

**Venerable priest
Cause for Father Peyton
gets new postulator**

Page 2

**Russian threat grows
in Ukraine
Priests call for prayers**

Page 4

**Deacon candidates
answer call
Moving toward ordination**

Page 7

**Great-grandmother's
legacy
Teen advances pro-life cause**

Page 8

**Sending pro-life
message
South Bend baby box
installed**

Page 10

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 3

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Prayer 'powerful' tool in pro-life cause



CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit

Students from Chesterton Academy in Hopkins, Minn., pray the rosary at Planned Parenthood in St. Paul Jan. 5, 2022. A group of 40 students goes every week to stand up for life at the abortion facility, calling themselves "Crusaders for Life." See story page 3.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856**PUBLISHER:** Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**PUBLICATION MANAGER:** Nicole Hahn**Editorial Department****EDITOR:** Jodi Marlin**STAFF WRITER:** Jennifer Barton**PAGE DESIGNER:** Francie Hogan**Business Department****BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:**

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

BUSINESS SALES MANAGER: Erika Barron

ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: www.todayscatholic.org

260-456-2824

Published weekly, except for the last Sunday in December and every other week from the fourth Sunday in May through the last Sunday in August by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort
Wayne, IN 46856-1169
or email: circulation@diocesefwsb.org

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-
2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail,
Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-
456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to
publication date. Advertising deadline
is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at :
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB

Follow us on Twitter
[@diocesefwsb](https://twitter.com/diocesefwsb)

Follow us on Instagram
[@diocesefwsb](https://www.instagram.com/diocesefwsb)



New postulator named for Father Peyton's sainthood cause

EASTON, Mass. (CNS) — The Congregation of Holy Cross has appointed Valentina Culurgioni to be the new postulator for the sainthood cause of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton.

The congregation announced Jan. 12 that Culurgioni succeeds Andrea Ambrosi, a civil and canon lawyer in Rome, who retired as postulator.

Irish-born Father Peyton (1909-1992), a media pioneer, was declared "Venerable" by Pope Francis in 2017. Known as the "rosary priest," he served families worldwide by inspiring them to pray together daily.

He is well known for his famous messages, "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

The Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes granted Culurgioni the mandate to serve as the postulator, who is responsible for managing a cause through the Catholic Church's canonization process.

"We are so pleased with the appointment of Valentina Culurgioni as postulator of Father Peyton's cause," said Holy Cross Father Wilfred Raymond, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries, based in Easton. "Valentina is a woman of intelligence, talent and devout faith. She brings much to this important role."

Holy Cross Family Ministries continues the mission of Father Peyton by inspiring, promoting and fostering the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world. The organization includes Family Rosary, Family Theater Productions, Catholic Mom, the Museum of Family Prayer, Father Peyton Family Institutes and the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life.

According to the announcement about Culurgioni, she has worked in various capacities on sainthood causes, including the cause for the late Archbishop Theotonius Ganguly of Dhaka, Bangladesh, also a religious of the Congregation of Holy Cross, who has the title "Servant of God." Culurgioni also has been involved in other works for the Catholic Church.

"Her admiration for Father Peyton's life and works will bring great energy and enthusiasm to the cause process," said Holy Cross Father David Marcham, vice postulator and director of



CNS photo/Robyn Kenney, courtesy Holy Cross Family Ministries
Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, a candidate for sainthood, is seen in Long Beach, Calif., in this 1948 file photo. The priest's gratitude for a miraculous healing led him to create a media ministry that popularized the life-changing idea that "the family that prays together stays together."



CNS photo/Family Theater Productions
Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton is pictured in an undated photo. He founded Holy Cross Family Ministries.

minute examination.

By declaring him "Venerable," the pope confirmed he is a person of heroic virtues who is "worthy of emulation by the faithful."

The next step is beatification, after which he would be called "Blessed." The third step is canonization.

In general, for beatification, one miracle needs to be accepted by the church as having occurred through the intercession of the prospective saint and a second such verified miracle is needed for canonization.

Father Peyton was born Jan. 9, 1909, in Carracastle, County Mayo, Ireland. His parents, John and Mary Peyton, gathered their family to pray the rosary every evening. After emigrating from Ireland to the United States, Patrick became gravely ill as a seminarian and doctors offered no hope of recovery. He followed his parents' example and turned to the rosary.

He was "stricken with tuberculosis," said Father Raymond. "He prayed his rosary to the Blessed Mother and made a miraculous recovery. From that moment, he promised to spend the rest of his life on a special mission for Mary, bringing millions of families around the world together to pray the rosary just as his family did every evening."

Ordained June 15, 1941, Father Peyton began Family Rosary in Albany, New York, in 1942, with the goal of building family unity through daily prayer of the rosary. He went on to lead 28 million people in prayer at 40 rosary rallies including 2 million each at events in São Paulo and in Manila, Philippines.

He spent the 51 years of his priesthood serving the spiritual needs of families. In 1947, he founded Family Theater Productions in Hollywood, which produced 900 radio and TV programs that featured hundreds of star actors and other celebrities and had more than 10,000 broadcasts.

Father Peyton's mission continues today through 26 mission centers in 17 countries. Each mission center provides digital complimentary prayer resources on a variety of platforms for families as well as face-to-face events, including rosary rallies, days of reflection, seminars, and other fun, faith-filled events.

For more information about Father Peyton and Holy Cross Family Ministries, go to www.FatherPeyton.org and www.HCFM.org.



Students from Chesterton Academy in Hopkins, Minn., pray the rosary outside Planned Parenthood in St. Paul Jan. 5.

Praying weekly rosary at Planned Parenthood is 'powerful,' say students

BY DAVE HRBACEK

HOPKINS, Minn. (CNS) — Every Monday morning at 7:45 during the school year, a long line forms in the school office at Chesterton Academy in Hopkins. Most weeks, it stretches into the school entryway and out the front doors. On Jan. 3, 40 students made sure to arrive before the bell rang to signal the start of the school day.

Why? To be part of a group that, two days later, would get into several vehicles and SUVs, head 15 miles to St. Paul and pray a rosary in the biting cold at Planned Parenthood so they could make their presence felt as the "pro-life generation."

They call themselves "Crusaders for Life," and are led by a fierce defender of life — and Chesterton parent — Kalley Yanta, a regular at prayer gatherings at Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities for the past 20-plus years.

Although Yanta, who came up with the idea during the previous school year and pitched it to administrators, was unable to attend this gathering because of a COVID-19 quarantine, she was there in spirit — and by text — cheering on the students and their parent chaperones.

Despite the serious nature of the abortion issue and the fight to end the killing of unborn children, this gathering, like all others, was marked by joy.

There was also plenty of horn honking. At the prayer gathering, students held signs that read "Honk to End Abortion." Many motorists obliged, with some laying on their horns for a second or two. There also were

occasional blasts from semi-trailers, which, in the words of senior Gabriel Schmitz, "shake the whole (Planned Parenthood) building."

Although nearly all of the students were shivering in the sub-zero cold by the end of the final Hail Mary, their passion to fight against abortion remained red hot. The truth is, there would have been more than 40 students at this prayer gathering if Yanta hadn't capped the list at 40 for safety and logistical reasons.

Still, that's more than one-fourth of Chesterton's student body.

That's why there is such a rush every Monday to get to school early. Sophomores Claire Lelemsis and Therese Rivard, among others, want to make sure they get on the list every week. Both were part of the first group that went last school year, and have only missed signing up once since then.

"We kind of have a system," said Lelemsis, whose older brother Dominic, a senior, also comes. "Usually, whichever one of us gets to school first gets in line and then signs us both up. There's always a huge line coming out of the office — big traffic in the hallway — because so many kids are so passionate about this."

"It's such a community and bonding experience with our whole generation, and showing people that we are the pro-life generation," she told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The weekly prayer gatherings also express the school motto: "Cultura Vitae" ("Culture

of Life"). This is exactly what Dale Ahlquist, school co-founder and current interim headmaster, had in mind when Chesterton Academy opened its doors 14 years ago.

"When we formed the school, part of our mission was to counteract the culture of death," said Ahlquist, whose school, the flagship of the Chesterton Schools Network, has 150 students in grades nine through 12.

"And so, we've always had a pro-life charism (at) the school. ... When Kalley came in with this idea, it just resonated wonderfully. I think our only disappointment was that we hadn't thought of it earlier."

At first, only five or six students went every week, Lelemsis recalled. Steadily, the number grew and Yanta had to set a limit due to how many parent-drivers she could recruit every week, plus monitor the students' safety.

Yanta, an experienced pro-life activist and sidewalk counselor, knows that responses can sometimes be negative, and even hostile.

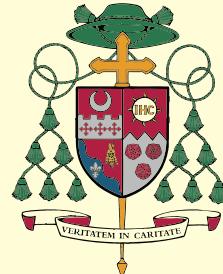
But that does not diminish the students' enthusiasm. They brave not only occasional rude remarks and gestures, but

"It's such a community and bonding experience with our whole generation, and showing people that we are the pro-life generation."

