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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 2

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Five Bishop Luers students confirmed during pastoral visit

BY JENNIFER BARTON



**A**s the new year began, so also did the yearly rounds of pastoral visits, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades started his annual high school visits at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne on January 5. No inclement weather delayed his visit this year, as it had in previous years, and the bishop was pleased to continue celebrating the Christmas season at the first all-school Mass of the new year at Bishop Luers. The day also fell on the feast day of St. John Neumann, the first American male saint and founder of the first Catholic school system in the U.S., which the bishop considered appropriate.

Bishop Rhoades began Mass by blessing the newly renovated gymnasium. Additionally, five female students were confirmed in the course of the Mass. He welcomed their families and godparents, thanking them for coming to the special day. Four priests concelebrated Mass: Father Andrew Budzinski, Father Nathan Maskal, Father Dave Ruppert and Bishop Luers' co-chaplain Father Patrick Hake. Three of them represented feeder schools, the largest of which is St. John the Baptist.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades gave students a short introduction to St. John Neumann, the "Little Bishop" from Bohemia, before expounding on the day's reading from 1 John. "A major theme of the letter is that a genuine Christian life must be a life of love; love for God and one another. It is not enough that we say we love God; we must demonstrate that love through real and concrete action toward our brothers and sisters," he said.

He continued by explaining how the love of God is most powerfully seen in the Trinity, in that three Persons are united in One. "When we profess our faith in the Trinity, we are professing that we believe what St. John teaches: that God is love. That is God's innermost secret that he has revealed to us. It is an astounding truth."

"The Christian faith is pretty shocking when you think about

John Martin

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades processed into the newly renovated gymnasium at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne on Jan. 5 at the start of Mass. He spent the day at the school with the students and staff members for his annual pastoral visit.**

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## LUERS, from page 1

it: God's magnificent plan to share in His life of love with us. God opens His heart to us and invites us to share in His own divine life. He did this by taking on our flesh. In Jesus, God bound Himself to us in love. He established a new and eternal covenant with humankind through Jesus Christ. He did this through His death on the cross. ... When we receive the Holy Eucharist, we enter into communion with God, and this communion with God also unites us with each other."

He went on to speak about the Gospel reading in which Jesus walked on water and calmed the storm. "I think that is like our life. I've had storms in my life, perhaps you have, too ... I find in my life when there are storms, problems, difficulties and I am feeling a lot of stress and anxiety, I just need to let Jesus climb into my boat, come into my life."

During his visit, Bishop Rhoades visited three theology classrooms to speak to students. He also spent an extended lunch with student leaders and later met with theology teachers and principal James Huth.

Students in two of the classrooms got to know the bishop through questions they had prepared in advance, learning that his favorite saint was St. John the Apostle, his favorite prayer is the rosary and that he enjoys hiking in his free time. In another class, he spoke about ecumenism, or the relationship among Christians of various denominations.

Coincidentally, one of the first students that Bishop Rhoades met when he arrived was sophomore Ellen Rorick, who had sent him a Christmas card this holiday season. He spent a few moments in conversation with her, thanking her for her kind gesture. He was also able to meet senior Nelson Knapke, made famous for the "dawg" interview he gave about his football teammates that went viral in the fall.

Huth was pleased as always to welcome the bishop. "It's just always a joy to have the bishop here," Huth said. He praised the camaraderie among students of Bishop Luers and their friendly, open manner toward Bishop Rhoades. "They greet him warmly, they handshake, they hug. ... I think the bishop being here is always a fun day. The kids enjoy it, you can see it in their eyes. The message that he brings is important."

Janelle Mondragon, one of the confirmandi, stated that she felt very happy after her confirmation. Though she grew up in a strong Catholic family, she had not been confirmed in grade school because she "was not sure about my faith. I transferred here in my sophomore year. Bishop Luers helped me grow in my faith."

Mondragon is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne and is now a senior at Luers, with hopes of becoming a Spanish teacher after college. She chose the name Valentine for her confirmation saint. She joyfully stated: "It's never too late to get confirmed!"



Photos by John Martin

Receiving the sacrament of confirmation during a pastoral visit by Bishop Rhoades to Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne were, from left, Marycruz Soto, Anahi Hernandez, Ashley Leon-Maldonado, Janelle Mondragon and Karla Estrada.



Father Andrew Budzinski proclaimed the homily at Mass for the bishop's visit. His parish school, St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne, represents a large portion of the student body at Bishop Luers.



Students in theology class listen intently as Bishop Rhoades answers questions that they had prepared in advance of his visit.



Bishop Rhoades shares a laugh with Justin Aquila's theology class, in which he was given a list of questions that students had posed to him.



Bishop Luers principal James Huth and theology teacher Chad Smith speak with the bishop after his visit to Smith's classroom. As a convert to the Catholic faith, Smith is well-versed in the ecumenical dialogue that he teaches his students.



**Journalists cover March for Life participants as they make their way toward the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Jan. 29, 2021, amid the coronavirus pandemic.**

## Annual March for Life still on this year in Washington, D.C.

BY KURT JENSEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 49th annual national March for Life — with a rally on the National Mall and march to the Supreme Court Jan. 21 — will go on as scheduled this year amid a surge in the omicron variant in the nation's capital.

Outdoor events are not affected by the District of Columbia's vaccine mandate for indoor gatherings, but participants should expect to wear face masks. Indoor events associated with the annual march will have to comply with city COVID-19 restrictions.

The national Pro-Life Summit, sponsored by Students for Life, is also scheduled to take place Jan. 22 at Washington's Omni Shoreham Hotel. The event will feature former Vice President Mike Pence as its keynote speaker. Pence has been a frequent March for Life speaker, and in 2020, he introduced President Donald Trump at the event's rally.

The March for Life has canceled its three-day Pro-Life Expo and is combining two planned Capitol Hill 101 panel discussions Jan. 20 into a single event. The organization is still holding its annual Rose Dinner Gala.

Participants who are 12 and older attending the panel discussion or dinner will have to provide proof of receiving one COVID-19 vaccination by Jan. 15, or, if they are seeking a medical or religious exemption, they must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 24 hours of the event.

The Pro-Life summit is also requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination following the city's regulations. The summit, which in previous years has drawn more than 2,000 high school and college students, notes on its website that it is accepting vaccine exemptions "for a strongly (or sincerely) held religious belief ... in writing or orally" and it is also requiring masks at all events.

March for Life never projects attendance figures, but an informal survey by Catholic News Service of a few groups planning to attend this year's march indicates that the turnout may approach pre-pandemic levels.

Last year's march was turned into a virtual event due to the pandemic and the violence at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Only an invited group of 80, joined midway by more than 100 others, marched from the nearby Museum of the Bible to just behind the Supreme Court. It was the first outdoor event in Washington since the Capitol violence, with both the Capitol and Supreme Court surrounded by high fences.

In previous years, total attendance for the rally and march up Constitution Avenue was estimated to be as high as 100,000.

"We have nearly 250 students and faculty headed to D.C.," said Ed Konieczka, assistant director of university ministry at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. "That is five full buses — our largest contingent since leading the march in 2017."

A similar number was estimated by organizers of the bus caravan for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

However, the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, decided in December 2021 that the COVID-19 risk was too high to sponsor a bus caravan.

Bevin Kennedy, diocesan secretary for communications, cited "the difficulty of monitoring and mitigating the COVID risk with a group of more than 100 participants."

The march is held annually on a date nearest the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

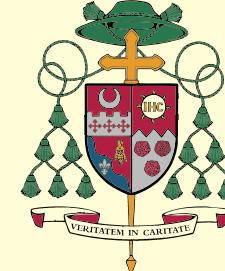
The first march was held Jan. 22, 1974, organized by Nellie Gray, a government lawyer, and the Knights of Columbus. The idea was to form a "circle of life" around the Capitol and the Supreme Court. Jeanne Mancini assumed leadership of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund after Gray died in 2012.

This year's theme is "Equality Begins in the Womb." The rally is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. with a performance by singer Matthew West. The march starts at 1:15 p.m. after the political speeches are completed.

There is considerable anticipation that this year's march could be the last one with the Roe decision hanging in the balance.

Later this year, the Supreme Court will announce its decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, an appeal by Mississippi to remove a lower court's injunction on its law banning most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy.

If the court rules in favor of the state law, it will effectively overturn Roe v. Wade and send abortion laws back to the states.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, January 16: 11:30 a.m. — Mass with Institution of Acolytes, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne  
 Monday, January 17: 5:15 p.m. — Mass, Dinner and Talk, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame  
 Tuesday-Wednesday, January 18-19: Visit to Good Leaders, Good Shepherds Meeting, Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth  
 Friday, January 21: 8 a.m. — Mass at Rally for Life, EagleBank Arena, Fairfax, Virginia  
 Saturday, January 22: 9:30 a.m. — Mass, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

## Pope appeals for peace in Kazakhstan, says prayer is not 'magic'

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With dozens of people reported dead and thousands detained in Kazakhstan, Pope Francis prayed for the victims and for a return of peace in the former Soviet republic.

"I have learned with sorrow that there have been victims during the protests that have broken out in recent days in Kazakhstan," the pope said Jan. 9 after reciting the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square. "I pray for them and for their families, and I hope that social harmony will be restored as soon as possible through the search for dialogue, justice and the common good."

Bishop Adelio Dell'Oro of Karaganda told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, that because the government declared a state of emergency and banned all public gatherings until Jan. 19, public celebrations of the Mass are not allowed. But he, Auxiliary Bishop Yevgeniy Zinkovskiy and Sister Alma Dzamova, who works with them, had a special Mass Jan. 10 to pray for the victims of the unrest, which began with public protests Jan. 5 over rising fuel costs.

