in northeast Indiana in 1922 and have been aiding refugees since 1975. During that time, they have been able to assist roughly 4,000 people from 20 countries in beginning new lives in the U.S. Catholic Charities proudly reports that 86% of the resettled adult refugees find employment within four-six months and most families are able to financially support themselves within three-six months of arrival.

Mayor Henry also spoke at the news conference. In his statement, he said: “The city of Fort Wayne appreciates and values the leadership of Catholic Charities and other partner organizations from across our community and the state of Indiana as we work together to welcome Afghan refugees.

“We truly want to be a welcoming community. The welcome mat is open for all those who want to call Fort Wayne their home. We want you to be a part of our community.”

Mayor Henry praised Catholic Charities for their “detailed and organized” processes in resettling refugees and thanked them for their commitment to aiding refugees. He concluded by saying: “I’m looking forward to positive outcomes as we invest in the lives of individuals and families.

We want to be in a position to have a lasting and meaningful impact on others.”

When Afghanistan fell to Taliban forces, thousands of the nation’s citizens were placed in jeopardy due to a number of reasons, including members of the former government, journalists and police officers. Several military installations have served as temporary camps for these refugees, including Camp Atterbury.

Around 40% of the refugees awaiting resettlement at the base directly supported the U.S. military by working as interpreters, in the embassy and other ways, as well as their immediate family members, according to Batt. The other 60% of refugees are known as “Afghans at risk;” those whom the Taliban would likely target for their previous jobs and potentially even for their faith.

“All have horrifying stories to tell,” Batt said. Many of them were not allowed to bring luggage with them, so they arrived with only what few items they had in their possession. Fifty percent of Camp Atterbury’s refugees are minors, with the average family size of seven. Batt stated that these children are “learning English quickly, developing relationships with the military members.”

But Hoosiers have helped fill their immediate material needs. During their temporary stay at the Indiana Army National Guard base, they have been provided with food, shelter and as much information as possible before getting to their new locations. Activities such as soccer games and art therapy help ease the transition to life in American, too.

“All have left some family behind,” Batt said, and the greatest challenge they face may be in wondering how they will ever reunite with those family members.

All refugees have been given medical screenings and medical care, including COVID screenings and vaccinations typically received by children in America. And the USCCB has been active on site since mid-September. Even Archbishop Charles C. Thompson from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has visited the base.

When asked if individuals or families could provide housing for Afghan refugees, Batt pointed to the program called Sponsor Circles. According to the website, Sponsor Circles “allows everyday Americans to take on the responsibility of welcoming an Afghan newcomer to their communities.” The process is very involved, though support will be provided to anyone interested.

Samir Zubair was resettled



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Jennifer Barton

Community leaders in Fort Wayne listen as Dan Florin, interim CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, explains the process for the Afghan Refugee Resettlement program. Catholic Charities is expecting to settle 75 Afghan men, women and children in total within Fort Wayne, with 60 already in temporary housing.

in the U.S. from Afghanistan in 2001 using the same processes and resources that are still in use today. He is now a successful businessman and works with Catholic Charities to aid others like himself. He gave a testimony at the conference, saying, "Being 13 years old, I remember when the Taliban first took over, and it was just chaos everywhere. We decided we were going to leave

the country ... so we came to the United States, and came to Fort Wayne."

Although he spoke very little English when he first arrived, the programs that were in place "even 20 years ago" helped him to achieve his education and career goals, becoming a district manager of a food chain. He still maintains contact with some of those early ESL teachers.

As a refugee himself, he sees the importance of helping others "in the same situation we went through." He is "humbled" to be part of the process and grateful to the city of Fort Wayne for opening its doors to the Afghan people. Zubair has spoken with some of the recent refugees, sharing his story and witnessing their happiness and gratitude for their safety.

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Saint Anne Communities has hired Miranda Haupt as their Fund Development and Marketing Specialist. Miranda is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. In the past, she sang at the Life Teen Mass as a worship leader and is also involved in Kingdom Builders, especially in leading Adoration with her vocals.