CLAIR LELEMSIS

He learned later that, while the group was there, two different cars pulled into the facility, each with an abortion-minded woman inside.

Both cars later drove out, and people inside the car told Chesterton students they changed their minds about abortion and decided not to go through with it because of the students' presence there. "That just really hit me," said DeReuil,



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Friday, January 28: 8:15 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit, St. Anthony of Padua School, South Bend

Sunday, January 30: 7:45 a.m. — Mass, St. Andrew's Oratory, Fort Wayne, for Poor Sisters of St. Clare

all kinds of weather, including severe cold on Jan. 5, with a wind chill below zero, just weeks ahead of Jan. 22 — the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

The gathering is all part of an effort to be, as Yanta described, "on the front lines, literally, of the greatest spiritual battle of all time.

"It's so cool," said Yanta, 56, a mother of six whose son Kolbe, a Chesterton junior, attends the weekly gatherings, as does her husband, Jon. "I love it so much because it gives our kids an opportunity to be bold, to be the hands, the feet, the hearts, the voices, the ears, the eyes, the love of Christ on the sidewalk for these babies and their mamas."

She thinks one of the main reasons Crusaders for Life is so popular with Chesterton students is the feeling of empowerment that comes with making the half-hour trip to Planned Parenthood every week.

"Teenagers often feel like there's nothing they can actually, tangibly do to make a difference in the world," she said. "But this is very tangible, especially among people like them who understand the power of prayer."

Sophomore Thomas DeReuil went for the first time last April.

whose older brother John Paul, a senior, also goes to the rosary gatherings. "They're real lives and you're actually saving them. It's just so powerful and crazy."

One byproduct of the event is the chance for people from all four grade levels at the school to get to know each other. All are on equal footing on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, and freshmen through seniors enjoy and appreciate the chance to pray together in the fight against abortion.

It also brings together parents and students. Jeff Mitchell rearranges his work schedule at his real estate business to come to Chesterton and serve as a driver, along with his wife, Erin. Sometimes he leads the rosary, as he did Jan. 5, and often goes with daughters Elizabeth, a junior, and Grace, a freshman. In the parking lot as students gathered before leaving, he sprinkled holy water on students as they passed by, another part of the event.

"It's great," he said. "It's a wonderful thing to serve Christ and to bring that joy and light in(to) the world right now."

Freshman Jack Berg started going in the fall of this school year and tries to make it every week. Occasionally, his older brother Fred also comes. Jack signed up just two weeks into the school year and, like DeReuil, was hooked immediately. "It was just life changing," he said. "It's my favorite part of each week. I'm so thankful for it and that this school takes the time to do that."

Berg has five siblings, and his mother has had several miscarriages, he said, so he has firsthand experience with both the life and death of unborn children.

"When I see a baby, the amount of joy that comes to my face is unbelievable," he said. "And to think of that life being taken every day in multiple (abortion) clinics all around the world, that's just a dagger in my heart."

Ukrainian priests appeal for prayers, support as Russian threat grows

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Two priests in Ukraine asked Western church leaders for support, especially in anticipation of a widely expected Russian invasion.

"While our TV news shows tanks and army units deployed on our borders, the war in eastern Ukraine is continuing — but the church in the West is saying little," said Msgr. Gregory Semenkov, chancellor of the Kharkiv-Zaporizhia Diocese.

"As faithful Catholics, we've nothing against Russians and provide regular Russian-language Masses, while our bishops' conference, being nonpolitical, has never taken a position on whether Ukraine should join NATO or the European Union. But these invasion preparations are posing severe hazards for us."

The priest spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 14 as talks between NATO and Russian officials, the first in two years, failed to reach agreement on Moscow's demands for an end to Western military backing for countries formerly belonging to the Soviet Union. Msgr. Semenkov said most Catholics believed a "major Russian show of force" was likely after the failure of East-West talks.

He told CNS that Ukraine's Catholics were uncertain how Russian forces would treat their Church, but added it had been agreed that priests and nuns should decide for themselves whether to leave or stay in the event of a "military aggression."

Father Roman Krat, judicial vicar of Ukraine's Odessa-Simferopol Diocese, said he also believed an invasion was likely, given the completion of Russia's 750-mile Nord Stream 2 gas



CNS photo/Valentyn Ogirenko, Reuters

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, Ukraine, major archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, celebrates the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv March 22, 2020. The archbishop said Jan. 14, 2022, that Ukrainians would "defend themselves and shed blood" if Russia invaded.

pipeline to Europe, good fighting conditions offered by frozen winter surfaces and the improbability of a military response by NATO.

He told CNS that support for Russian President Vladimir Putin had fallen among Russian-speaking Ukrainian Catholics because of events in the occupied Crimea and Donbas regions. He also said it was expected Catholic clergy would be required to accept Russian citizenship to continue ministering if Russian troops invaded.

"Putin knows some Western countries, already completely dependent on Russian gas, would choose warm homes over caring about Ukraine," he told CNS. "He also faces internal economic and social problems and needs to divert public attention — to show Russia is strong and victorious under his leadership. Although there's much bargaining and manipulation under way, these factors all point in one direction."

Father Krat also said several Catholic parishes would lie in the

direct path of a Russian attack.

"While we're aware NATO has not agreed to Russia's demands, we don't know whether this will provide a pretext for direct action or for further bargaining," he said. "But we do know there's a real threat now, on a different military level than previously, so we're seeking prayers for peace, as well as material help and support."

"Our church has cautiously avoided pronouncing on Ukraine's future alignments, believing this could negatively



CNS photo/Andriy Dubchak, Reuters

A member of the Ukrainian armed forces stands guard at combat positions near the line of separation from Russian-backed rebels near Horlivka, Ukraine, Jan. 9, 2022. Clergy in Ukraine are uncertain how a widely expected Russian invasion could affect Catholic life.

affect its future work," Father Krat told CNS. "But if the Russian army occupies these territories, there'll be a total change. The Church is unlikely to be outlawed or forced to close its dioceses, but its clergy will plummet, as Ukrainian priests are forced out and Polish priests made to go home."

In April 2014, Russian-backed separatists declared independent republics in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions, triggering a war that has left more than 14,000 dead. The international community still recognizes the regions as part of Ukraine.

Russia began amassing 120,000 troops on Ukraine's frontiers in late October, prompting fears of a three-pronged offensive involving tank attacks, airstrikes and artillery bombardments.

Speaking in Moscow Jan. 14, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said a NATO commitment never to expand or deploy forces to Ukraine was essential for defusing tensions, although Western governments have rejected the demand.

Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the country's Eastern Catholic Church, told Poland's Catholic Information Agency, KAI, Jan. 14, that there was a "strangely peaceful atmosphere" in the country, despite the border buildup, but also warned Ukrainians would "defend themselves and shed blood" if Russia invaded.

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Theology on Tap

Winter 2022: "Go Forth"

Tuesdays, Feb 1 - March 1
USF Historic Women's Club, 402 W Wayne St.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. | Talk begins at 7 p.m.
diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw

**Welcoming Dr. Emily Krach, D.O.
to our Credo Family**




- Dr. David J. Moran, MD
- Dr. Emily M. Krach, DO
- Cassandralee A. Herber, FNP-C
- Nicholas M. Lesch, PA-C
- Dr. Andrew J. Mullally, MD

CREDO
FAMILY MEDICINE

(260) 4- FAMILY
credofamilymedicine.com

PRIVATE • INDEPENDENT • PRO-LIFE



ICC backs bipartisan effort to limit ‘scourge’ of predatory lending

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is among the strongest voices in a chorus of support for legislation that would cap the exorbitant interest rates charged by the payday lending industry.

If the effort is successful, the Hoosier state would join half the nation in placing limits on the payday lending institutions that currently charge consumers an annual percentage rate (APR) of up to nearly 400 percent on the short-term loans that they offer. Senate Bill 253 and House Bill 1159 would restrict the APR on payday loans, also known as cash advances, to no more than 36 percent.

At a recent press conference introducing the bipartisan, bicameral legislation, lawmakers and allies alike said it is past time for Indiana to take a stand against predatory lending.

“With a 36 percent APR versus current Indiana law, borrowers could have saved \$60 million per year, putting more money into the local economy and communities that typically lack resources but allow payday lending to thrive,” said Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette), the author of Senate Bill 253. “We know that when borrowers take out a payday loan, they reborrow frequently, creating a cycle that they struggle to leave.”

Payday lenders are allowed

direct access to a borrower’s checking account as security for a loan, and they know the date that a borrower will be paid. A person living paycheck to paycheck or relying on Social Security or disability payments can quickly become entrapped in an endless cycle of debt, lawmakers and advocates say.

“I will be asking my colleagues to make sure (this legislation) gets a hearing and full consideration this session so we can stop this debt trap in Indiana once and for all,” Alting said.

Rep. Carey Hamilton (D-Indianapolis), author of House Bill 1159, also spoke out against what she characterized as the “shameless practices” of the payday lending industry.