In his main talk at the Angelus, Pope Francis spoke about the baptism of Jesus, noting how the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus as praying and then the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice comes from heaven, saying, "You are my beloved son;

with you I am well pleased."

"Jesus prays. But why?" the pope asked people gathered in St. Peter's Square. "He, the Lord, the Son of God, prays like us? Yes, Jesus — the Gospels repeat this many times — spends a lot of time in prayer: at the beginning of every day, often at night, before making important decisions."

Jesus' prayer is "a tremendous lesson for us: we are all immersed in the problems of life and in many complicated situations, called upon to face difficult moments and choices that get us down. But, if we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards," he said. "This is exactly what prayer does."

Prayer, the pope said, "is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized jingles."

Instead, "prayer is the way we allow God to act in us, to understand what he wants to communicate to us even in the most difficult situations," the pope said.

Prayer is a dialogue with God, he said. Sometimes it is pure worship, but other times it involves crying out to God or "venting" one's frustration.

"Prayer — to use a beautiful image from today's Gospel — 'opens the heavens,'" he said. "It gives life oxygen, a breath of fresh air amidst life's troubles and allows us to see things from a broader perspective. Above all, it enables us to have the same experience Jesus had by the Jordan River: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father."

# Vespers kicks off year of sesquicentennial celebrations in Auburn

BY JODI MARLIN

Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn reverently began a series of sesquicentennial celebrations Sunday evening, Jan. 9. Led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the northeast Indiana faith community joined the bishop in raising their voices joyfully to mark the opening of 10 months of festivities commemorating the occasion.

The sung vespers service was the first official event to observe 150 years since the founding of the parish. From now until Oct. 8, the community will come together in several ways in praise and out of respect for their community's uninterrupted legacy of faithfulness, devotion and evangelization.

During the service, Bishop Rhoades acknowledged the foundations of the Auburn parish and celebrated with parishioners its growth in faith, hope and charity. He memorialized their first priest, Father August Young, the sisters from Victory Noll in Huntington who taught catechesis before a school opened, and the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart who taught in the school from 1958 until it closed in the early 1970s. He then recalled all the generous and faith-filled laity who have worshipped there for the past 150 years.

"It is good that you will be celebrating your 150th anniversary with various activities this year, remembering and giving thanks for your past, while also building on this past as you move forward into the future as a Catholic community committed to evangelization, worship, service and witness to Christ here in Auburn and DeKalb County," he told them.

The evening's reading from the Acts of the Apostles focused on part of St. Peter's speech to Gentiles in the home of Cornelius

in Caesarea. In the reading, John the Baptist prepares the people for Jesus by his preaching of repentance and his act of baptizing them.

The Lord entered into solidarity with sinners through the same baptism at which the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus' human nature with divine power. That Holy Spirit is also with the Church and empowers it for ministry, the bishop said.

"We can say that this is true throughout the history of the Church, including the history of Immaculate Conception Parish. The Holy Spirit inspires and guides us to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus, to do what He did – to go about doing good and bringing His love and healing to all those who are oppressed by sin and all those in need of God's love and mercy."

"My brothers and sisters, during this sesquicentennial year, I encourage you to focus on your mission as a parish, to be open to the Holy Spirit, as you move forward in faith," he told the parishioners present. "I encourage you to reach out to non-practicing Catholics in your parish and to invite them home. I also encourage you to continue to take great care in passing on the faith to the children and young people of the parish and to help them to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord."

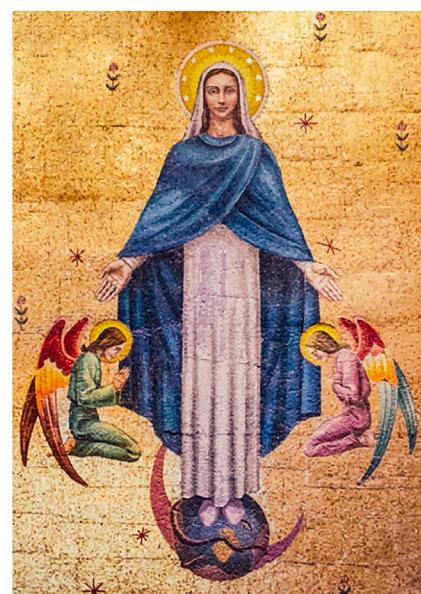
The sesquicentennial year culminates in October, when the bishop said he hopes to return and celebrate an anniversary Mass. Between now and then, other sesquicentennial events include:

- The printing of sesquicentennial prayer cards, which will be distributed to parish families and available at the church office later this month. A sesquicentennial prayer written by former pastor Father Timothy Wrozek and printed on the cards will be prayed often, including at the end of every weekend Mass



Jodi Marlin

**Parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish listen as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades marks parallels between the evangelistic mission of Jesus, which began at His baptism, and the corresponding mission the Auburn parish has carried out during the last 150 years. This year marks the sesquicentennial of the community of faith.**



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[diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw](http://diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw)



throughout the year.

- A sale of commemorative apparel noting the parish's 150 years of devotion began Jan. 1 and will continue through Sunday, Jan. 16.
- In May, the joyful mysteries of the rosary will be sung by the parish choir, accompanied by musicians, in a special arrangement by Bob Hurd. A specific date and time will be announced on the parish website and in the parish bulletin.
- A commemorative walk from the location of the first Immaculate Conception Church, erected in 1874 on the corner of Fourth Street and what is now Indiana Avenue, to the East Seventh Street location of the current church and parish campus will take place June 25.

The anniversary is an opportunity for parishioners to show pride in their history of faith, parish administrator Father Mark Enemali reiterated recently. "We have many reasons to be thankful to God for the existence of our faith community and its impact here in Auburn for the past one hundred and fifty years."



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# ICC views lawful carry handgun legislation through pro-life lens

**S**tate lawmakers are again considering a measure that would allow individuals to carry a handgun without a license – a move opposed by the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), many in the law enforcement community and a coalition of other allies.

House Bill 1077, which passed the House public policy committee Jan. 5 on a 9-3 vote and was awaiting action by the full Indiana House of Representatives at press time, would repeal the law that requires a person to obtain a license to carry a handgun in Indiana. So-called “lawful carry” or “Constitutional carry” measures such as this are aimed at removing the hurdles that lawful citizens face in obtaining handgun permits, according to Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn), the bill’s author.

Smaltz and other proponents, including the National Rifle Association, argue that law-abiding citizens should not have to face undue burdens to defend themselves or otherwise exercise a right that is guaranteed by the Second Amendment. The office of Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita also supports the bill, which would make Indiana the 22nd state in the country to pass this type of legislation.

But the ICC – the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana – challenges the notion that the licensing process poses a heavy burden on individuals. Moreover, during the lengthy Jan. 5 committee hearing on the bill that included testimony from 25 individuals on both sides of the issue, ICC Executive Director Angela Espada stated that for the Church, protecting human life is always the overarching concern.

“The Catholic Church opposes this bill because we respect the dignity of life,” Espada told lawmakers during the meeting of the House public policy committee, which Rep. Smaltz chairs. “In states that don’t have the combination of background checks with a license, firearm homicides and suicides go up.”

Espada, an attorney and former deputy prosecutor in Marion County, pointed to research by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy. According to the institute, after Missouri repealed its licensing law, the state saw a 25 percent increase in firearm homicide and a 16 percent increase in gun suicide. By contrast, when Connecticut implemented a licensing law, the state’s firearm homicide rate declined 40 percent.

Many in the law enforcement community consider the licensing process as a screening mechanism to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. During the Jan. 5 hearing, the Indiana State Police was among the organizations standing opposed to House Bill 1077.

“We have a system that works,” said Major Rob Simpson, deputy chief of staff for the agency. He added that in just the last two years, more than 10,000 applications for handgun permits have been rejected statewide for a multitude of reasons.

Jennifer Haan, who leads the Indiana chapter of the national advocacy group Moms Demand Action and is a practicing Catholic, brought a unique perspective to the committee hearing.

“I have a license to carry a handgun in the state of Indiana, and I oppose House Bill 1077,”



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

Haan said. “Indiana has the bare minimum requirement to obtain a license to carry a handgun. It is an online form that takes less time to fill out than it did for me to enroll my child in kindergarten.”

When growing up on the east side of Indianapolis, Haan said that gun violence was always in the back of her mind. After leaving a teaching career to become a stay-at-home mother, two national events led to her involvement with Moms Demand Action, a grassroots organization fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence.

Haan vividly recalls icing the cake for her son’s first birthday on Dec. 14, 2012, when news broke about the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut – the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. On Valentine’s Day 2018, Haan again watched in disbelief as a similar scene unfolded in Parkland, Florida.

“When I saw the kids from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School begging the adults to step up and do something, that was my call to action,” said Haan, a mother of two and member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

“For me, this is a pro-life issue,” Haan said. “We have to protect our children.”

The Catholic Church has long advocated for the prevention of gun and other violence as part of its commitment to promoting a culture of life. Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have called for legislation to curb gun violence, includ-

ing banning assault weapons and requiring universal background checks.

“More than ever, the Church and all people of good will must work together to confront the pervasive culture of violence,” the bishops wrote in a recent statement. “The Church has been a consistent voice for the promotion of peace at home and around the world and a strong advocate for the reasonable regulation of firearms. (We recognize) that recourse to self-defense is legitimate but also that guns are simply too easily accessible.”