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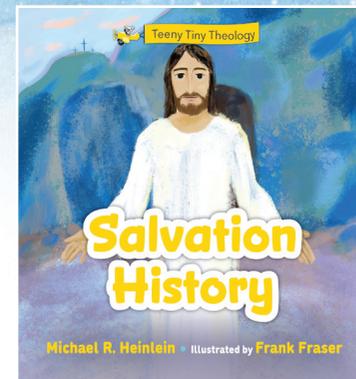
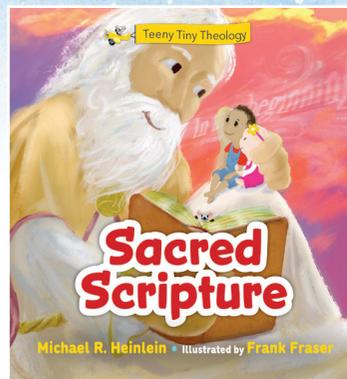
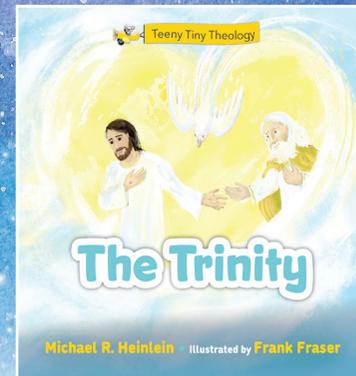
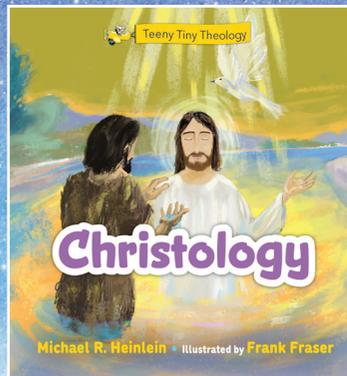
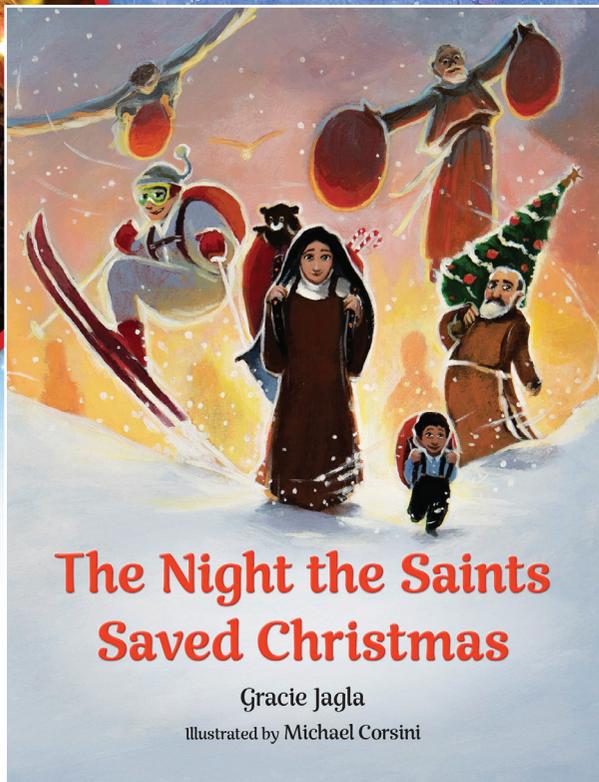
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Don't miss out on Advent this year

Anyone who has ever had, or spent any time with children knows that the act of waiting isn't a strong suit for that demographic. From the road trip cliché "Are we there yet?" to the many manifestations of toddler impatience, waiting for something to happen can lead to downright despair for our little ones.

It's not just children who struggle with waiting, of course. Our instant-gratification culture, compounded by the supercomputers ever at our fingertips, has turned the concept of waiting into something foreign and unpalatable for most adults, too.

Yet here we are again at Advent, a season that is defined by marking time, by counting the days until the Church celebrates the coming of Our Lord. It mirrors, in miniature, the waiting that each of us is doing for the return of Jesus Christ at the end of time — a waiting to which we often don't pay nearly enough heed. This annual emphasis on waiting is a great gift of the Church when we remember to actually take advantage of it.

It may be helpful to consider what can get in the way of this "active waiting." A good place to start is by examining the things we gravitate toward when we have a few minutes of "downtime." Do we pick up the phone and scroll through social media? Do we flip on the TV? Do we gossip with (or about) a friend? Do we make the most of those moments that are ripe for intentional and active waiting? Or do we let them just pass us by in a flurry of distraction?

An overcrowded Advent

schedule, or one that begins the Christmas celebration in early December, can also get in the way of the expectation that should dominate the season. With the arrival of COVID last year, many of us embraced a scaled-back holiday calendar and found it to be a welcome change from the typical overdrive of the season. We should not forget the lessons learned from that time.