“We have an obligation to protect vulnerable Hoosiers from this industry, which hurts every single person it comes across and only benefits its mostly out-of-state owners,” Hamilton said. “This industry strategically targets veterans and seniors, minority communities, and low-income working families.”

The lawmakers highlighted their proposed legislation at a Jan. 11 press conference sponsored by Hoosiers for Responsible Lending, a coalition of veterans’ organizations, social service agencies, consumer advocacy groups, and faith-based communities, including the



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

Catholic Church.

Speaking on behalf of the five Catholic bishops of Indiana, ICC leader Angela Espada called predatory lending tactics “evil and exploitative” and amounting to usury, which she noted is condemned by the Catholic Church and all major religions.

“You don’t have to be Catholic to know that predatory lending is wrong,” said Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “We should respect the dignity of all people. Put another way, we should love our neighbors, and if we love our neighbors, we don’t take advantage of them or exploit them.”

Espada cited remarks made by Pope Francis in 2014, when he called usury – the lending of money with an exorbitant rate of interest – “a dramatic social ill” and a “scourge on our society.” She added that in 2015, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) joined with other Christian denomina-

nations to form Faith for Just Lending, which calls for limits on predatory lending nationwide.

Legislative efforts to restrict the payday lending industry in Indiana have hit roadblocks in recent years. Advocates are hopeful that 2022 will be different, with companion bills in both the House and the Senate championed by lawmakers representing the two major parties.

“We have more momentum (this year) because of this bicameral and bipartisan effort,” said Andy Nielsen, senior policy analyst for the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, formerly the Indiana Institute for Working Families. “Both chambers have interest in this issue, and it isn’t divided over political ideology. Moreover, this is also a popular issue with Hoosier voters.”

Nielsen, whose organization is part of the Hoosiers for Responsible Lending coalition, cited data indicating that 88 percent of Indiana voters approve a

rate cap on payday loans.

“Now is the time for the General Assembly to take action on these bills,” Nielsen said.

Senate Bill 253 and House Bill 1159 have been assigned to committees, but hearings are not yet scheduled. Espada called on the Catholic faithful to learn more about the proposed legislation and to make their voices heard with their lawmakers.

“We need your help to stop this scourge in Indiana,” Espada said.

To follow this and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit 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.

Indiana's Premier Butcher Shop and Deli



4924 S. Calhoun St., Ft. Wayne
260-338-0022

2820 Maplecrest Rd., Ft. Wayne
260-485-0003

Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CATERING, MEAT BUNDLES, PREPARED FOOD, AND MORE!

2323 Almon St., Huntertown
260-637-0111

Mon-Sat 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



CATERING, CUSTOM PROCESSING, FOOD TRUCK,
WILD GAME, HOG ROASTS

Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

SYNOD LISTENING SESSIONS

Share your voice with Pope Francis.

Participate in a Listening Session.

Locations and dates: diocesefwsb.org/synod

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAININGS



Saturday, Feb 5
10 a.m. - noon
Fort Wayne & South Bend
diocesefwsb.org/trainings

Vatican announces 'Pilgrims of Hope' as motto for Holy Year 2025

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis approved "Pilgrims of Hope" as the motto for the Holy Year 2025. The motto aims to give a concise sense of the full meaning of the jubilee journey, Archbishop Rino Fisichella told Vatican News Jan. 13. The words "pilgrims" and "hope" also represent key themes of Pope Francis' pontificate, said the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which is in charge of the Holy Year planning efforts. The archbishop said the pope approved the motto Jan. 3 and that he is awaiting further instructions from the pope. In the meantime, the council already is working with Vatican and Italian authorities on the best way to welcome a large number of visitors during the year. Traditionally for holy years, the celebrations begin with the pope opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve and ends with the sealing of the door one year later. The holy doors of St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major are opened for the year, too.

Gomez: Imitate Rev. King's 'example, prophetic witness' in work for justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged all people of goodwill to commemorate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy Jan. 17 by remembering "not only the justice he pursued, but how he pursued it." The civil rights leader "was driven by the biblical vision of righteousness and truth, a vision that he understood to be reflected in our nation's founding documents," said Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez in a Jan. 15 statement. "He believed in what he called the 'American creed,' the belief expressed by our founders that all men and women are created equal and endowed by God with a sacred dignity and undeniable rights to life, liberty and equality," the prelate added. Rev. King, who was assassinated in 1968 at age 39, would have turned 93 on Jan. 15. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year. "America faces many challenges" today, Archbishop Gomez said, including "this ongoing pandemic, issues of economic inequality and racial discrimination, violence in our communities, the struggle to welcome immigrants and refugees." The nation also has "become more polarized and our divisions angrier." In looking to the future, he urged all to carry on his work "for equality and justice" and "imitate his example and prophetic witness."

Myanmar refugees flee to Thailand border



CNS photo/Athit Perawongmetha, Reuters

Myanmar refugees, who have fled a flare-up in fighting between the Myanmar army and insurgent groups and settled temporarily along the Moei River, bathe in the waters on the Thai-Myanmar border, in Mae Sot, Thailand, Jan. 7, 2022. Myanmar Archbishop Marco Tin Win of Mandalay has called for prayers for peace every Saturday as well as the first Sunday of every month.

New Jersey Catholic bishops decry passage of expansive new abortion law

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — In a joint statement Jan. 11, New Jersey's Catholic bishops unequivocally condemned the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, an expansive abortion bill they said was passed with extraordinary haste by the state Senate and General Assembly a day earlier. Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy, who is Catholic, has publicly committed to signing the bill into law. A replacement for the rejected Reproductive Freedom Act of October 2020, the new measure was passed by the Senate 23-15 and by the Assembly 46-22 with eight abstentions. Although abortion has long been legal and accessible in New Jersey, the new bill codifies it as constitutionally protected law, making any proposed law to limit or outlaw abortions null. The bill's proponents have argued that it protects a legal right to abortion in the state if the Supreme Court were to overturn its 1973 ruling in

Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion nationwide. "Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order, in effect on or adopted after the effective date of this act, that is determined to have the effect of limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice and that does not conform with the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, shall be deemed invalid and shall have no force or effect," the bill states. In their letter, the bishops expressed their "profound disappointment and deep concern about the passage of (the bill), which codifies into state law an individual's right to an abortion, including late-term abortions. This law departs from the fundamental Catholic teaching that all life is sacred from conception to natural death."

Annual 100-hour nonstop public Bible reading planned in Louisiana diocese

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (CNS) — An annual 100-hour, nonstop public Bible reading takes place in St. Martinville in the Diocese of

Lafayette Jan. 19-23. The holy Bible will be read publicly from cover to cover without pause in the square of the diocese's oldest church parish, St. Martin de Tours. The parish was erected in 1765 and the present church dates to 1836. The reading will begin at 12:30 p.m. (local time) Jan. 19 and end at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 23, which is Word of God Sunday. During the four days of continuous reading, 300 lectors from the various 121 parish churches in the Diocese of Lafayette as well as faith leaders from other denominations from across the Acadiana region will be employed. In addition to English, selections of the Bible will be read in French, Italian, German, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Latin and Greek. More than 3,000 people usually attend at various times throughout the 100 hours. The Bible Marathon will be livestreamed on the Fête-Dieu du Teche Facebook page. The special event is intended to help "prime the pump" and reignite a love for the word of God and its practice in our lives, said Father Michael Champagne, a priest of the Community of Jesus Crucified, who is the organizer of the event.

Archbishop calls for prayers for Myanmar, which faces multiple crises

MANDALAY, Myanmar (CNS) — Archbishop Marco Tin Win of Mandalay has urged Catholics in Myanmar to hold special prayers for the nation facing "the crisis of COVID-19, hunger, civil wars and torture." Ucanews.com reported the prelate has designated every Saturday evening for one hour of eucharistic adoration and the first Sunday of every month for Mass with the intention of peace. Archbishop Tin Win is the only Catholic leader to openly lend moral support to pro-democracy protesters; he stood with them on a street in Mandalay after the February 2021 coup. The archbishop has called on Catholics to not lose hope and to have a deep faith in God amid the fear, anxiety and hopelessness gripping their nation, ucanews.com reported. After more than five decades of military rule, Myanmar was on the road to democracy, but the political, economic and social freedoms that began to sprout in 2011 were abruptly ended by the military coup. The country has witnessed intense fighting between the military junta and rebel forces in the past few months in ethnic areas, including the predominantly Christian Kayah, Chin and Karen states, where civilians have been forced to leave their homes and flee to forests or take shelter in church institutions.