**To follow priority legislation** of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church’s position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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## Indian government reversal: Missionaries of Charity can get foreign funds

NEW DELHI (CNS) — The Indian government has restored the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act registration of the Missionaries of Charity, clearing the decks for the globally renowned charity to receive and utilize foreign funds, reported ucanews.com. "I am delighted that the Indian government has restored our FCRA license," said Sunita Kumar, spokeswoman for the order founded by St. Teresa of Kolkata. The change of decision comes less than a fortnight after the federal ministry for home affairs declined to renew the order's FCRA registration, citing "adverse inputs." "We never expected that our registration could be canceled, but it happened," Kumar told ucanews.com Jan. 8, a day after the government restored the license of the charity organization. "We are happy that the restoration of our license happened without much delay." The congregation was finding it difficult to carry forward its charitable works ever since news broke on Christmas Day that its application for renewal had been refused. The ministry issued a statement Dec. 27 saying the charity did not meet "eligibility conditions" under the FCRA and cited "adverse input" for its decision, without further details.

## Pope encourages business leaders who try to put employees first

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Competition, the market system and need to answer to stockholders can and do challenge business owners and leaders who want to put the needs of employees and the common good first, Pope Francis said. "Persevere and don't be discouraged," the pope told 90 business leaders from France Jan. 7. Accompanied by Bishop Dominique Rey of Fréjus-Toulon, the leaders were making a pilgrimage to Rome. "I find it very beautiful and courageous that, in a world often marked by individualism, indifference and even the marginalization of the most vulnerable, some entrepreneurs and business leaders have at heart the service of all and not just the service of private interests or restricted groups," the pope said. "I have no doubt that this represents a challenge for you." The pope said the clash between ideals and reality, which he spoke about Jan. 1 on the feast of Mary, Mother of God, also is at play in the lives of business leaders who want to operate "according to the heart of God," but find themselves having to deal with "the economic and financial systems currently in place, which often make a mockery of the

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Colorado family finds hope in Mary statue largely untouched by wildfire



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis baptizes a baby during Mass marking the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 9, 2022. The pope baptized 16 infants.

Gospel principles of social justice and charity." When that happens, he said, the leaders must not "try to camouflage" the fact, but they must bring it to their prayer, which is the best place "to unify the beautiful and the ugly things of which life is made up, to grasp better the interweaving and the meaning in God's perspective."

## Kenyan bishop urges calm as tensions rise after attacks

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Bishop Wilyard Lagho of Malindi continued to call for calm in the Kenyan coastal region of Lamu, but said land disputes were behind the latest attacks, which have left at least seven people dead. The bishop told Catholic News Service there is credible evidence that the attacks are being perpetrated by local gangs with an aim of flushing squatters out of ranches. Leases of some of the ranches were recently revoked by the government. The bishop, whose

diocese extends to Lamu Island, an Indian Ocean archipelago that lies about 60 miles from Kenya's border with Somalia, appealed to the government to "move with speed to issue title deeds to genuine squatters." Earlier reports had indicated that the attacks were being carried out by suspected al-Shabab militants. The Somalia-based al-Qaida affiliate has been blamed for past attacks in the region. On Jan. 3, the number of the dead reached seven after a 62-year-old man was killed in an attack, in which several houses were burned. The attacks started Jan. 2, with the kidnapping of one person, who was later shot dead in the village as another four were burned in their house. Two other people were kidnapped, and a village elder was found butchered. Those kidnapped are usually used to identify future villages for attacks, according to church sources.

## European court rejects appeal of same-sex cake case

DUBLIN (CNS) — Europe's highest court has rejected an appeal from a Northern Ireland man who said he was discriminated against when a Christian-run company refused to bake him a cake with a pro-same-sex marriage slogan. After losing in the U.K. Supreme Court, Gareth Lee, a gay-rights activist, appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. No appeal is possible. Lee said he is disappointed with the court's refusal to hear the appeal, but several think tanks welcome the decision as a victory for religious freedom. The rejection of Lee's appeal brings to an end an eight-year legal battle between Lee and Ashers Bakery in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Lee first took legal action in 2014 after the bakery — run by a Christian couple — refused to make a cake with the slogan "Support Gay Marriage." The bak-

ers, Daniel and Amy McArthur, said the slogan contravened their Christian beliefs about marriage. In a statement Jan. 6, Lee said: "None of us should be expected to have to figure out the beliefs of a company's owners before going into their shop or paying for their services. ... Everyone has freedom of expression, and it must equally apply to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people."

## Galveston-Houston auxiliary bishop celebrated, remembered and laid to rest

HOUSTON (CNS) — As the late Bishop George A. Sheltz was placed into his funeral hearse, a chant of an ancient prayer suddenly filled the air. His fellow bishops and priests surrounded him while they chanted the "Salve Regina" (Hail Holy Queen), a fitting send-off for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston auxiliary bishop who dedicated his life to serving God and his people. Bishop Sheltz's Dec. 31 funeral Mass gathered many people to honor his life, including Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, who was the presider, and Father Jeff Bame, rector of Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston, who gave the homily. "Bishop Sheltz was my pastor, my bishop and my friend," said Father Bame noting that the bishop, then-Father Sheltz, was his pastor while the priest was growing up at Prince of Peace Parish in Houston. "In over 50 years of priestly ministry, George Sheltz has reflected with his life, just how great is the assistance of God's grace and goodness," he said. "He lived his life as a sacrifice to God."

## Pope to install catechists, lectors at Word of God celebration

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At his celebration of Mass for the Sunday of the Word of God Jan. 23, Pope Francis will formally install new catechists and lectors — ministries open to women. The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which coordinates the annual celebration, said the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica will include "the conferral of the ministries of lector and catechist." Pope Francis formally instituted the ministry of catechist in May 2021. It followed his decision in January to open the ministries of lector and acolyte to women. While in most dioceses, women already served as readers and altar servers at Mass, they were not formally instituted in those services on a stable basis. The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis in 2019, is meant to encourage among all Catholics interest in knowing the sacred Scriptures and their central role in the life of the church and the Christian faith.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Theology on Tap winter series

FORT WAYNE — Theology on Tap will begin a winter series in February titled "Go Forth!" This will be held every Tuesday of the month at the University of Saint Francis' downtown campus: Fort Wayne Women's Club, 402 W. Wayne St. Each session will begin at 6:30, with the talk starting at 7 p.m. Theology on Tap gives adults in their 20s and 30s, whether married or single, an opportunity to learn about their faith in fellowship with others. Speakers for the winter session will be Father Jose Arroyo, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Jessica Hayes, OV and Sister Jacinta Krecek, OSF. A closing Mass and party will be hosted on March 1 at Brookside on the university's campus.

## Catholic Charities receives OSV grant

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend received a grant from OSV Institute in the amount of \$5,000 to aid in the resettlement of Afghan refugees within the local community. "We are extremely grateful to OSV Institute for aiding us in our mission to serve all those in need, as Christ would have us do," says Dan Florin, interim CEO of CCFWSB.

"As two Catholic organizations, it is our shared responsibility to hold all life as sacred and promote the dignity of each human. Because of these emergency funds, we can do that, as

well as invite more community members to help us."

Since 1975, Catholic Charities has aided war-torn families in putting their lives back together. The only resettlement agency in northeast Indiana, the organization is responsible for assisting these families with basic needs, finding permanent housing, and gaining employment, among other things. The funds from this grant will go towards aiding clients in their first 30 to 90 days after placement.

"Our Sunday Visitor's support of CCFWSB recognizes its long history of successfully assisting refugees in resettlement," says Matt Smith, Director of Strategic Alliances at OSV Institute. "OSV's mission of 'Championing the Church' can be realized in serving those in need as Christ would have us do."

Catholic Charities has aided more than 75 Afghan individuals resettle in northeast Indiana since October 2021, helping them with basic necessities, housing and employment within their first 30 to 90 days.

## Exploring the lives of mystics

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, will host "Mystics — A Journey of Discovery" both in-person and virtually on Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 13 and April 10 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Providence Spirituality and Conference Center. Registration is online at [events.sistersofprovidence.org](http://events.sistersofprovidence.org), by phone at 812-535-2952 or email at [provctr@spsmw.org](mailto:provctr@spsmw.org).

## St. Meinrad given Lilly Endowment grant

ST. MEINRAD — St. Meinrad Archabbey received a grant of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support its second phase of Saint Meinrad's Young Adult Initiative. The primary goal of this phase of the program is to support Catholic parishes and ministry leaders in reimagining their approaches to young adult outreach, accompaniment, and discipleship.

During the five-year grant period, Saint Meinrad plans to create a parish guide for ministry with young adults; develop resources and offer workshops for bishops, priests, deacons, and laity from across the United States to inform them of the Phase 1 findings and promote usage of the parish guide; and invite some of the parishes that Saint Meinrad worked with during Phase 1 to continue their young adult engagement efforts and become mentors to neighboring parishes.

## Novena for life planned for Jan. 19

FORT WAYNE — Thousands of Catholics are invited to pray the '9 Days for Life' Novena Jan. 19-27 for the Protection of Human Life

Nine Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Resources are available at [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org).

## Bishop's reflections prod readers' spiritual lives in practical way

BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI

(CNS) — Sometimes when reading reflections, one can almost hear what the author is saying. When they are published, it's as though the printed word is transformed into an audiobook. That is what the reader will experience with Bishop Donald Hying's "Love Never Fails."

Bishop Hying, who heads the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, and previously served as an auxiliary bishop in Milwaukee and as bishop of Gary, Indiana, asks thought-provoking questions.

In a chapter titled "Spiritual Spendthrifts," he asks, "How can I ever really know the joy of salvation unless I lift up my experiences of anxiety, dread, sin and isolation to God on the cross? Can I really appreciate the gift of my life in Christ until I have somehow been painfully uprooted from my complacent self-sufficiency?"