Thankfully, the Church's traditions provide us with plenty to help us embrace the waiting that is part and parcel of Advent. The Church is rich in those things that help us slow down and reflect on the passage of time during Advent, starting with the basics: an Advent wreath in one's home. This traditional and simple-to-set-up item is a visual and striking reminder of the passage of time during the season of preparation and anticipation. When lit intentionally during dinner each evening, it's a way for the whole family to reflect upon where the Church is in the Advent journey and to savor each passing week.

A spiritually oriented Advent calendar (not that we don't enjoy the occasional "cheese or chocolate of the day" indulgence) can also help slow the pace of the season, offering an opportunity for daily reflection on Scripture or a piece of the Christmas narrative. Opening the calendar each day offers a natural moment to pause during what can be a busy and exciting season.

Remembering the course of salvation history through the use of a Jesse tree can be both entertaining and educational. As each ornament is hung, the fam-

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

ily can reflect upon a moment that led to the Incarnation — to that moment when God humbled himself and became one of us in order to save us.

There are other, simple things one can do to embrace active waiting. Bake cookies, yes, but save the eating until Christmas. Put out your Nativity scene, yes, but don't place Baby Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Instead of hosting a party during Advent, consider holding one on Epiphany.

As Father Joel Sember writes in "Oriens," his prayer guide through the Advent and Christmas seasons, "We all struggle with Advent. The Church is telling us to slow down, but the world is telling us, 'Hurry up.' We rush around preparing for the birth of Jesus. We look forward to the big 'Aha' moment waiting for us at Christmas. And we always seem to miss out somehow."

Let's not miss out on Advent this year. It doesn't take much effort to reclaim these weeks as a season of anticipation. It simply takes a little planning and a lot of intentionality. Christmas is worth the wait.

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

Jesus walks

Any Christian who goes to Jerusalem will come away inspired by the experience of visiting a city where Jesus walked.

Of course, as with all tourist sites, there is a certain amount of invention. Much of what you see is old, to be sure, but the connection to the Gospels and the life of Our Lord can be, not to put too fine a point on it, attenuated.

Take the cenacle where the Apostles were gathered at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and the Church was born. Tourists can see an upper room of a two-story building south of the Zion Gate.

It is certainly old, and it doesn't require much imagination to picture Peter and the other disciples cowering there. But it has Gothic arches, an architectural detail we don't see before the 12th century in other parts of the world.

There is one spot, though, that I hold sacred in my memory.

The excavations along the southern wall of the Temple have exposed the steps that common people would have ascended, the ritual baths where they would have purified themselves, and the doors that Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have entered.

I have a picture of my wife and me standing in one of those doorways. It is excavated down to bedrock.

We know that Jesus walked over the very stone we are standing on. It's probably worn down a bit from what it was 2,000 years ago, but when the picture was taken, I found myself want-



INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

JOHN GARVEY

ing to get on my knees and kiss the stone that may have felt the imprint of our Savior's feet.

It required no imagination at all to picture Jesus walking through that door. He actually did. And with a little effort, I could see myself standing there as he walked by. He might even have looked my way; He would certainly have known my thoughts.

We sometimes forget that this is exactly what happens in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus is actually there, not in Jerusalem but in St. Vincent Chapel or St. Matthew Cathedral or Little Flower Church. The Mass is not an exercise in imaginary reconstruction. We receive Him, body and blood, soul and divinity.

I found myself thinking about this recently when the Barna Group released a report saying that church attendance was down 30% to 50% from 2019.

When COVID-19 arrived, bishops excused their flocks from their Sunday obligation. People went online instead, and often found better preaching there. Now that most are vaccinated, many still opt to attend Mass on their computers or have gotten

GARVEY page 21

Prepare for the day when all will be fulfilled



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Advent Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

With this first Sunday of Advent, the Church begins a new liturgical year. As such, the readings for the year to come will be from the "C" cycle of the Lectionary, the collection of biblical texts used by the Church for lessons at Masses.

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Jeremiah, written when times were hard for God's people. The dynasty formed by King David had disappeared, extinguished by infighting and internal intrigue. Its collapse had deep religious implications.

God had a covenant with David and with David's successors. Their task was not just to govern, but also to keep the nation of Israel faithful to God.

With the end of the unified monarchy under David and his heirs, no other figure or authority had God's commission to exercise the role of strengthening the national bond with the Almighty.

More ominously, it seemed as if the instrument selected by God for this purpose, namely the kings of the Davidic dynasty, yielded to pressures and temptations. Too often, the monarchs forgot their obligation to preserve the people's relationship with God.

Despite these circumstances, Jeremiah promised that indeed God will endure. His justice will prevail. The people must not lose faith.