Pope: Synodality about listening to the Spirit, not a 'majority consensus'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The synodal process is a path of engagement that makes room for the Holy Spirit, and not a "majority consensus like a parliament" to guide the universal church, Pope Francis said. Speaking with leaders of the French Catholic Action movement Jan. 13, the pope said that synodality is "not a plan or a program to be implemented" but "a style to be adopted" that listens to the spirit through the word of God, prayer and adoration. The French bishops' conference had said the purpose of the meeting was for the Catholic Action leaders to present to the pope and other Vatican leaders a document titled "Being Apostles today." The goal of the document, which is the culmination of two years of work by Catholic groups in France, is "to discern what unites them in their approach and their actions," the bishops' conference said in a press release. The French bishops' conference also noted that the document aligns with the goals of the upcoming Synod of Bishops on synodality.



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Twenty men are currently in formation to become permanent deacons for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. On Sunday, Jan. 16, they were installed as acolytes by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and are on track for ordination next spring.

Twenty deacon candidates installed as acolytes

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The smell of incense wafted through the air at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Jan. 16 as 20 men took their final liturgical step toward ordination to the permanent diaconate, the installation of acolytes. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades praised them for hearing and answering God's call to service. If it be God's will, these men will be ordained next spring.

Family and friends and especially the wives of the deacon candidates were in attendance alongside several other deacons from around the diocese. Father Stephen Colchin and Father Louis Fowoyo concelebrated.

An acolyte is one who assists at religious ceremonies, mainly at the Mass, and its roots lead back to the Greek word for "follower." In his role as acolyte, each deacon candidate has been preparing to aid the priest in serving at the altar, distributing Communion at Mass and bringing the Sacrament to the homebound. Last year, these men were installed as lectors in the Church. After ordination, in addition to their other acts of service, the deacons will then be allowed to proclaim the Gospel and give homilies.

"It is a ministry of charity, especially to the weak and the sick; a ministry centered in the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ's love," Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. Addressing the deacon candidates, he continued: "Dear sons in Christ, as

"It is a ministry of charity, especially to the weak and the sick; a ministry centered in the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ's love."

— Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

you bring the Eucharist to God's people, you are also to carry His love to them through your care and concern for them. You will bring Jesus to them in your hands, but also in your hearts."

Both the first reading and St. John's Gospel speak of wedding feasts and wine; with Isaiah speaking of bountiful wine at the Messiah's coming and the Gospel telling the familiar story of Christ's first miracle, turning water into wine. "The abundance of wine Isaiah prophesied was miraculously produced at Cana," the bishop continued. "So the miracle at Cana was a sign that Jesus was the Messiah."

He went on to explain that this miracle also pointed to Jesus as the bridegroom, who, in Jewish tradition, provided the wine at wedding feasts. "By transforming the water into wine and assuming the role of the Jewish Bridegroom, Jesus is beginning to suggest that the prophecies of the divine bridegroom are being fulfilled in Him."

Bishop Rhoades pointed out how this event foreshadowed the Last Supper. "Jesus gives the wine of salvation at the Last Supper, when the hour of His passion arrives. Jesus identifies the wine at the supper as his blood and calls it the blood of the new and eternal covenant. . .



An acolyte can assist a priest at Mass and distribute holy Communion. These 20 men affirmed their call to service at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades.

He gives the new wine of salvation, His Blood, along with His Body, to the disciples and to the Church, His bride.

He concluded by saying that Jesus, "gives us the superabundant grace of His love and nourishes us to live in His love and to bring His love into the world. My sons about to be instituted as acolytes, may you always be devoted to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. May you bring His

love and grace to all whom you will serve as acolytes and as His future deacons!"

After the homily, each of the deacon candidates knelt before the bishop, who handed them a ciborium and asked if they were prepared to give a life of service to the Church.

The newly instituted acolytes include Daniel Avila, Joseph Brown, Steven Burkins, John Burzynski, Joseph Cochran, Roger Dinius, Curt Feece, Edward Fox, Philip Hayes, Raymond Krouse, Thomas Labuzienski, Robert Lortie, Orlando Miranda, Andrew Oross, Maximo Ortega, Michael Plenzler, Stephen Reed, Robin Slocum, James Summers, Jr. and Harry Verhiley.

Four of the deacon candidates represent St. Pius X in Granger and others come from parishes across the diocese. One of these candidates, Burkins, hails from St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. He said he began his journey by looking into the possibility of becoming a permanent deacon when his children were younger, but he was advised to wait until they were older. "I never honestly thought too much about it until Father Fernando (Jiménez) approached me several years ago now and felt the call then, and had to say yes," he remarked.

He feels "very blessed" to receive this calling and has

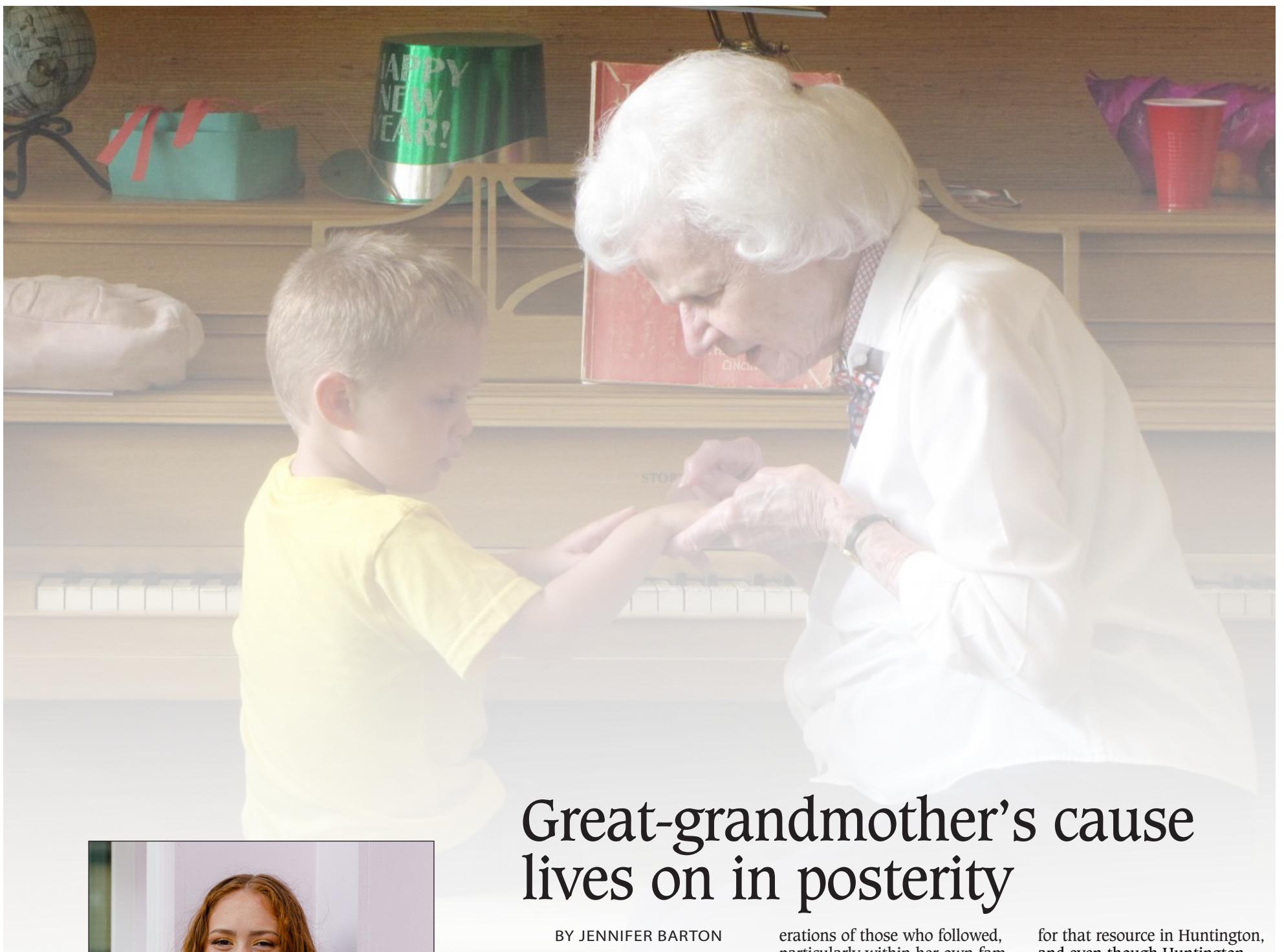
grown in his faith over the last three years of the process. "The program's amazing, I can't say enough good things about it."

Ortega, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne, was influenced by two other deacons who had previously gone through the training at his parish. "Just by looking at their example, they were a big inspiration to decide to join the program when the opportunity came."

He stated that the training was "completely challenging, but it's been a blessing. I always tell my wife that if today they decided I would have to be dropped from the program, I will still be grateful because all we have learned, all the things we have seen, and most important, all the people that we have been able to know."

Both he and his wife, Flor, are originally from Mexico where they knew each other from their time in youth group. Flor stated that Max is always so excited after each class and he translates the lessons for her on their drive home from Warsaw so that she fully understands them. The two of them have been learning much about the faith together as he progresses in his training. "At some point, I said, 'Well, I've been Catholic all my life, what else can I know?'" he said with a laugh. "Now I know that these four years are not going to be enough, we have to keep learning because the richness of the faith is incredible."