He draws upon a variety of sources, quoting Scripture, Robert Frost, G.K. Chesterton, Henry David Thoreau, Pope Francis and a number of saints, including Augustine, Teresa of Avila and John Paul II, not as an academic exercise but to make a point.

"Love Never Fails" is inspirational but never preachy.

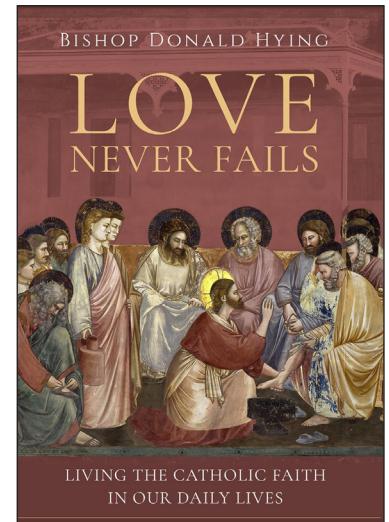
When Bishop Hying writes about concerns throughout the church, e.g., providing excellent faith formation for children, youth and adults; parishes that are "lively, flourishing, welcoming and loving," and where celebration of sacraments is done well; and living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, he invites but doesn't lecture.

When he calls gratitude and thankfulness "hallmarks of the mystical journey," the reader can almost hear Bishop Hying's words aloud:

"Let your life be more about praising than complaining, more about what has been given than what is lacking. Gratitude and humility contain the great secret of joy and peace. ... What we are searching for has already been given. We just need to reach out and receive it and then pass it on."

Numerous times he mentions his family, growing up as the youngest of six boys in a home where the rosary was recited every evening. He speaks of love and admiration for his parents and notes how their example and the environment in which they raised their sons had an impact upon his vocation to the priesthood.

In an All Souls' Day reflection, he writes about his 10-year-old brother Patrick, who died of liver cancer.



CNS photo/courtesy Ignatius Press  
**This is the book cover of "Love Never Fails: Living the Catholic Faith in Our Daily Lives" by Bishop Donald Hying.**

"Going through my own sorrow and watching my parents grieve up close as a 6-year-old forever marked my heart and life. ... Our sorrow and loss as a family gradually healed through faith, prayer and the kindness of family and friends, but the experience both wounded and transformed us," he writes.

He continues, "As painful as it was, my brother's death blessed me. This tragic experience opened me to ask the big questions and brought me to a richer faith, gave me a deeper compassion for the suffering of others, and granted for me a powerful intercessor in heaven. ... I feel that my vocation to the priesthood was nurtured by the tragic death of Patrick."

Bishop Hying's stories can make a reader cry, but they can also make one laugh.

In a reflection on Pentecost, he writes, "I'm afraid that if Pentecost happened today, instead of immediately going out to evangelize, the early church would have formed a long-range study committee, wrote up long plans on how to evangelize and organized countless meetings. Thankfully, they did none of that!"

In a chapter titled "Everyone is Called to Evangelize," Bishop Hying relates how he heard Matthew Kelly speak about his book "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" and that he was so "fired up" by what the author said that he ordered 5,000 copies of the book and gave them away.

"Love Never Fails" prods readers' spiritual lives in a pastoral, practical way. They may say, "I've read all that," but one can be certain they haven't read it the way Bishop Hying presents it. They might not be moved to buy another 5,000 copies, but they will certainly share what they've read with others.

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**Accompanying mothers-to-be who are in need of friendship and support is the responsibility of all the faithful. That's the foundation of a 2020 initiative launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and now being implemented in parishes of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; that all Catholics should know about the resources available and be able to assist and direct those in need. Visit [walkingwithmomsfwsb.com](http://walkingwithmomsfwsb.com).**

## Giving women and men the power to choose life

BY JODI MARLIN

*"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception."*

**S**o begin paragraphs 2270-2275 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the compendium of doctrine with which Catholics are familiar. Yet somehow, long ago, protecting the beginning of life came to be seen by much of society not as an obligation, but as a choice.

In 2022 in a culture focused on empowering women, does "empowerment" mean giving women the right to take the life of their unborn child, or does it mean providing them with the means to support themselves and their babies?

Supporting a very young life is too much of a challenge, often, for women who lack the support of a husband or a community of family and friends, who struggle financially, who have an impermanent or dangerous place to live or who are struggling with addiction and patterns of negative behavior.

At the time of the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, Catholic Charities offered the primary pro-life options for women facing an unexpected or crisis pregnancy: confidential residential care and adoption.

According to Lisa Everett, director of Marriage and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the number of local mechanisms to support mothers has grown dramatically in the five decades since then.



Today's Catholic file photos

**With their model of both unconditional love and practical support, Women's Care Centers support women in 11 states who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy. When a woman feels loved and supported, she is more likely to view herself as capable of doing a difficult thing like carrying to term an unexpected baby, said diocesan Marriage and Family Ministry Director Lisa Everett.**

And as the Supreme Court case Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, with its potential to unleash a storm of limitations on access to abortion, is considered, hope has reigned that pro-life organizations like these will see an increase in their lifesaving work.

### At the forefront

Three organizations in particular empower area women to choose life for their children: Women's Care Center, Right to Life Michiana (formerly St. Joseph County Right to Life) and Right to Life of Northeast Indiana (formerly Allen County Right to Life). Additionally, residential care centers Hannah's House in South Bend and A Mother's Hope in Fort Wayne provide single, pregnant women with a safe and supportive place

to live while they plan for the arrival of their little one.

The effort to protect unborn life is also buoyed by the fund-raising efforts of another Catholic network with a great love for pro-life efforts: Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Knights of Columbus councils. The councils' understanding that viewing their babies in the womb tends to change mothers' hearts is why the councils have funded a dozen ultrasound machines for pro-life organizations in the area.

"That has been a game-changer," said Everett. "Once a woman actually sees her baby, that life that is growing inside her, upwards of 95% choose life for that baby."

Right to Life Michiana was founded in 1972 as state pro-abortion legislation was about to be expanded and Roe v. Wade was in the process of being

decided. From around the kitchen table of a South Bend couple in 1972, the desire to offer women in crisis pregnancies options that preserve the life of their child has flourished. In 2019, RTLM then developed HerMichiana.org, an online directory of pregnancy-related resources including medical care, substance abuse, legal aid, employment assistance and childcare.

In 1984, University of Notre Dame professor Janet Smith was volunteering outside the South Bend abortion clinic, endeavoring to dissuade women from entering the facility. She thought, "What if there was a place to refer these young women to support and help them – not just say 'don't do this,' but also provide the support they would need to carry their babies to term," said Everett.

Smith and her husband pur-

chased the house next door to the clinic, and together with Ann Manion, who remains involved with WCC and is its current president, the inaugural location of Women's Care Center was established.

Right to Life Michiana's mission of education and advocacy dovetails with that of Women's Care Center, which today welcomes women in 33 locations in 12 states. That welcome is key; operating under Catholic principles, the centers are intentionally designed with a priority of hospitality, creating a low-pressure environment in which to present women of all faiths or no faith with information about their pregnancy and the developing child. There is also reassurance in the form of tangible help: free pregnancy tests, prenatal care, baby supplies and job and relationship counseling are available.

According to Everett, who was among the first WCC volunteer counselors, the model is really one of providing unconditional love.

"Women loved how they have been treated there. Their dignity is respected: It's a nonjudgmental approach in the sense that they are always loved and helped to see that they can do the tough thing, which might be having a baby in less-than-ideal circumstances. They can do that with the support of various services in the community and the the counselors and staff members at the Women's Care Centers. When a woman feels loved and supported, she is more likely to view herself as capable of doing a difficult thing, like carrying to term an unexpected baby."



**Hannah's House in Mishawaka, above, and A Mother's Hope in Fort Wayne, at right, offer residential support to single mothers, giving them not only a place to live during their pregnancy but also assistance with job skills, employment searches, health and wellness checkups, accompaniment during delivery and more.**

In 1982 a counterpart to Right to Life Michiana began to form on the other side of the diocese. What came to be called Northeast Indiana Right to Life immediately began similar work as its sister organization in South Bend, advocating for all stages of human life and referring women in crisis pregnancies to Women's Care Centers and other pregnancy centers in the area.

## Residential support and friends to lean on

Over time, the residential options for women also expanded. Hannah's House in Mishawaka, originally a partnership of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bethel College, Saint Joseph Community Hospital and Women's Care Center, opened in 1993 and continues today. It was joined in 2018 by the similarly missioned A Mother's Hope home in Fort Wayne.

Building on online resources like those offered by Right to Life Michiana, a 2020 initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops brought support for pregnant women to a wider and even more local audience. Parishes in the Diocese of Fort



## HerMichiana

### RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

HerMichiana, a website launched in 2019 by Right to Life Michiana, is the most recent effort of the single-minded, South Bend pro-life organization to encourage women in crisis pregnancies to carry their babies to term. Right to Life Michiana has been supporting women who choose life for their babies since 1972.

Wayne-South Bend have implemented Walking with Moms in Need, an effort to gather the immediate resources of parishes and their surrounding communities and present them to women faced with a crisis pregnancy. A directory of parishes and their WWMIN resources is on the diocesan website at walkingwithmomsfwsb.com/.

"Walking with Moms in Need was an effort to involve parishes in a more intentional way in making sure anyone in the parish knew where to refer a pregnant woman in need," said Everett. Parishes are inventorying the resources available in their immediate areas and working to make the faithful aware

of them so they can assist in making those resources better known. Any gaps in resources — including spiritual and emotional support, rides to appointments or even a baby shower — are encouraged to be filled through parish efforts and awareness.

Importantly, information about Walking with Moms in Need can also be accessed outside the parish by anyone who visits the website.