For its second reading, the Church presents a passage from the First Letter to the Thessalonians. The Thessalonians lived in modern-day Saloniki, in Greece. The reading calls upon the Christians of Thessalonica to love each

other. The call was simple, but not easily achieved given human nature. Christians must love all, no one excepted.

The letter insists that the Lord soon will return to earth in triumph, as the great judge. It will be a revolutionary moment. All evil will be subdued. Good and truth will reign supreme. Jesus will reign.

Christians should prepare themselves for this great event by loving others in the model of Jesus, who loved all humankind even to the point of sacrifice on Calvary.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. When reading or hearing a reading from any of the Gospels, it is important to realize that the Gospels were written generations after Jesus.

This does not mean that the Gospels are fiction.

Rather, each evangelist saw Christ and happenings in the life of Christ through his own perception and in the light of events and attitudes experienced by each evangelist when the Gospel

was written. The message of Jesus is timeless, but it must be applied to real life moments.

When Luke's Gospel was written, the tide was turning against Christians. They were in danger.

The author of St. Luke's Gospel recalled words of Jesus to encourage and embolden Christians. Come what may, the Lord will return and be victorious over all evil. The forces of darkness will be laid low.

Do not weaken. Stay with Jesus.

Reflection

Advent often is described as a time to prepare for Christmas. It is this, but it has two other purposes.

It exists to enable us to reform ourselves so that the Lord can come to us on any day. Finally, it calls us to prepare ourselves for the decisive coming of Jesus when we die, and at the end of time, by reminding us that we are mortal. Jesus will return to the earth. He will vindicate the right.

The forces of evil will wither

and die. They will fall before the glory of the Risen Lord. He will reign forever. Everything else will pass away.

We must be with the Lord or place ourselves opposite the Lord. If we reject God, we shall die.

How do we prepare for all this? We prepare by keeping first and foremost our purpose to love God above all else, and by loving all others in the example of the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 1 Thes 3:12—4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

A meditation on the dramatic battle in which we live

A grave deficiency of modern times is the loss of the sense that our lives are caught up in a tremendous, epic battle. Yet here we are living in the midst of a great drama — in the greatest story ever told.

Behind the scenes is a deadly enemy, one of whom many rarely speak: Satan. Yet, he is active and involved, manipulating both the world and the flesh — our sinful nature. We are on the front lines of a fierce spiritual war, a war that is to blame for most of the casualties you see around you. Yes, fellow Christians, there is a dragon, a roaring lion — Satan — who seeks to devour our souls.

Ah! But there is also a Son, a Savior, who is born to us and whom we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6) He shall reign forever. His hand is outstretched, first on the cross, but now outstretched to you to save you and to draw you up out of the raging waters, to deliver you from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

Will you take hold of His hand, or not? This decision — your decision — is the great drama of your life and of every life; it is your chapter in the greatest story ever told.

Yes, the battle rages all around us, and we are swept up in it. It's happening in our world, our culture, our families and in our hearts. The sequence hymn from Easter says dramatically of it, "Mors et vita duello; Confluxere Mirando;" "Death and life at battle in a stupendous conflict."

(...) Text after text in the Bible describes the awesome drama and the great decision we must make, a decision on which hinges our very destiny. Here are just a few:

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you." (Deut 30:19-20)
"Simeon blessed them and

said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own heart also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.'" (Lk 2:34-36)

Jesus said to the unbelieving Jews, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I have told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am." (John 8:23-24)

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation." (Matt 26:41)

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'" (Mk 16:15)

"For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph 6:12-14) (...)

So here we are in the Valley of Decision — in Hebrew, the Valley of Armageddon. Here is the drama of our life: Multitudes in the Valley of Decision. All of us have a decision to make, an army to join, a direction to choose. "Tertium non datur," "No third way is given." There are only two armies on the field of battle; there are no demilitarized zones, no sidelines. Choose an army. What will it be, light or darkness, grace or sin, Jesus or Beelzebub?

Yes, here is the immense drama in the greatest story ever told; it is our drama and our story.

Yet this drama is rarely discussed today. In the very times in which the contrast between the two ways has never been clearer or starker, there is near silence. If anything, our times are marked by boredom and a lack of awareness of the battle



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

that is raging around us. We have spiritual ADHD: endlessly fidgeting but never focusing on what matters. There is also a kind of spiritual myopia in which the two armies are lost in the blur of perceived, but not real, pluralism.

Put plainly, if you don't think that this drama is real and that a choice between the two sides is required, if you think that the biblical texts cited above are histrionic and hysterical, you have been deceived. You have been lulled to sleep by the spirit of this age. You've been deceived by Satan, as was Eve long ago when he said to her, "You surely will not die."