He also said the time in formation has passed quickly and he is looking forward to next year's ordination ceremony.



Great-grandmother's cause lives on in posterity

BY JENNIFER BARTON

More than 45 years ago when abortion was made legal in the U.S., a local woman saw the need to support pregnant women and help protect the lives of unborn babies in her small corner of the world. The year after that fateful decision, Blanche Marie Hunckler helped found the Huntington County Gift of Life, which became the Huntington County Right to Life. Perhaps it was her love for God or her degree in nursing that fueled this desire, but she gave many years of service for the cause.

Hunckler served on the pro-life board for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend under Bishop William E. McManus, organized fundraisers for the Right to Life and instructed students at Huntington Catholic High School on this critical issue so that they could be prepared to argue the case for life. With her husband Paul, she raised her own children in the faith at SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

Unfortunately for this world, God's work for her came to an end in December of 2020 after 100 years of life. But her passion and her defense of life continues to echo down through the gen-

erations of those who followed, particularly within her own family. Her great-granddaughter, Erica, has taken up the torch in the pro-life movement.

Erica lives in Noblesville, though she remembers the first time her great-grandmother took her to the HCRTL office as a young girl. "I didn't fully understand what abortion was, obviously, because I was so young," she shared. What she did connect with were the models on display showing an unborn baby from conception to birth, "and that's an image that stuck with me throughout this growing passion of mine, because, to me, it's so obvious, the humanity of the unborn."

She described her great-grandmother as being active, even to her last days, with projects piled up on a desk at the nursing home where Blanche Marie spent her last few years. During that time, Blanche Marie did her best to continue supporting the efforts of the Right to Life organization she helped establish. Sadly, due to lack of volunteers, the Huntington office was recently forced to close its doors, though there is still potential for its reopening if new volunteers can be found.

"I know that my great-grandmother was a huge driving force

for that resource in Huntington, and even though Huntington is such a small community, it's proof that they were necessary for this community because they stayed going through this year, from the 1970s to this past year," Erica said.

In her junior year at Guerin Catholic High School within the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, Erica sought to deepen her involvement in the pro-life movement. A group called Teens for Life was already established at her school, though it had been mostly inactive in her early high school years. She stated, "I was itching to do something, especially with changes in presidents and laws and there's so much going on around the cause that I really thought there was more we could do."

A new leadership team was established and "we signed a contract with Students for Life, so that national organization has allowed us to be involved in things we've never been involved with before." Their regional coordinator, Mary Carmen, has been invaluable in engaging Guerin students in the cause, as well as providing materials for Erica to use at the school.

Now a senior, one of Erica's tasks in the Students for Life organization at Guerin Catholic



Provided by Erica Hunckler

Blanche Marie Hunckler had a deep love for life and helped co-found the Huntington County Right to Life office. Now her great-granddaughter, Erica, continues her legacy of supporting the unborn as a senior at her school, Guerin Catholic High School in Noblesville.

is to manage their social media. She was inspired to create a T-shirt for the club that would proclaim the pro-life message and wanted to find a catchy way to "express our mission." A late-night brainstorming session gave life to a heart-wrenching poem about the pain of abortion and the counterarguments against it. She called it "Breaking the Silence."

Part of the inspiration behind the poem are the videos that Erica often watches on Live Action's YouTube channel, where volunteers begin conversations about abortion with people on the street. She believes that it is important to know the arguments for and against abortion and to have these types of conversations that allow others to come to the morally correct decision about abortion, and not to be coerced into it. In the poem, Erica hits the hard truths behind the industry's lies, focusing on issues such as women's rights and Planned Parenthood's racially driven objectives.

"Something I really started to develop an understanding for through Students for Life is the deeper meaning of how this isn't pro-women, it's profoundly anti-women. That's one of the biggest points that I really want to drive home with that," Erica emphasized.

Erica took her poem to a group chat of friends who are involved in Students for Life and received positive responses. Additionally, another school asked if they could post it to their website and Instagram account. Erica even sent it to the HCRTL, which published it in their newsletter.

While it was her great-grandmother who first introduced her to the pro-life cause, Erica has embraced it as her own because, as she said, "It's not just because the Catholic Church says so – they're not blindly telling people what to do here – it's really, life is a gift, and it begins at conception."

Her father Paul is the oldest

of Blanche Marie's grandchildren. He stated that he, along with his wife Maggie, are very proud of Erica's efforts on behalf of the unborn, carrying on the legacy his grandmother began so long ago.

Breaking The Silence

At ten weeks

*I have ten fingers
And ten toes.
I have two eyes,
Two ears,
One mouth,
And one nose.
I have a beating heart
That will continue to grow,
With love for you,
And the world I have yet to know.*

*This body of mine-
Yes- it is my own. Uniquely made,
By God, I was sewn
Into my mother's womb
So, let it be known:*

*I was made
In the Image of God, The only
One
Who sits on the throne.*

*With Him reside the Angels,
Saints, and souls,
Who lost their lives,
As they were torn,*

Part from whole.

*Let us not forget,
The parents filled with regret,
And their need to be consoled.
No rally, protest, or political poll
Can prepare a mother or a father,
For the toll,*

*That abortion takes,
On their immortal soul.*

*To those who know
Of the lies that spread:
Share the truth with them
instead.*

*No woman needs abortion,
To be a woman of ambition.
It is through this detestable
invention,
That misogyny continues to be
written, In our laws and in the
hearts,
And in the minds
Of young gentlemen.*

*There is a popular pro-choice
claim:
"Old white men are those to
blame."*

*With tongue in cheek
I say this is true,
For the justices in favor,
Of a woman's "right to choose"*

*Nine justices
On the bench.
Nine white justices
Were appointed,
So they went.
To fulfill their duty,
Regardless of by whom they were
sent.
Nine white male justices
And just two of them would
dissent.*

*From this decision came,
Legalization
Of an incorporation
That inflicts pain.*

*I prefer to use their name,
Because Planned Parenthood,
Is seemingly unashamed.
Spreading lies for personal gain.
Exploiting women to boost their
fame.
Stand up! Be not afraid!
Our bodies are not Planned
Parenthood's domain.*

*They prey on the marginalized,
Marketing specifically in their
location,
Establishing their disservice
With countless health violations.
Did someone forget to mention?
Racism is their foundation-
Abortion's minority is Caucasian.*

*48 years pass.
Generations are heartbroken
Alas, hearts burst into shards
Like a pile of shattered glass,
Because the deafening silence,
Of aborted children en masse,
Thunders in the hearts
Made of glass.*

Marches planned in support of life

It has been 49 years since the fateful 1972 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states. In the years following that decision, many organizations have held annual peaceful protests to pray and offer support for the unborn. There are several options for those who wish to support the pro-life movement both locally and nationally.

Washington, D.C.: National March for Life

Friday, Jan. 21; Rally for Life at noon, March for Life 1 p.m.
National Mall to Capitol Hill

South Bend: Rally and March for Life

Friday, Jan. 21; 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: "The Hall," 553 E. Washington St.

Elkhart: Prayer for Life

Saturday, Jan. 22; noon to 1 p.m.
Location: along Bristol St. near St. Thomas the Apostle Church; 1331 N. Main St.
Pro-life Mass at 11 a.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Warsaw: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Service