"We want to make everyone capable of letting mothers in crisis know they are not alone, that there is help to support them in making a life-affirming choice for their baby," said Everett. "There is so much help available to them."



Today's Catholic file photos



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# Extending welcome key to boosting African American vocations

BY KEVIN KILBANE

**T**hey are called vocation stories: people's accounts of how they felt God calling them to use their faith and gifts in service to the Church, their family or to others. Many people in the Catholic Church have these stories. Others don't have an ending yet: someone may have felt a call but never received the invitation or encouragement to pursue the vocation God placed on their heart. Too many of those unfinished stories involve African Americans and other people of color.

However, African American leaders in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend believe the Catholic Church has the means and tools to help more people of all backgrounds complete their vocation story.

"I am very excited about the future," said Deacon Mel Tardy of South Bend, the only ordained African American clergy member in the diocese. "I have a sense in my heart God already is working on things."

## The numbers

Of the approximately 41 million African Americans living in the United States, about 3 million, or 7 percent, are Catholic, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reports on its website, usccb.org. African American Catholic clergy and religious include one cardinal, four bishops, and about 250 priests, 440 deacons, 400 religious sisters and 50 religious brothers. They represent about .04 percent of the 3 million African American Catholics.

Figures weren't readily available on the number of African American Catholics in this diocese. Some Catholics may believe the diocese already has plenty of priests from Africa. But African priests' life experiences differ greatly from those of African Americans growing up with the sometimes-subtle, sometimes-overt racial discrimination in America, Deacon Tardy and James Summers believe. A seventh-generation Catholic,

Summers is beginning his final year of formation to become the diocese's second African American deacon. Summers and other candidates for the diaconate are scheduled to be instituted as acolytes Jan. 16 during a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

## All are called

Through baptism, all Catholics are called to a vocation, whether it be single or married; lay person, clergy, religious or consecrated life, said Deacon Tardy, who serves at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend and also chairs the diocese's Black Catholic Advisory Board. St. Augustine was founded in the early 1900s to serve African American Catholics who weren't welcome at white parishes and is now home to people from a mix of cultural backgrounds.

Many young people begin discerning God's call to a vocation by age 12 or 13, Deacon Tardy said. That also is about the age when some people start perceiving African American youths as a threat. The perception can derail attempts to follow a vocation call.

"African Americans have been made to feel like visitors in our own church," Summers said.

He has witnessed priests hesitate to give Communion to African American Catholics because they didn't believe African Americans could be Catholic. At a workshop a couple of years ago, a young African American woman recounted how parishioners at a Catholic Church had scrutinized her with the underlying message, "What are you doing here?"

To attract and retain more African American members and to encourage more vocations from that community, Deacon Tardy said the Church must speak out against racism in America and become more welcoming to people of color. In short, Catholics need to love each other better.

"A big part of love is someone is noticed," he said. "I can't go past you and not recognize your



Today's Catholic archive photo

**Deacon candidate James Summers of St. Pius X Parish in Granger believes the Catholic Church's social teachings can serve as a framework for parishes in becoming more welcoming to Catholics of all backgrounds and to encourage more vocations among African American members. Summers is beginning his fourth and final year of deacon formation on his way to becoming the diocese's second ordained African American clergy member.**

humanity and that you have a vital role in the kingdom of God. I need you to be who you need to be for me to be who I need to be."

To show that love, diocesan African American leaders suggest parishes and schools:

— Display images of saints of African descent and African American Church leaders so parishioners and visitors see people who look like them and feel welcome. The Catholic Church currently has no African American saints, but six African Americans are candidates for sainthood.

— Emphasize that God calls everyone to a vocation. Help people recognize their vocation and nurture their efforts to attain it.

— Recognize the gifts and talents God gives each person and encourage individuals to use

their gifts.

— Help children receive a good education. Young people need a strong academic foundation to complete seminary studies.

Catholic social teaching, which urges people to love and care for one another, also provides a framework for healing and moving forward together, said Summers, who attends St. Pius X Parish in Granger and is also active at St. Augustine in South Bend.

The sacrament of reconciliation, for example, allows people

to apologize and repent for wrongs they have committed, Summers said. Pastoral councils, synods and similar gatherings allow church members to voice different opinions, respect other viewpoints and come to agreement. "We should be leading the charge on how do we help the world heal and how do we help the community heal," he said.

At the same time, people of all backgrounds need to become more aware of their biases, said Summers, who worked for 40 years in corporate marketing before starting a consulting business whose services include diversity training. "I think you have to be more sensitive to when you are treating people as 'other,'" Summers said. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, I think it is by accident."

Likewise, he noted, "I know in my DNA one of my biggest biases is I expect to be treated as 'other.' So I need to stop and think, 'Did what I hear really mean that, or is it my mind spinning it another way?'"

## Broader perspective

The Church also could benefit from thinking more broadly about vocations, said Father David Jones, pastor of St. Benedict the African Parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The parish was founded to serve African American Catholics but now includes African immigrants and people of African descent from South America, Father Jones said.

Even with its much larger Black Catholic population, the Archdiocese of Chicago has ordained an African American priest about once every 12 years, he said. However, the response of his parishioners during the coronavirus pandemic led him to think about vocations in a new way.

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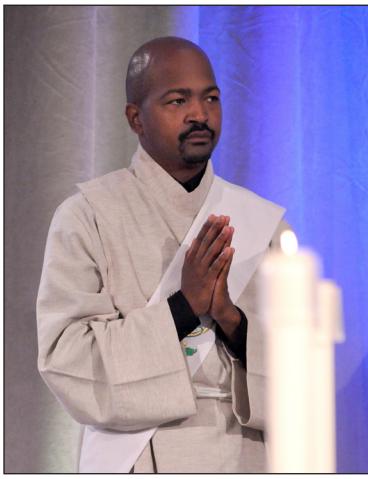


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Today's Catholic archive photo

**Deacon Mel Tardy, who serves at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, says all are called to a vocation, and the Catholic Church must develop wider efforts to help African Americans and others recognize and pursue theirs.**

together early on to make sure they and others stayed safe, Father Jones said. People formed strong personal connections through online programming that the parish offered while they couldn't meet in person. The online approach made it easier to stay in contact with young people, who then began asking to get actively involved in ministries at the parish.

The individual and Church both benefit as people pursue vocations of ministry within the parish, Father Jones said. That experience eventually could lead some people to consider becoming a priest or joining a religious order, he added, but that shouldn't be an all-or-nothing goal.

"Catholics must develop a culture of vocations — in our homes, parishes and schools," Deacon Tardy said. "Someone local must champion vocations. Conversations about marriage, religious or clerical vocations must become as normal as those about going to college or joining the military."

"Parishes and schools should have vocations committees to create awareness of diverse vocation stories, to more regularly foster discernment (for example, vocation days and projects) and to identify resources for further discernment and support," he said.

"Most importantly," he added, "folks need ready access to the steps to take if contemplating a religious or clerical vocation." He recommends four: spending time in prayer to determine one's vocation; learning through service whether one is called to obediently serve others; speaking with a pastor, religious sister, youth minister or deacon and acting on possible vocations by meeting with those who help in vocation discernment.

We all have the power within us to get where God wants us to go, Deacon Tardy said.

"If you look at the resources of the Church," he added, "I think we have the tools to get there together."

# In service and example of vocation to the Lord

## Deacon candidate James Summers



**DEACON CANDIDATE JAMES SUMMERS**

James Summers has always treasured his Catholic faith, but it took decades for him to consider stepping beyond the role of a layperson.

Summers, 70, grew up a cradle Catholic in Evanston, Illinois, a member of a family whose maternal roots in the Catholic faith go back seven generations. His mother's father was a pharmacist, and he and his wife moved their family to Evanston in the early 1900s.

Summers met his future wife, Wendy, while they both were in college. Her Catholic roots stretch back 10 generations, so they had a strong connection. He and Wendy, who now have been married for 46 years, first lived in the Oak Park area in Chicago.

"I've been a lector ever since we got married," James said. "Her dad was a lector, and I really respected him."

A job offer he received from Whirlpool Corporation brought them to Granger, near South Bend, in 1999. There they became active members at St. Pius X Parish.

Over the years, Wendy and other people occasionally suggested James consider becoming a deacon. He always dismissed the idea, as he couldn't see himself in that role at that time.

He started to roll back his defenses after he and Wendy attended a National Black Catholic Congress meeting in 2012 in Indianapolis. He was inspired by seeing so many Catholics that look like him and who were so joyful in celebrating the Mass.

"I had never felt so included in the Church as with that experience," he said.

He soon joined the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators. One of the association's priorities was sharing the good news of the gospel with more African Americans.

At one of the association's national meetings, he told some people he was thinking of entering training to become a deacon. The outpouring of support he received encouraged him.

He also was involved as a volunteer with SCORE, a nationwide mentorship program designed to aid people in starting small businesses, where he mentored mostly women and people from minority communities. "In all reality, though, my real contribution is to provide hope in the face of discouragement," he said.

The work sometimes left him frustrated or disheartened, and he wondered why he kept going back to it. A friend suggested he read the book, "Falling Upward,"

by Franciscan priest Father Richard Rohr.

Father Rohr describes the first stage of life as a time of filling the "container" to build a livelihood, support a family and other essential responsibilities, Summers said. Father Rohr sees the second half of life as a time of emptying the container by giving back.

James read the book just before the current class of deacon candidates began their formation in January 2020. About that time, Wendy also asked him again if he wanted to pursue a vocation as a deacon. He said yes.

He asked God to let him know if the Lord really wanted him to enter formation. James thought he would be too old to participate. His answer came when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades waived the age limit.