All of us must wake up to the battle raging around us, to the great drama in our life, a drama that is unfolding before our eyes. If you insist on sleeping through the drama or ignoring the summons to wake up, beware. For Scripture says of such dreamers that "there will come upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thess 2:11-13)

Awaken to the drama. Choose the Lord. Be a soldier in His army. Only Jesus can save us from this present evil age. His grace and mercy are there for us in abundance, but His respect for our freedom means that our choices matter; they build in one direction or the other. This is the drama of our life, and it is also our dignity. Scripture pronounces a great blessing on those who choose the Lord

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

GARVEY, from page 20

out of the habit altogether.

To one who believes what the Church professes, this makes no sense. A good sermon is an inspiring thing, even online, but it is not God present in our midst. No believing Catholic would trade the sacrament of the Eucharist for a video. So, what explains the drop in attendance?

A Pew Research Center report released in 2019 indicated that

69% of Catholics believe that the bread and wine used at Mass are only "symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ."

If we really believed that Jesus was physically present at Mass, the way I imagined Him to be at the Hulda Gate, attendance would approach 100%. Maybe that's a bit high. The apostles who lived with Him had their doubts too. But it would be way up there, even at daily Mass.

The U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops had its annual meeting last week, and one of the items on its agenda was a renewal of our belief in the sacrament of the Eucharist. I can't think of a more pressing concern. If we don't have that, our faith isn't as good as a trip to Jerusalem. It's not much better than a YouTube video.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for November 28, 2021

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: Signs of change. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| SIGNS
ON EARTH
WORLD
WILL SEE
BEGAN
HEARTS
STRENGTH | THE SUN
WAVES
POWERS
COMING
RAISE
DRUNKENNESS
TO ESCAPE | MOON
WHAT IS COMING
SHAKEN
CLOUD
HEADS
FACE
STAND |
|---|---|---|