Saturday, Jan. 22; noon
Location: Kosciusko County Courthouse

Columbia City: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Service

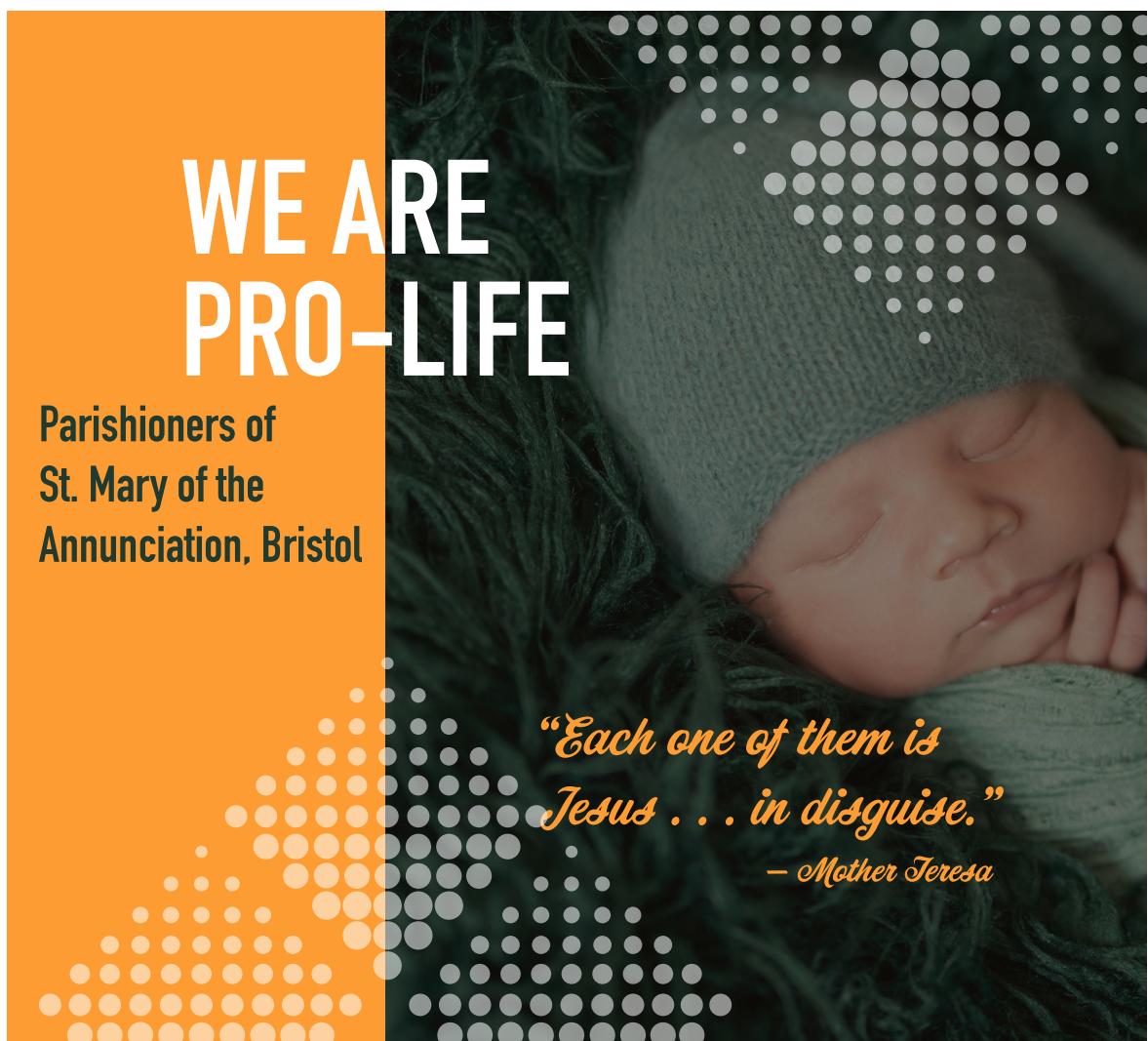
Saturday, Jan. 22; noon
Location: Whitley County Courthouse

Plymouth: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Service

Saturday, Jan. 22; noon
Location: Plymouth County Courthouse

Fort Wayne: Northeast Indiana March for Life

Saturday, Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m.
Location: University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center; 431 W. Berry St.
Rally with march to follow



WE ARE PRO-LIFE

Parishioners of
St. Mary of the
Annunciation, Bristol

*"Each one of them is
Jesus . . . in disguise."*

– Mother Teresa

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish
Fort Wayne**

“9 have
come
that they
may have life,
and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

South Bend baby box 'sends a message'

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The mission of Safe Haven Baby Boxes is to aid mothers in crisis, and the baby boxes that they have helped install in locations across Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and even as far away as Arizona and Florida are a last line of defense for life. For the past two years, Knights of Columbus groups in South Bend have been working to bring a baby box to their city. That dream has finally come true as of Jan. 13, when a box was dedicated at Fire Station 11 on Bendix Drive.

Knights of Columbus Council 553, a combined council from several different parishes, helped spearhead these efforts. Knight Tim McBride spoke to Today's Catholic about the council's role in bringing the baby box to the area.

Through Indiana's Safe Haven Law, anyone is able to surrender an infant less than 45 days old with any emergency service provider without revealing their name or other information, or, as Safe Haven's billboards read, "No shame, no blame, no names."

In spite of these laws, sometimes people feel too ashamed, embarrassed or afraid to surrender a child in a face-to-face situation. The case of a New Mexico woman who gave birth and abandoned her still-living infant son in a dumpster on Jan. 7 demonstrates the need for greater public awareness of the Safe Haven Laws, as well as an anonymous means of surrendering an infant. The hope is that the baby boxes could potentially prevent these devastating stories.

McBride told of a woman who worked closely with emergency personnel and so surrendered her infant in a nearby town's baby box to remain anonymous.

Typically, these boxes are installed at hospitals or fire



Provided by Tim McBride

South Bend Fire Chief Carl Buchanon spoke at the dedication of the Safe Haven Baby Box, which was installed at Fire Station 11 in South Bend on Jan. 13. The Knights of Columbus color guard was present at the event, as Council 553 was instrumental in raising money for the baby box.

stations that have around-the-clock staffing. When a baby is placed inside, the exterior door locks once closed so that no one can reopen it and a silent alert is sent to personnel inside, who can retrieve the infant only through the interior door. The box has oxygen and is climate-controlled, so there is no danger to the child in the brief time he or she would be inside it.

Members of Council 553 learned all of this at their state convention years ago. They also learned that a baby box costs \$10,000; half for the box itself and half for the billboards that Safe Haven puts up in the community to inform people of the Safe Haven Law, along with an additional \$200 a year for maintenance. "We decided that this was a good thing, and decided

to do it in South Bend," McBride stated.

Within just a couple of weeks, Council 553 and the recently formed St. Thérèse Martin council at St. Thérèse Little Flower Parish had raised a large sum of money – enough for not just one baby box, but two. Much of the money came from the Knights themselves, which McBride noted was a testimony to the organization's dedication to save lives and "help mothers have babies."

Initially, community leaders in South Bend were not friendly to the idea of a baby box, but the mayor of Mishawaka was, so the Knights started there. Due to delays, that baby box is still in the installation process and should be functional soon. In the meantime, the Knights got word that South Bend mayor James

Mueller had an interest in bringing one to that city, which had been their original target area. While waiting for the Mishawaka baby box to be installed, they again approached the idea of one in South Bend.

They brought Monica Kelsey, the founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, to speak with a group of community leaders, including fire department officials, and that is when the wheels began to turn. Kelsey is a retired firefighter and as McBride put it, "she got their attention" by speaking as one of their own about their role in saving lives. Most firefighters had never rescued an infant from a fire, but the baby box gave them a different opportunity to save a child's life.

Though it was the Knights who raised the money for the

baby box, McBride said that it was the fire department and the city that truly made it happen. There are specific location requirements for baby box placement: it cannot be in a public place, must be well-lit with sidewalks, yet without windows to maintain anonymity. The fire fighters dug and funded the new sidewalks; local unions finished them and completed the electrical work, all free of charge. First Response, a company that rebuilds homes after fires, volunteered to install the box for free at the fire station, which "laid aside another big issue," said McBride.

First responders are trained to know what to do if an infant is placed in the box, and Safe Haven provides this training before the baby box goes into operation.

For McBride, the significance of this is more than "babies being put in there. I hope it sends a message that life matters here in South Bend. ... It leaves the city with a statement – that life is important in this town."

Around the same time the Knights were raising money for the baby box, the Women's Care Center asked if they would be able to assist in purchasing an ultrasound machine for their ministry – a tool that is crucial in helping expectant mothers choose life for their unborn children. A matching donation by the national Knights of Columbus organization increased the \$15,000 they raised to \$30,000. McBride is proud to report that the Knights raised around \$50,000 for the pro-life cause in a very short time period.

Father Jim Fenstemaker is the chaplain for Council 553 and also a Knight. He attended the dedication ceremony on Thursday to offer a blessing. South Bend Fire Chief Carl Buchanon spoke at the event, and Safe Haven founder Kelsey and other city officials, along with members of the Knights of Columbus were also present.

Father Fenstemaker praised McBride for steering the efforts to bring a baby box to South Bend. "Tim deserves a tremendous amount of credit – his enthusiasm, vision, energy level, commitment and dedication to this – he's the reason this is happening."

Council 553 is one of the diocese's earliest councils, more than 120 years old, and at one time included most of the parishes in South Bend. Building a culture of life is part of the Knights' principle of charity, and bringing a baby box to South Bend puts that principle into play. As Father Fenstemaker put it, "This is a wonderful sign of the dedication the Knights have for respect life issues and the pro-life movement."

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

God, author of all life, bless, we pray,
all unborn children; give them constant
protection and grant them a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.

Adapted from the

"Rite of Blessing of a Child in the Womb"

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH

52473 State Road 933 • South Bend, Indiana 46637

**It was you who created my inmost self;
and put me together in my mother's womb;
for all these mysteries I thank you.
For the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works.**

Psalm 139:13-14

**CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
South Bend**

Newborn abandonment case prompts renewed emphasis on 'safe haven' efforts

BY TOM TRACY

In 20 years of community organizing, resulting in more than 300 cases of newborns saved from infant abandonment, Floridian Nick Silverio has never actually witnessed a criminal child abandonment in progress.

Until, that is, a group of people looking through a dumpster in Hobbs, New Mexico, discovered a newborn infant boy still alive and reportedly wrapped in a dirty blanket with its umbilical cord still attached.