James is now entering his fourth and final year of formation. He would become the diocese's second African American deacon if ordained in 2023, joining Deacon Mel Tardy of St. Augustine Parish in South Bend.

"I have learned so much about my Church in the last three years, it is mind-blowing," James said.

One of the greatest gifts of formation training, he said, has been going deeper in prayer. Deacon candidates observe the Liturgy of the Hours, including morning prayer and evening prayer. They have become his favorite times of the day — praying and then sitting in the presence of God.

## Brother Roy Smith Sister Demetria Smith



**BROTHER ROY SMITH**



**SISTER DEMETRIA SMITH**

Brother Roy Smith and one of his sisters, Sister Demetria Smith, each heard God's call in their youth. They responded after people around them invited and encouraged them to consider a religious vocation.

The Smiths grew up as part of a large African American Catholic family in Indianapolis. Their father had

converted to Catholicism while working for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul religious order in Indianapolis, said Sister Demetria, MSOLA. She is a member of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa. Their mother joined the Church after their parents decided to marry.

Sister Demetria, 89, said she had wanted to go to Africa

since seeing a photo of two boys standing on the equator in Africa in one of her textbooks in fourth or fifth grade. As a youth, she also accompanied some Daughters of Charity sisters who went out to care for the poor and felt a strong pull toward that work.

Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa members stopped in Indianapolis periodically on recruiting trips, including at the Daughters of Charity's St. Vincent Hospital, where the future Sister Demetria worked as an aide. Her father told the sisters of his daughter's interest in Africa. They called her each time they came to Indianapolis. She eventually went with them to explore a possible vocation and never turned back, joining the order in 1952.

Brother Roy, 78, CSC, of the Congregation of Holy Cross Midwest Province in South Bend, recalls his family being actively involved in their parish. He was an altar server, and the priest often asked the altar servers if they had interest in a religious vocation.

While attending Cathedral High School, where he was a star athlete, he also began to think about working in some form of ministry, he said. The school was staffed by Holy Cross brothers, and the vocation coordinator asked him if he had considered a calling as a religious brother.

By senior year, he had decided to put a college football scholarship on hold so he could "try out" the Holy Cross brothers. He soon joined their team.

Both Smiths have led very active lives in ministry to the Church.

Sister Demetria, who now is retired and lives in Indianapolis, served for about 20 years in Africa, including in Uganda during the turbulent years of Idi Amin's rule during the 1970s. Brother Roy, who currently is development director for the Holy Cross brothers' Midwest Province in South Bend, has worked as a teacher and social worker at a variety of locations in the Midwest. His ministry also includes working from 1985 to 1997 at the Catholic Charities South Bend-Elkhart office, where he served as office director his last four years. He remains active at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend and has served as leader of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and is a member of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's Black Catholic Advisory Board.

Brother Roy, who believes he is the only African American religious brother in the diocese, said he didn't encounter any obstacles to pursuing his vocation. Sister Demetria did, beginning with many members of her religious order who did not understand that her education level and culture differed significantly from that of the people the sisters ministered to in Africa.

Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you," she recalled, and she sought strength in those words when facing tough times.

"As the saying goes, if God brings you to it, he will see you through it," she added.

Both Smiths have enjoyed their vocations. "I feel I am touching people's lives in a very positive way," Brother Roy said. "You feel you are an instrument of the Lord's peace."

## Deacon Mel Tardy

Sometimes finding the path to a vocation takes time and perseverance.

While growing up in the strong African American Catholic community in New Orleans, Deacon Mel Tardy, now 57, of South Bend remembers being interested in possibly becoming a religious brother but not knowing how to go about it. He also thought of becoming a priest, but the only priests he saw were white, so he wasn't sure African Americans could become one.

The road back to his early thoughts about a religious vocation began with a family trip to Atlanta in the early 2000s. While there, they decided to attend a large gathering of African American Catholic clergy and lay people.

After speaking with one man wearing a clerical collar, Deacon Tardy remembers saying, "Thank you, Father," thinking he was talking with a priest. "I'm not a father," the man replied. "I'm a deacon."

When the family returned to South Bend, he asked about becoming a deacon and was told the diocese didn't offer a deacon formation program. He turned to God, saying that if he was supposed to become a deacon, the Lord would have to provide a formation program.

"Five years later, my pastor came up and said, 'The diocese created a deacon program, and I put your name in,'" Deacon Tardy recalled. He was ordained a deacon in May 2011 and assigned to serve at St. Augustine.

Deacon Tardy, who is the only ordained African-American clergy member in the diocese, has gone on to hold numerous leadership positions. These include serving as current chairman of the diocese's Black Catholic Advisory Board, president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and a board member of the National Black Catholic Congress. He also is an associate advising professor at Notre Dame.

St. Augustine Parish remains a key part of his ministry, however, as he and his wife Annie nurture the faith in the multicultural community that inspired him.

# What are the laity supposed to be?

**B**ack in the 1950s, Dorothy Day, the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, began to articulate a vision that was largely ratified at the Second Vatican Council. She said that the prevailing notion of a "commandments spirituality" for the laity and a "counsels spirituality" for the clergy was dysfunctional. She was referencing the standard view of the period that the laity were called to a kind of least common denominator life of obeying the Ten Commandments — that is to say, avoiding the most fundamental violations of love and justice — whereas priests and religious were called to a heroic life of following the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Lay people were ordinary players, and the clergy were spiritual athletes. To all of this, Dorothy Day said a rather emphatic no. Every baptized person, she insisted, was summoned to heroic sanctity — which is to say, the practice of both the Commandments and the counsels.

As I say, Vatican II, in its doctrine on the universal call to holiness, endorsed this notion. Though the council fathers taught that there is a substantial difference between the manner in which clergy and laity incorporate poverty, chastity and obedience, they clearly instructed all followers of Christ to seek real sanctity by incorporating those ideals. So, what would this look like?

Let us take poverty first. Though the laity are not, at least typically, summoned to the sort of radical poverty adopted by, say, a Trappist monk, they are indeed supposed to practice a real

detachment from the goods of the world, precisely for the sake of their mission on behalf of the world. Unless a lay person has interior freedom from an addiction to wealth, power, pleasure, rank, honor, etc., she cannot follow the will of God as she ought. Only when the woman at the well put down her water jug, only when she stopped seeking to quench her thirst from the water of the world's pleasures, was she able to evangelize. (Jn 4) Similarly, only when a baptized person today liberates himself from an addiction to money, authority or good feelings is he ready to become the saint God wants him to be. So, poverty, in the sense of detachment, is essential to the holiness of the laity.

Chastity, the second of the evangelical counsels, is also crucial to lay spirituality. To be sure, though the way that the clergy and religious practice chastity — namely, as celibates — is unique to them, the virtue itself is just as applicable to the laity, for chastity simply means sexual uprightness or a rightly ordered sexuality. This implies bringing one's sexual life under the aegis of love. As Thomas Aquinas taught, love is not a feeling, but rather an act of the will; more precisely, willing the good of the other. It is the ecstatic act by which we break free from the ego, whose gravitational pull wants to draw everything to itself. Like the drive to eat and to drink, sex is a passion related to life itself, which is why it is so powerful and thus so spiritually dangerous, so liable to draw everything and everybody under its control.

Notice how the Church's teach-



## WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

ing that sex belongs within the context of marriage is meant to hold off this negative tendency. In saying that our sexuality should be subordinated to unity (the radical devotion to one's spouse) and procreation (the equally radical devotion to one's children), the Church is endeavoring to bring our sex lives completely under the umbrella of love. A disordered sexuality is a deeply destabilizing force within a person, which, in time, brings him off-kilter to love.

Finally, the laity are meant to practice obedience — again, not in the manner of religious but in a manner distinctive to the lay state. This is a willingness to follow not the voice of one's own ego, but the higher voice of God, to listen ("obedire" in Latin) to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

I have spoken often before of Hans Urs von Balthasar's distinction between the ego-drama — written, produced, directed by, and starring oneself — and the theo-drama — written, produced, and directed by God. We might say that the entire point of the spiritual life is to break free of the former so as to embrace the latter.

Catholics make up around 25% of our country. Imagine

BARRON, page 13



## WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

the Hours."

"Someday I'll invite Father over to dinner."

"Someday I'll volunteer to lector on Sunday."

"Someday I'll make that silent retreat."

"Someday I'll pray the rosary every night before bed."

They sit there on that "someday" list — these hopes and habits with no real direction and therefore no real resolve. Even though we know they are noble, worthy, good practices, they simply become these platitudes with no path to living them out.

These "someday" resolutions, promised at the start of a new year because it's what everyone else is doing, are not realistic behaviors we can put into practice and thus develop holy habits. They're these generalized promises made to no one, least of all ourselves.

So perhaps our mindset to these generalized resolutions for the new year that we'll forget in a matter of weeks can be made more specific, more purposeful, more immediate and, most of all, more tangible.

Perhaps we name in a very intentional way what it is we

MCGRADY, page 13

# Mary's example shows to us the glory of the Lord



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time John 2:1-11

**T**he Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend's first reading. When the third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just emerged from a terrible period in their history. Their homeland, divided into two kingdoms after the death of King Solomon, had been overrun by the mighty Babylonian Empire, centered in today's Iraq.

Many died or were killed in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital, where they and their descendants languished for four gen-

erations until political fortunes changed when the more powerful Persians conquered Babylonia itself.

As a result, the exiles were allowed to return to their homeland. The prophets did not see the sequence of events leading to this happy release as merely coincidental or the result of human decision-making. Rather, God provided for it. God had promised to protect the people.

The people upset the arrangement by sinning. Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided.