SEEING SIGNS

```

A Y L I C H C O M I N G
E D I E E S L L I W N B
J H R A N A N N O I U E
S T E U J O F O M U F G
T R F A N S A O H C D A
A A R E D K C M T S N N
N E P A C S E O T T E I
D N J O I C C N I R K S
L O J T D S T L N A A N
R I A N U S E H T E H G
O H T G N E R T S H S I
W A V E S R E W O P T S

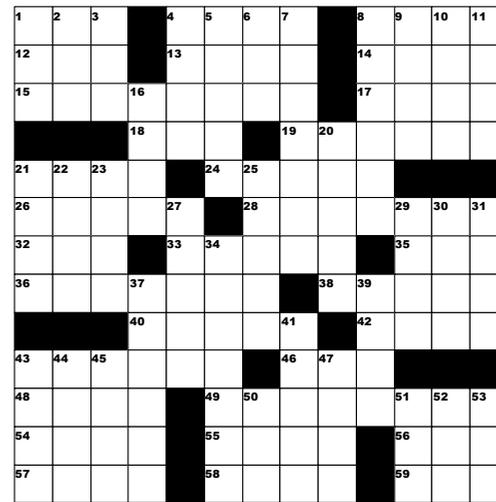
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The Cross Word

November 21 and 28, 2021

- 57 ___ of matrimony
- 58 Often has a gym
- 59 Ram's mate

DOWN



- 1 Sales pitches
- 2 River (Spanish)
- 3 ___ Commandments
- 4 27th U.S. president
- 5 Capital of Jordan
- 6 Legume
- 7 Dignify
- 8 North Atlantic islands
- 9 Flavor of sherbet
- 10 Parent teacher groups
- 11 **Jesus freed us from our ___**
- 16 Not closed
- 20 **"Coming with great power and ___"**
- 21 Girl child to Scots
- 22 Leave out
- 23 Brief autobiographical sketch
- 25 Fat
- 27 Award
- 29 Title for a king
- 30 Possesses
- 31 ___ **High God**
- 34 **Jesus came to ___ to the truth**
- 37 Necessary
- 39 Egg on to do wrong
- 41 Type of temple column
- 43 Middle East dweller
- 44 To make crazy
- 45 **"This is why I was ___"**
- 47 A Columbus ship
- 50 Underdone
- 51 **Adam did to fruit**
- 52 Pull
- 53 **"Every ___ shall see Christ's coming"**

Readings: Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37 and Jer 33:14-16; 1Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36

ACROSS

- 1 "Blessed ___ thou"
- 4 Video
- 8 Swiss mountains
- 12 **The Son of Man must suffer and ___**
- 13 **"Yes, ___"**
- 14 Type of pasta
- 15 (3 wds) Daniel's kingly vision
- 17 Arabian Sea gulf
- 18 School group
- 19 Ogre's wife
- 21 **"Increase and abound in ___"**
- 24 Distinguished
- 26 Type of acid
- 28 Bloom
- 32 **"___ at your right hand"**
- 33 Drive a car
- 35 The other half of Jima
- 36 Postures
- 38 Knitting materials
- 40 Went gently
- 42 Prime
- 43 Victoria's husband
- 46 **"I believe in ___ God"**
- 48 **Cross**
- 49 Vex
- 54 **Capital of Kingdom of Jerusalem**
- 55 Pleased with
- 56 Children's plaything

Answer key can be found on page 23

ADVENT HAPPENINGS

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Nov. 28-Dec. 4

An Evening of Heavenly Lights will take place Sunday, Nov. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception plaza, Fort Wayne. A live Nativity will be on site while hundreds of tribute lights shine brightly as the diocese remembers the lives of lost loved ones. A donation of \$10 is requested for a luminaria, which will be lit and blessed at the prayer service. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/heavenlylights or call 260-399-1438.

The Diocesan Museum is presenting a special display of diocesan parish altars decorated for Christmas. December through January, all are invited to come see these beautiful photos. Museum hours are Tuesday — Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is located next door to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Free parking is available in any cathedral lot. A handicap entrance is at the side door.



Begin the Advent season with nationally known Catholic composer and singer **John Angotti** and his band for their **Go Tell It on the Mountain Tour** Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne. The free performance will be livestreamed, but listeners are encouraged to attend in person.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Fort Wayne will hold a **Christmas craft fair** Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 50 talented vendors have handcrafted merchandise available for sale just in time for Christmas. It is the main fundraising event for the MOMs Group that sponsors a number of family events for the community. The University of Saint Francis will celebrate the beauty and joy of the Christmas season

with a variety of events including a University Choir **Christmas Concert** Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Chapel, Fort Wayne. The free Christmas concert will feature traditional holiday favorites.

A Bishop Dwenger High School **Drive-Thru Live Nativity** will take place Saturday, Dec. 4 from 3-5 p.m. and again from 6-9 p.m. at the Fort Wayne school. There is no fee, but a free will donation to Women's Care Center will be collected. As you navigate through the campus, the story of the Nativity will come to life. There will be live animals, including a camel, and during the event, visitors can enjoy the seasonal sounds of students singing Christmas music.

A **breakfast with St. Nicholas** is offered Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to noon at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center Ballroom in Fort Wayne. Parents are invited to bring their children. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children ages 2-12. Tickets are available at usfstnicholas2021.eventbrite.com.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Dec. 5-11

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 5, enjoy a hot breakfast provided by the **Knights of Columbus**, then make an Advent wreath to take home and share with the family. All materials will be supplied. St. Nicholas will visit to give all children a special Advent gift. This event has been a tradition at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola, for 40 years.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame will once again host its annual **Advent Lessons and Carols** Sunday, Dec. 5, at 7:15 p.m. This special prayer service celebrating the Scriptures

and music of the Advent season will feature the basilica choirs: the Folk Choir, Liturgical Choir, Magnificat Choir and Basilica Schola. Free and open to the public. University guidelines for indoor gatherings will be followed and distanced seating will be available. All are welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne, will have **Advent Lessons and Carols** Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. There will be sacred music and Scripture presented by a choir of young adults from Toledo, Ohio, and Fort Wayne. There is no cost to attend.



A Mikolaj, or **St. Nicholas Day**, party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. at St. Casimir Parish, South Bend. Enjoy an evening of Polish food, including pierogi, beef, noodles and coffee cake and sing along to "kolendy," or Christmas carols. Visit with Sw. Mikolaj (St. Nick). Tickets available for \$10 per adult and \$4 per child ages 5-12 from the parish office.