Surveillance video taken outside near the dumpster and recently aired on national news led police to the arrest of a teen mother, showing the moments Alexis Avila, 18, allegedly tossed a black garbage bag into the dumpster.

Police have charged the woman, who has confessed to the crime, with attempted murder and child abuse.

Avila reportedly told police she gave birth to the boy in her parents' bathroom earlier in the day and panicked. She allegedly stuffed the baby inside two plastic bags, one with other trash, and put it in the dumpster.

"She got out of the car very

slowly and threw the baby in like you would throw out the trash – we have never seen that happen (on video)," said Silverio, a former information technology business owner who is the founder of A Safe Haven For Newborns near

"It was horrific, it breaks your heart to see the callousness of someone abandon a life and destroying her own – her life is over now, basically."

NICK SILVERIO

Miami.

A network of volunteers, hospitals and fire departments in Florida works to save infants from the dangers of abandonment and an almost certain death. A Safe Haven for Newborns operates a 24/7 hotline that connects

mothers in crisis around the U.S. with safe and legal options for placing their children in an adoptive home.

Many state laws allow mothers – or fathers – to take an unharmed newborn up to 7 days old to a designated safe haven drop-off location such as a local hospital instead of leaving them somewhere else or doing something they will later regret.

"It was horrific, it breaks your heart to see the callousness of someone abandon a life and destroying her own – her life is over now, basically," Silverio said of the New Mexico incident.

If the teen had known about a safe haven, "would she have exercised that option?" he wondered.

If she did know of it, hopefully she would have sought help, he added. "I don't know what gets into the mind of someone like that; it seems they are not connected to society and do they know that there are options for such a situation."

"I've talked to different people in the last few days who've said, 'That's terrible' and 'What a horrible person,'" he told Catholic News Service, "but the idea is to

SAFE HAVEN, page 14

Since 1973, more than 61 million babies have died by abortion. It's time to stop the violence!



Pray to end abortion...
and begin emotional
and spiritual healing.
St. Mary of the Assumption
DECATUR
and St. Joseph School

RESPECT LIFE

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

-Pope Francis

St. Patrick Church
ARCOLA

"The
ultimate
test of your greatness
IS THE WAY YOU TREAT
every
human being."

— Pope John Paul II

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne

Bridging divides shoulder to shoulder

The anniversary of the Jan. 6 riot that humiliated Congress and horrified a good portion of our nation has gone more or less as one might have predicted during these divided times.

The two political parties went to their respective corners, one to commemorate the anniversary and the other to criticize the commemoration.

That our country is divided is undeniable. What seems to unite both left and right at this moment is distrust and despair.

They share a growing distrust of American institutions – the three branches of government, the fairness of elections past and future – and a growing sense of despair that this divide may not be bridgeable.

A recent poll suggesting that a minority of Americans believe violence is justified to achieve their ends adds to the current whiff of apocalyptic fever.

Too often the news media can be complicit in adding to this fever. Journalists tend to paint in black and white, contrasting two extremes as a way of seeming balanced, while adding to the impression that we are all divided into two implacable, irreconcilable camps.

This binary way of seeing ourselves and our nation is fundamentally distorted, according to Noelle Malvar, a senior researcher with More in Common USA. In a recent interview with Kevin Loker of the American Press Institute, Malvar argues that “divisions among the majority of Americans are not as extreme as

we think.”

Research by her organization compares how much Democrats and Republicans think they disagree with how much they actually disagree.

She calls this a “perception gap,” and studies show that both sides think that “almost twice as many people on the other side hold extreme views than really do.” Worse still, those of us who consume a lot of news media tend to be “almost three times as inaccurate” as those who consume less.

Unchecked, of course, this kind of misunderstanding of those with whom we disagree can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, each side exaggerating the extremism of their opponents and justifying their own.

While the Church was relatively quiet in marking the Jan. 6 anniversary, perhaps it can play a role in addressing the perception gap that worsens our divide.

The glory and frustration of being an attentive Catholic, after all, is that we do not fit neatly into the binary political categories that so often Americans are shoved into.

We Catholics are pro-life and supportive of social justice. We support the right to private property as well as unions and workers’ rights. We uphold a nation’s right to defend itself and we defend the rights of the immigrant and the refugee.

Ideally, being a Catholic is to be both/and rather than either/or. While political ideology can trump the teachings of the Church for some of us, Catholics



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

do not fit neatly into the boxes that the media or popular perception may want to place us.

And for that reason, I wonder if the Church can play a mediating role in the midst of our division. It can provide a meeting ground where Catholics and others who identify with either party can meet the other.

In 2020, the bishops’ conference promoted a program called “Civilize It,” hoping to ratchet down the anger in the political discourse. It provided prayers, resources and even a pledge.

To build on that initial effort, parishes and dioceses could bring people together for acts of service. In a soup kitchen, a pantry, eucharistic adoration, a pro-life prayer vigil or a homeless shelter is where diverse Catholics can stand shoulder to shoulder.

Our differences are real, but not as huge as we fear. What we need to pay more attention to is what binds us together.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

A missed opportunity to amplify the beauty and generosity of adoption

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

of the two ends marriage is for. Marriage isn’t given primarily for our enjoyment. It’s given to us to get things done in the world. Specifically, two: for the spouses to help each other grow closer to God and for them to have and raise children. That’s a lot of work and a lot of sacrifice — and it’s work we will not always want to do and sacrifices we will not always want to make. But it’s the job we accept, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.”

Amen.

At the same time, we recognize and acknowledge the terrible pain and suffering of those couples who are unable to have children of their own. Pope Francis was in no way speaking about these couples as “less than” those who can conceive or as undeserving of being parents because they are unable to conceive naturally, as some critics have claimed. In fact, this

OSV, page 13

Our response to God’s love and salvation



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 1:1-14, 4:14-21

The Book of Nehemiah furnishes the first reading for this weekend.

Although some Old Testament books tell the history of the people of Israel, mentioning many aspects of life, such as famine, plenty, disease and war, all are chiefly concerned with inspiring God’s people to be faithful, but also eager in their religious practice. In this reading, Ezra, who was a priest, called together men, women and children old enough to comprehend precisely to this end. He admonished this gathering to listen carefully to the Scripture.

After hearing the reading of the Scriptures, the people in this audience affirmed their faith. Ezra continued by interpreting what he had read.

Finally, Ezra and Nehemiah called the people to rejoice – for cause. God had spoken to them. God was guiding them.

For the next reading, the liturgy presents St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. The Christian community in Corinth especially challenged Paul. Corinth was an important commercial center, one of the major markets and distribution centers in the Roman Empire. It was a center of wealth and, moreover, of greed.

Even in the very immoral culture of the time, it was regarded as the utter capital of lust and sexual excess. Corinthians had the reputation of being exceedingly licentious.

Troubling for Paul was not that Corinth was large and rich, or that its size and wealth produced an atmosphere in which vice and selfishness reigned supreme. The evils in this atmosphere were contagious, enticing many Christians.

The everlasting temptation to see all in material terms, or of physical satisfaction, was bad enough, but Corinthian Christians vied with each other within the Church, quarreling with each other, scheming against each other, and gossiping about each other. They toyed with pagan practices and customs.

Paul constantly called the Corinthian Christians away from the pagan environment pressing upon them. In particular, he scorned the competitiveness among the Christians.

In this reading, Paul insisted that all the baptized are in the Body of Christ, however, the Body has many members. Each is unique, a gift from God.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. Midway through this reading, the Gospel directly addresses Theophilus, using the honorific “most excellent.” Luke’s Gospel seemingly was written for this one person.

Scholars debate if this person had the personal name of Theophilus, or was it a title or description, since “Theophilus”

in Greek means “friend of God.” Regardless, the person apparently enjoyed some prestige, hence the use of the term, “most excellent.”

Jesus appeared in the synagogue of Nazareth to explain the mission of salvation, speaking in some detail.

Salvation, unfolded in Jesus, was the result of God’s love, the final chapter in the long record of the merciful deeds of God among God’s people.

Reflection

The Church has celebrated Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus, as well as the feasts of the Epiphany of the Lord, and of the Baptism of the Lord. In the lessons of these great liturgical events, the Church introduced us to Jesus. It identified Jesus. He is the son of Mary, so Jesus was a human. He is the Son of the loving God. He is the Redeemer.

Now the Church begins to tell us about salvation and about how we personally should respond to salvation.

First Corinthians sets the

stage. Luke continues the message. We belong to God. Each of us has a personal vocation, although we may consider this term too lofty or too suggestive of a religious life.

Despite different occupations or circumstances, our vocation is to follow, and to reflect, Christ.

God provides for us in this effort, assisting and strengthening us. He never forsakes us, but we are free. We personally must decide to be loyal.