For its second reading this weekend the Church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Leading the Corinthian Christians to genuine fidelity was a considerable challenge for Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguments in Corinth, Paul wrote what has become a blueprint for Christian judgment of people.

Each human being, a child of God, is precious. Each has special gifts and opportunities. Such diversity was welcome, since it

meant that there were so many occasions for individual believers to bring the sweetness of the gospel into the world. Paul even listed different skills and talents to make his point.

St. John's Gospel supplies the third reading. Unique to John, the miracle at Cana in Galilee was the first recorded of the Lord's miracles. It marked the beginning of the Lord's public ministry.

The emphasis usually lies upon the marvel of the changing of the water into wine. This indeed was remarkable, but the story has other powerful lessons. A great lesson is about Mary.

John's Gospel never names her. It always simply refers to Mary as "the mother" of Jesus. This is not an oversight. It stresses her unique role as the Lord's earthly parent.

The response of Jesus to the obvious embarrassment of the host in not having enough wine for the guest can be puzzling. Was the Lord indifferent to the host's distress? His reply only stressed that the messianic

mission was not to provide for human needs, but to draw all to God and to eternal life.

Mary entered the picture. First, Jesus heard her. Secondly, her faith was unqualified and frank. She trusted the Lord, telling the servers to do whatever the Lord ordered them to do.

This reading reveals the power and mission of Jesus as well as Mary's perfect response in faith to the Lord.

### Reflection

The Church celebrated the feast of the Nativity at Christmas, rejoicing in the birth of the Lord in time and space. In observing the feast of the Epiphany, the Church joyfully proclaimed that the Lord came to show all of us the unlimited love of God. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord told us that Jesus lived and eventually died for us. He became one of us.

This weekend, in the words of Isaiah, the Church declares that earthly life would be beautiful if we all loved God in return. How

do we love God? The story of Cana tells us.

Jesus teaches that no human situation should distract us from the fact that being with God is our destiny and therefore our priority.

Mary instructs us that we can go to Jesus with any worry, but her example tells us, as she told the servants, that we must follow the Lord and trust Him.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-3, 7-10 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23 Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-22, 27-28 Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-13 Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21

# Eugenics, forced sterilization and protecting the mentally challenged

**A**lthough most Americans today are unaware of it, the United States has a sad and extensive history of forced sterilizations, especially within the past century. In 1907, Indiana legalized forced sterilizations of white men who were "mentally deficient," diseased, or otherwise disabled. More than 30 other states subsequently followed suit, and the practice quickly expanded to both men and women.

In 1927, the Virginia law allowing the sterilization of patients in mental institutions was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Buck v. Bell*. In the decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes made his now infamous proclamation that "three generations of imbeciles are enough," referring to Carrie Buck, her mother and daughter. Carrie was committed to a state mental institution as a "feeble minded woman," and the Virginia law allowed for her forced sterilization, allegedly for the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

The Supreme Court's decision featuring Justice Holmes' histrionic flair served to catalyze the then-trendy push for eugenics, the idea that preventing unfit individuals from reproducing served the public welfare. The flawed notion behind eugenics was that many social ills, including crime, poverty, and mental deficiency, were not due to environmental factors, but largely to genetic or hereditary defects. Vulnerable, institutionalized populations like the mentally ill, the disabled and the incarcerated were thus among the first targets of state-sponsored sterilization programs. The Virginia law remained on the books for a half century until it was finally repealed in 1974. All told, close to 60,000 Americans were rendered permanently infertile by these state-sponsored programs.

Historians have noted that Nazi Germany likely modeled its forced sterilization programs on the American eugenics programs of the 1930s. The law under which Hitler sterilized countless German citizens contains much of the same language found in the 1924 Virginia Sterilization Act, which provided for the sexual sterilization of any state hospital

inmate who was "insane, idiotic, imbecile, feeble-minded or epileptic, and by the laws of heredity ... the probable potential parent of socially inadequate offspring likewise afflicted."

The jarring tagline offered by Justice Holmes highlighted a biased, even disdainful attitude toward mentally ill persons and their ability to procreate. Few today would not be revolted by such strident branding of whole classes of individuals and families. Few would similarly countenance forcible state-sanctioned sterilizations, as still happens today, to near universal condemnation, in certain dictatorial regimes bent on population control.

Direct sterilizations violate human dignity. A physician's decision to recommend or participate in the surgical mutilation of a healthy and properly functioning system of the body for the purposes of impeding fertility runs counter to the authentic healing mission of the medical profession. At its core, medicine should be about fixing damaged systems of the body rather than damaging healthy systems.

Whenever we face situations where family members with severe mental illness or other disabilities may not be suited to the responsibilities and demands of having children and parenting, and hence ought not to get married, the solution should never be direct sterilization but tailored care that addresses their specific mental health situation and respects their human sexual nature by ordering it along a path of chastity.

This implies that caretakers for the seriously mentally ill in institutional settings should assure that residents are not given opportunities to engage in sexual encounters with others, that they be safeguarded from access to sexually explicit media and internet pornography, that they be instructed on the importance of chastity to the extent possible with their mental disability, and that residential settings be appropriately segregated as single-sex facilities.

In other words, caretakers for the seriously mentally challenged have a duty to protect them as they would protect, for exam-

families would be significantly strengthened; abortions would appreciably decrease. And picture what our country would be like if, right now, every Catholic decided to live in obedience to the voice of God. How much of the suffering caused by self-preoccupation would be diminished!

What I am describing in this article is, once again, part of the great Vatican II teaching on the universal call to holiness. Priests and bishops are meant, the Council Fathers taught, to teach



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

ple, young people or children. Although the bodies of mentally challenged residents may have matured sexually, some still function intellectually at or near the level of a child. Living in an institutional care facility is meant to offer protection from the chaos of the outside world where they would clearly be vulnerable and largely defenseless.

Sometimes it is argued that due to their well-documented risk to be victims of sexual assault, individuals who are mentally challenged, especially in institutional settings, should be forcefully sterilized "for their own good," whether temporarily through chemical sterilization (like contraception), or permanently through surgical sterilization.

It doesn't require much reflection, however, to see that if it were to become generally known that residents were taking contraceptives or had been sterilized, this would only "lower the threshold" for those who might wish to engage in predatory sexual activities to the detriment of their mentally challenged victims.

The real aim should be to prevent sexual assaults, not to prevent the obvious consequences that might follow from such assaults, like pregnancy. Addressing inadequate oversight by caretakers and eliminating the "institutional chaos" that allows sexual activity to occur with or among residents needs to be the focus. Individual responsibility and accountability are paramount.

Loving and caring for our family members with serious disabilities demands no less.

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.,** serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

and to sanctify the laity, who in turn are to sanctify the secular order, bringing Christ into politics, finance, entertainment, business, teaching, journalism, etc. And they do so precisely by embracing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

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

## BARRON, from page 12

what would happen if, overnight, every Catholic commenced to live in radical detachment from the goods of the world. How dramatically politics, economics and the culture would change for the better. Imagine what our country would be like if, today, every Catholic resolved to live chastely. We would make an enormous dent in the pornography business; human trafficking would be dramatically reduced;

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

### Gospel for January 16, 2022

*John 2:1-11*

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: The wedding wine of Cana. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WEDDING  
JESUS  
CONCERN  
SIX  
THIRTY  
THE BRIM  
GOOD WINE

CANA  
DISCIPLES  
MY HOUR  
STONE  
FILL THE JARS  
DRAW  
REVEALED

MOTHER  
WOMAN  
WHATEVER  
WATER JARS  
FILLED  
BRIDEGLROOM  
GLORY

## WATER JARS

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

## MCGRADY, from page 12

hope to achieve, and then make the resolution a practice we can reasonably begin to do in our lives.

"I hope to grow closer to the Lord" means I resolve to attend a weekday Mass at least one day a week.

"I hope to learn more about sacred Scripture" means I resolve to pray evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours at least two nights a week.

"I hope to become more comfortable in my parish community" means I resolve to invite Father over to dinner at some point before Lent begins.

"I hope to serve my church" means I resolve to finally call the parish secretary and ask about volunteering to become a lector.

The Lord doesn't ask us to "do" things for him at the beginning of a new year simply because every diet blog and health care website and each gym in town is screaming at

you to "make big changes" and "resolve to do better."

The Lord invites us to hope and dream about how close we are to Him and resolve to make the changes we need to make to grow closer to Him whenever we need to, and not just wait for the beginning of the new year or "someday."

Every time we go to confession, we make a resolution when we pray our act of contrition. We "firmly resolve with the help of thy grace" to change how we live, to avoid sin as best we can, to grow closer to Jesus.

Perhaps this is the year we firmly resolve to hope in new ways, and live and act in new ways, so we can see the fulfillment of those hopes, to ultimately be resolute in our resolve to someday grow closer to the Lord.

**Katie Prejean McGrady** is an international speaker and author.

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# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



**ST. ANTHONY  
—DE PADUA—  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## PRINCIPAL NEEDED

*St. Anthony de Padua School in South Bend is looking for a principal to start in the summer of 2022.*

The principal of St. Anthony will work to foster our Catholic identity and serve as the school's ministerial and educational leader. St. Anthony is a Catholic, Pre-K to 8th-grade school operated under the auspices of St. Anthony de Padua Parish and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The principal's primary responsibility is to envision and implement the school's philosophy, curriculum, co-curricular activities, discipline and personnel practices in realizing our communal and full potential in service to God.

### Qualifications:

- Active Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church
- Master of Education Degree or equivalent certification in administration
- A practicing Catholic with knowledge and belief in the mission of the school and Church

**Apply online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://diocesefwsb.org/careers)**

For more information, contact Father Ben Muhlenkamp at [frben@stasb.org](mailto:frben@stasb.org) or email [hr@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:hr@diocesefwsb.org)

## Youth Minister, St. Pius X Catholic Church

INDIANAPOLIS

St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis is seeking a **Full-time Coordinator of Youth Ministry** to join our parish staff.