St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society and parish will have a **cookie sale** of assorted cookies for \$4 per pound Saturday, Dec. 11, at St. Michael Church, 612 N. Center St., Plymouth All proceeds benefit the parish.

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11 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. F-Sat
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A **Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity** event will take place Sunday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. on Mirror Lake, on the patio outside St. Francis Chapel at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne. The Lighting of the Lake features the blessing of luminaries dedicated to people who are special to those at USF. The evening starts with a petting zoo at 5:30 p.m., then the Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity. Cookies and cocoa will be served afterward at Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center. For more information, contact 260-399-8034 or visit sf.edu/Christmas.

Docent-led tours of Brookside Mansion at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, will take place Friday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12, from noon to 5 p.m. The tours will guide visitors as they enjoy the featured crèches for Christmas. Tours require reservations and USF requests a freewill offering. To reserve a spot, visit go.sf.edu/creches.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Dec. 12-18

Enjoy **breakfast with St. Nick** Sunday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, South Bend. An extensive menu will be provided for adults and children. Visit with St. Nick, have

a photo taken and participate in a Santa Quest raffle. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and \$30 for families of four or more. All are welcome. Tickets available at the door.

St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St., Mishawaka, will offer its 16th annual **"Festival of Lessons and Carols"** Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. Nine Scripture readings, outlining a brief journey through salvation history, will be followed by choral anthems, solos and carols with congregational participation. There is no admission charge and everyone is welcome.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish, 829 W. Calvert St., South Bend, will host a service of **Advent Solemn Vespers** complete with candlelight and music. Join in at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the parish.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Dec. 19-25

An **Advent penance service** will be Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn. Four priests will be available.

A **children's Mass of Christmas Eve**, where children present the Gospel, will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at

Saints Alive!
Bishop Dwenger

Holiday Tables Luncheon

Two options available:
Delivered lunches
Perfect for office parties and at-home gatherings, or gifts for teachers, parish staff, friends, and family! The delivery is complimentary and includes a ceramic holiday plate as part of your gift. Deliveries must be in the Fort Wayne area.

In-person luncheon
Enjoy an in-person ladies luncheon with your Mom, sisters, or friends at the beautifully decorated home of Patsy Dumas!

Wednesday, December 1 – Delivered lunches
Wednesday, December 8 – 11:00 am Luncheon at Patsy Dumas' home
Wednesday, December 15 – Delivered lunches

For more information and to order visit bishopdwenger.com/saints-alive

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola.

A **Festival of Carols** begins at 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola. The carols will feature soloists and the St. Anthony Choir. Christmas Eve Mass will follow at 10 p.m.

The **Mass of Christmas Eve** will be celebrated at St. Paul Chapel, Clear Lake, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, with the choir starting at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Mass of Christmas Day will be celebrated at St. Paul Chapel in Clear Lake at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 25.

Mass of Christmas Day will begin at 10 a.m., on Christmas morning at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola. Come and experience the joy of Christmas.

Sensory-friendly Mass celebrated each week at St. Vincent de Paul
 FORT WAYNE — A sensory-friendly Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. A sensory-friendly Mass provides a safe, comfortable and stigma-free setting for children and adults with sensory challenges, mental illness or any kind of disability to feel engaged and experience Mass in a meaningful way. Parishioners and nonparishioners are welcome. Questions about offering a sensory-friendly Mass at your parish? Contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1452.

Upper Room
 CHURUBUSCO — An open house-style of renewal in Christ will be Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, at St. John Bosco Parish, 220 N. Main St. from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Experience the joyful and refreshing love of Jesus and

the Holy Spirit like the original upper room. Enjoy adoration, praise music, healing prayer, confession and short messages from Kyle Heiman, Cindy Black and Michelle Alles. Free coffee, desserts and hot dogs. Contact Father Drew Curry at 260-693-9578 or FrAndrewcurry@yahoo.com for information.

The CrossWord

November 21 and 28, 2021



REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Donald C. Brames, 93, St. Charles Borromeo

Carlie Eisaman, 73, St. Jude

Phyllis Heinze, 87, St. Jude

David J. Miller, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Edward Miller, 70, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth H. Schenkel, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Granger

Josephine Taylor, 77, St. Pius X

John Vandervoort, 93, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Marguerite Duncan, 93, St. Bavo

David Smith, 86, St. Bavo

Monroeville

Carl J. Sorg, 90, St. Rose of Lima

New Haven

James A. Butt, 82, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

Aurelio Acuna Robles, 70, St. Adalbert

Alberto Bautista, 23, St. Adalbert

Kevin Benhart, 57, St. Adalbert

Josephine Douthitt, 99, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Patricia Hancock, 83, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Michael E. Suth, 78, St. Jude

John M. Wojtowicz, 48, Christ the King

Deaths elsewhere

Sister M. Clare Alfred, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Loretto



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
 CATHOLIC PARISH

Administrative Assistant for Youth Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, is seeking an Administrative Assistant for their Youth Ministry program. Youth Ministry is a large ministry at St. Vincent de Paul and directly involved with teens in grades 7-12 along with their families. This position has the potential of being full-time.

To view more details about the position and to apply, go to www.diocesefwsb.org/careers.

Most Precious Blood Parish seeks Director of Music and Liturgy

The primary role of the Director of Music and Liturgy is to provide and coordinate music for three weekend Masses and special liturgies as needed.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- A faithful individual committed to growth personally and professionally, with love for the Catholic liturgy
- Experience working with and developing a choir and leading congregational singing
- Excellent professional, verbal, and written communication skills
- Knowledge of Catholic musical selections including Catholic modern and traditional hymns and praise and worship hymns
- Ability to work with volunteers – musicians and cantors
- Dependable, organized and has attention to detail
- Proficient at piano/organ and singing

This is a part time position with some flexibility outside of the Mass schedule.

Salary is commensurate with experience and agreed upon schedule.

Apply at <https://diocesefwsb.org/careers>



Merry Christmas

“TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.”

— LUKE 2:11



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NCYC, from page 1

bookbags were covered in the wooden clips.

During downtime and while walking to the various breakout sessions, it seemed as though the young people were keeping an eye out for opportunities to trade small items like stickers and hats with students from other groups, cities and states — another tradition at young adult pilgrimages like NCYC and World Youth Day.

The NCYC “village” gave them the opportunity to buy a number of Catholic-themed trinkets, including socks with saints on them. The village also connected the visiting high schoolers with different Catholic ministries and colleges, including Marian University and Holy Cross College.

For Josephine Cavacini, a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, the 2021 conference was her first and last experience with NCYC.

“I’m sad that I can’t go again because this is my last year, as a senior, and so I won’t get to experience another one.”

For anyone who has not attended an NCYC conference, she strongly recommends it.

“This weekend has definitely strengthened my faith. The talks really connected with me and the Holy Spirit was definitely sending down His spirits and pouring out His graces upon us, and the Lord was giving us such fruitful experiences.”

Cavacini also mentioned that she enjoyed one of the breakout sessions titled “Heaven, Hell, and Hot Topics” in which one



CNS photo/Natalie Hoefer, The Criterion

Attendees at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis kneel during eucharistic adoration in the Indiana Convention Center Nov. 18.

speaker performed optical illusions and discussed the potential differences between perception and reality. The session’s live band performed a mix of secular music and praise and worship.

Hunter Wallace, another teen who attended NCYC, said that this was his second time participating in the conference.

“I really liked it the first time

because it was just a really cool thing to be a part of. I wanted to come back again.”

Wallace added that adoration stood out to him during the 2021 conference, because the whole stadium was “super quiet” and the priest told stories.

NCYC is an event hosted by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and

has taken place biennially in Indianapolis since 2011. The NFCYM announced, however, that the next NCYC conference, “Walking on Water,” will take place on the west coast in Long Beach, California, in November 2022. Students may recognize one of the 2022 emcees, Father Agustino Torres, who emceed the diocesan World Youth Day conference at Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, in late August.

In the hour following dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory, the teens prepared themselves to celebrate Mass, which was concelebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. During the homily, Archbishop of Indianapolis Charles C. Thompson offered advice to the teens by recalling the theme of NCYC 2021.

Archbishop Thompson asked

the crowd to respond during the homily with either the Spanish or English translation of the conference motto, “Ablaze.” In every instance that the archbishop said “Ablaze,” teens from the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend responded with the Spanish translation, “Enciende el Fuego.”

In his homily at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday evening, Archbishop Thompson spoke on having a relationship with Jesus.

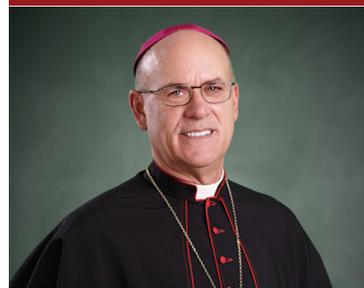
“Just as we do with family and closest friends, we must spend quality time with him — not just at NCYC, but every day.

“To carry out the mission of Christ,” he added, “the Church needs each and every one of us. To be clear, you are not the future Church, but the young Church here and now.”



Joshua Schipper

The speakers during a Saturday breakout session titled “Heaven, Hell, and Hot Topics,” performed optical illusions to illustrate the differences between perception and reality.



“Today’s Catholic serves the Church’s mission of evangelization and catechesis. I appreciate the opportunity it provides for me as bishop to communicate and exercise my responsibility to teach the Catholic faith.

I encourage all faithful to be informed by reading Today’s Catholic. In the end, I hope it helps them to grow in their faith and commitment to the Church.”

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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