The Coordinator of Youth Ministry is responsible for a comprehensive youth ministry program for junior high and high school, grades 6 through 12. Based on the "Renewing the Vision" document, this ministry fosters both the personal and spiritual growth of the youth and seeks to draw youth into awareness and participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community and the larger church.

Major responsibilities include the high school confirmation program, and high school and middle school catechesis and programming, as well as collaborating with pastoral staff and various committees. The Youth Minister is to be a visible and active member of the St. Pius X community, participating in parish and school activities and events, present and involved in liturgical celebrations, and actively involved and present in the school. Usual work hours will include nights and weekends.

Applicant must be a professed and practicing Catholic with a solid knowledge of the traditions and teachings of the Church, have a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry, religious education, theology or related field and have previous pastoral ministry experience in parish or campus setting.

Please email a cover letter, resume, and list of references to:  
Kaitlyn Blandford at [kblanford@spxparish.org](mailto:kblanford@spxparish.org).



DIOCESE OF  
**FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND**  
TRIBUNAL

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is hiring for the following full-time positions in the Marriage Tribunal office at the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne.

### Transcriptionist Bilingual Auditor

The perfect candidate for these positions is someone who has a strong attention to detail, well organized, proficient with Microsoft Word and office products, and can work independently.

Come join our team! The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend offers a robust benefit package including medical/dental/optical programs, discounted gym memberships, and Catholic school tuition discounts.

Apply online: [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://diocesefwsb.org/careers)

## Part-time Pastoral Associate St. Pius X Catholic Church

INDIANAPOLIS

St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis is seeking a **Part-time Pastoral Associate** to join our parish staff.

The Pastoral Associate is a lay minister who collaborates with the pastor and staff in the overall pastoral care of the parish. This position ministers to the sick and dying, nursing homes, coordinates bereavement for our parish, as well as other programs.

Major responsibilities include pastoral care and bringing the Eucharist to those sick in hospitals, nursing homes and home bound, Senior Adult ministry, ministering to the bereaved, coordinating volunteers for outreach ministries and coordinating the Christ Renews His Parish retreats for both men and women.

Applicant must have previous pastoral or related ministry experience, a basic, well-balanced foundation in Vatican II Catholic theology and spirituality and some understanding of human psychology and the grief process. It is preferred that the applicant have a bachelor's degree in Theology/Pastoral Studies or Pastoral Ministry/ Religious Studies.

Please email a cover letter, resume and list of references to:  
Deacon Rick Wagner at [r Wagner@spxparish.org](mailto:r Wagner@spxparish.org).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

## Little Flower Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will be Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The February holy hour will be led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611 for information.

## The Marriage Course Online

MISHAWAKA — Strengthen your marriage from the comfort of your own home with The Marriage Course Online. Based on a brand-new film series featuring "regular" couples and relationship experts from around the world, this free

seven-week program will take place online over Zoom on Thursday evenings from 8-10 p.m. Feb. 3 through March 17. Topics covered are strengthening connection, the art of communication, resolving conflict, the power of forgiveness, the impact of family, good sex, and love in action. The program is hosted by Lisa Everett, director for Marriage and Family Ministry for the diocese. For more information and to register, visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course).

**Most Precious Blood School trivia night**  
FORT WAYNE — Trivia Night at Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will be

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**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY  
OF FORT WAYNE**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Dedicated to serving at-risk children  
in our community!

**Baby Bottle Fundraiser 2022**

Please, look for the baby bottles at your church  
and take a bottle the weekend of **JANUARY 22-23**  
return it FULL of money on **FEBRUARY 12-13**

Donations accepted at:  
[christchildfw.org/donate](http://christchildfw.org/donate)  
Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne  
PO Box 12708, Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Saturday, Feb. 5. Cost is \$100 per team of 10. Doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m. Open to adults 21 and over. Adult beverages by Tower Bar and Grill. No outside beverages. You may bring your own food. Contact Angela Gernhardt 260-424-4832 or office2@preciousblood.org.

## 2022 Rekindle the Fire men's conference

FORT WAYNE — Join men from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for a Rekindle the Fire conference Saturday, Feb. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. This year's speakers are Tim Staples, Nathan Crankfield, Father Wade Menezes and Jason Shanks. Visit [www.rekindlethefire.net](http://www.rekindlethefire.net) for information.

**Belonging Parish Communities meeting: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities**  
FORT WAYNE — A meeting is offered the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. via Zoom to connect with others interested in helping children and adults with disabilities engage in meaningful participation at Mass and in our parish communities. To get the link, call 260-399-1452 or email [asturm@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:asturm@diocesefwsb.org).

## REST IN PEACE

### Bristol

James Kelly, Jr., 85,  
St. Mary of the  
Annunciation

Mary J. Norell, 66,  
St. Mary of the  
Annunciation

### Donaldson

Sister Antoinette Volk,  
PHJC, Ancilla Domini  
Chapel

### Fort Wayne

Judith C. Cramer, 75,  
St. Elizabeth Ann  
Seton

### Beverly A.

Zollinger, 65, St.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton

LaLonnie Hacha, 84,  
St. Jude

Carol M. Kelty, 85,  
St. Jude

Amber Firestine, 39,  
St. Vincent de Paul

Kathleen Jarboe, 84,  
St. Vincent de Paul

Raymond Schowe, 91,  
St. Vincent de Paul

Michael Stanczak, 84,  
St. Vincent de Paul

Walter Voigt, 79,  
St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Randy Ebright, Sr., 61,  
St. Pius X

Jeffrey Miller, 72,  
St. Pius X

Kenneth Woodka, 77,  
St. Pius X

### Mishawaka

Paul Bultinck, 74,  
St. Bavo

### South Bend

Patricia Bashaw, 79,  
Holy Cross

Winfield MacDonald,  
95, Holy Family

Renata T. Maciejewski,  
91, Holy Family

Mary A. McSorley, 95,  
Christ the King

Daniel R. Skwarcan,  
71, Christ the King

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# Diocese to host synod listening sessions

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend opened the 2021-2023 Synod on synodality on Oct. 16 of last year, and this year will begin hosting sessions for members of the diocese to attend beginning later this month. The aim of the synod is to allow those whose voices are not typically heard to give their feedback to the greater Church at large.

These listening sessions will be held at each of the six vicariates around the diocese and will be hosted by local parishes. The first will be at St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend on Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m., beginning with the celebration of Mass. From that starting point, other locations will hold their listening sessions until early March.

Sessions are open to anyone who would like to attend and are especially geared toward parishioners in each specific vicariate. Though the synod itself is basically a meeting of bishops, Pope Francis is highly focused on bringing the laity into the discussion on the universality of the Church, and particularly would like to hear from those "on the margins." Therefore, everyone is invited to attend the sessions and consider how the Church can continue to move toward furthering her mission. The actual meeting of the bishops will take place in 2023, and these listening sessions will provide the only opportunity that the laity will have to contribute to the process.

In his homily opening the synodal process, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said, "The Church

has become increasingly aware that synodality is the path for the entire people of God. It's a journeying together of all the faithful since all the baptized, both the hierarchy and the laity, are called to be active participants in the saving mission of the Church. There are a diversity of gifts and charisms among all the faithful for the renewal and building up of the Church.

"The theme of the synod, 'For a Synodal Church,' has three dimensions: Communion, Participation and Mission. We are being asked by the Holy Father to be open to the Holy Spirit and thus discern how God is calling us towards deeper communion, fuller participation and greater openness to fulfilling our mission in the world."

Bishop Rhoades reminds those who would like to be included in the process to listen to God's Word in Scripture and Tradition, to one another and to the poor and marginalized.

Prior to the opening of the fall assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in November, Archbishop William Lori gave a homily for the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In it, he said that difficult problems within the Church should not be avoided, but "Rather, we must seek to know and do the truth in love."

He emphasized the need for prayer as the process began and the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide it.

Some of the questions to reflect upon during the listening

sessions were provided by Anne Therese Stephens, diocesan coordinator of the synodal process. She strongly encourages anyone who plans to attend to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, particularly with the following questions:

- How is this "journeying together" to announce the gospel happening today in our local parish, campus ministry, university, religious congregation? What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together?"

- How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? Whose voices are currently not being heard?

- How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?

- How is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What areas of mission are we neglecting?

- What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share and how do we journey together?

- How is authority and governance exercised within our local Church (diocese/parish)? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice?

- What is our experience of celebrating the Eucharist? What are some ways our parishes and diocese can place greater emphasis on realizing the infinite value of the Eucharist within our Christian life?

to them so wonderfully, and with so much mercy and generosity. Take from my heart whatever is not pleasing to You, and make of it a worthy dwelling-place for Yourself. Illumine my mind, that I may see and understand the things that are for my eternal good. Inflame my heart with pure love of You, that I may be cleansed from the dross of all inordinate attachments, and that my whole life may be hidden with Jesus in God. Strengthen my will, that I may be made conformable to Your divine will, and be guided by Your holy inspirations. Aid me by Your grace to practice the divine lessons of humility, poverty, obedience, and contempt of the world, which Jesus taught us in His mortal life. Amen.

**South Bend: Friday, Jan. 21 | 11:30 AM-1 PM**

Rally at "The Hall" at 553, March to the Federal Courthouse

**Elkhart Prayer: Saturday, Jan. 22 | 12 PM-1 PM**

Along Bristol St. near St. Thomas Church

[prolifemichiana.org](http://prolifemichiana.org)