READINGS

Sunday: Neb 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19:8-10, 15 1 Cor 12:12-30 Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10 Ps 89:21-22, 25-26 Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10 Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Ps 132:1-5, 11-14 Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Ps 51:3-7, 10-11 Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Ps 51:12-17 Mk 4:35-41

'The Ten Commandments' and our pathetic attention span

I like to watch old movies. Over the past several months, I've watched (or re-visited) a number of Alfred Hitchcock thrillers, some screwball comedies from the thirties and forties, and a couple of film-noir classics. Last week, over the course of three evenings, I managed to get through the three hours and forty minutes (yes, you read that correctly) of the Charlton Heston version of the "Ten Commandments" from 1956. With delight, I took in the still marvelous technicolor, the over-the-top costumes, the wonderfully corny faux-Shakespearean dialogue, and the hammy acting that is, one might say, so bad that it's good. But what especially struck me was the sheer *length* of the film. Knowing that it required a rather extraordinary act of attention on the part of its audience, it is astonishing to remember that it was wildly popular, easily the most successful movie of its time. It is estimated that, adjusted for inflation, it earned a box office of roughly two billion dollars. Would moviegoers today, I wondered, ever be able to muster the patience required to make a film like the "Ten Commandments" equally popular today? I think the question answers itself.

The coming together of daunting length and popularity then put me in mind of a number of other examples of this combination from cultural history. In the 19th-century, the novels of Charles Dickens were so sought after that ordinary Londoners waited in long lines for chapters as they were published in serial form. And let's face it: not a lot *happens* in Dickens novels, by which I mean very few things blow up; there are no alien invasions; no snappy one-liners uttered by the heroes before they blow away the bad guys. For the most part, they consist

of lengthy conversations among fascinating and quirky characters. Much the same can be said of the novels and stories of Dostoevsky. Though there is indeed a murder and a police investigation at the heart of the plot of "The Brothers Karamazov," for the vast majority of that famous novel, Dostoevsky arranges various characters in drawing rooms for pages and pages and pages of dialogue on matters political, cultural, and religious.

Why this look back at modes and styles of communication from another age? Because by contrast ours seem so impoverished! I certainly understand the value of social media and I readily use it in my evangelical work, but at the same time, I am acutely aware of how it has lessened our attention span and capacity for sophisticated conversation and real advance toward the truth. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and especially Twitter specialize in flashy headlines, misleading titles, simplistic characterizations of an opponent's position, sound bites in place of arguments and mean-spirited rhetoric. Just dip into the comment boxes on any of these sites and you'll immediately see what I mean. A favorite technique on social media is to take a phrase or even a single word of a person's argument, wrench it out of context, give it the worst possible interpretation and then splash one's outrage all over the internet. Everything has to be fast, easily digested, simple to understand, black and white — because we have to get clicks on our site, and it's a dog-eat-dog world. What worries me is that an entire generation has come of age conditioned by this mode of communication and hence is largely incapable of summoning the patience and attention required for intelligent engagement of complex issues. I noticed this, by the way, in my

OSV, from page 12

was the thrust of the rest of his catechesis, in which the pontiff spoke of the qualities that it takes to be an effective parent — qualities that have nothing to do with biology.

"It is not enough to bring a child into the world to also be the child's father or mother," he said, going on to quote his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, which he wrote in 2020 for the start of the Year of St. Joseph. "Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person."

The Holy Father encouraged

couples to open their hearts to adoption, and to not be afraid of taking the "risk" of welcoming children with no homes into their homes. He encouraged adoption agencies to simplify what can be a long, tedious and drawn-out process, and he prayed that "no one may feel deprived of the bond of paternal love." Finally, he ended with a beautiful prayer invoking St. Joseph's intercession for those children who have no family, for those couples who long for children of their own, and for those couples who actively and intentionally close themselves off from life, that "they may open their hearts to love."

Rather than a somewhat absurd series of commentaries on how people in the Western world have every right to view

their pets as equal to human children, Pope Francis' words on adoption should have been picked up by news outlets. It was this message of love and hope and generosity that should have been amplified and underscored. Because he's right. There are too many children in this world without parents, and too many childless couples who dream of children. And the system that works to bring them together is complicated, time-consuming and expensive. Why not spend our energy trying to do something about that?

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



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

nearly 20 years of teaching in the seminary. Over those two decades, it became increasingly difficult to get my students to read, say, a hundred pages of St. Augustine's "Confessions" or of Plato's "Republic." Especially in more recent years, they would say, "Father, I just can't concentrate that long."

So as not to end on a down note, permit me to draw your attention to what I consider a real sign of hope. In just the last couple of years, there has been a trend in the direction of long-form podcasts that are attracting huge audiences of young people. Joe Rogan, who hosts one of the most popular shows in the country, speaks to his guests for upwards of three hours, and he gets millions of views. In the past year, I have appeared on two podcasts with Jordan Peterson, each one in excess of two hours and featuring pretty high-level discourse. The first one has reached just shy of one million views and the second, published three weeks ago, has already surpassed five hundred thousand views.

Perhaps we're turning a corner. Perhaps young people have tired of vituperative sound bites and superficial pseudo-intellectualism. To encourage this trend, I would like to invite all of you to use much less social media — and maybe pick up "The Brothers Karamazov."

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 23, 2022

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Jesus returns home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

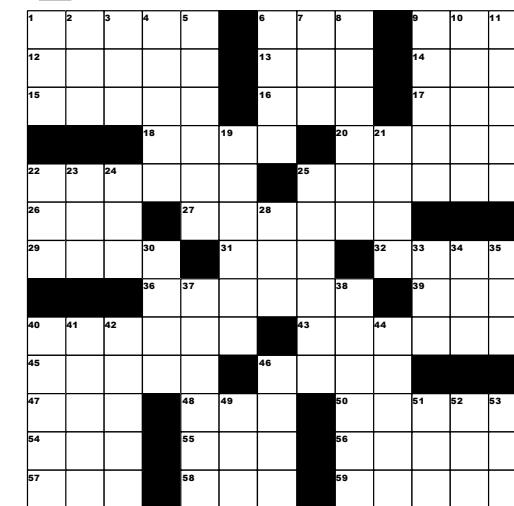
UNDERTAKEN	THEOPHILUS	NEWS
NAZARETH	SABBATH	TO READ
SCROLL	PROPHET	ISAIAH
LORD	ANOINTED ME	THE POOR
PROCLAIM	BLIND	OPPRESSED
FREE	SAT DOWN	EYES OF ALL
TODAY	SCRIPTURE	HEARING

HEAR ME



January 16,
23 and 30, 2022

The CrossWord



© 2022 tri-e-a-publications.com

Readings: Is 62:1-5 / 1Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11 & Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/ 1Cor 12:12-30 / Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21 & Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/ 1Cor 12:31-13:13 / Lk 4:21-30

ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Tiny particles | 26 Catch crook |
| 6 Use ray gun | 27 Special ER hospital |
| 9 Wednesday | 29 Gas burner |
| 12 Radii | 31 Latin "three" |
| 13 The other half of Jima | 32 Not cooked much |
| 14 Resort hotel | 36 A "burning torch" has |
| 15 Large wave | 39 Stone jars filled with water |
| 16 Not New Testament | 40 Kingdom of _____ |
| 17 # of commandments | 43 Holds hot drink |
| 18 Not nice | 45 Drink noisily |
| 20 Book by Homer | 46 Secondhand |
| 22 They have "_____" at Cana | 47 Once around track |
| 25 Unique in behavior | 48 Also called Aurora |
| | 50 Wipe up with bread |

- 54 Type of witnesses
Luke used
55 Regret
56 Humiliate
57 Compass point
58 Bro.'s sibling
59 Jesus called his mother this

DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 "Blessed ____ thou" | 19 Happening in air |
| 2 Thai | 21 Deceiver |
| 3 Unusual | 22 North northeast |
| 4 ____-Dade County | 23 Cereal grain |
| 5 "I will not be ____" | 24 West by north |
| 6 Mount ____ | 25 Lulls |
| 7 Leather piercing tool | 28 Sight target |
| 8 Lectern | 30 Far away |
| 9 Active | 33 Viper |
| 10 Use human and angelic tongues | 34 River (Spanish) |
| 11 Useful | 35 Extension (abbr.) |
| 19 Happening in air | 37 Elisha did not cure all these |
| 21 Deceiver | 38 Teeter-totter |
| 22 North northeast | 40 Islands |
| 23 Cereal grain | 41 Murders |
| 24 West by north | 42 Indian currency |
| 25 Lulls | 44 Philippine marinade |
| 28 Sight target | 46 Wields |
| 30 Far away | 49 French "yes" |
| 33 Viper | 51 Jack of clubs |
| 34 River (Spanish) | 52 N. American nation |

Answer key can be found on page 15

SAFE HAVEN, from page 11

take something negative and say, 'How are we going to fix this and what are going to do about it?'"

Silverio points out that in his home state of Florida, where there is now a strong safe haven network of community agencies, including state law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel, and hospitals ready to step in and prevent child abandonment, there hasn't been a single illegal child abandonment in the past two years.

Like other states, New Mexico has a safe haven law, which allows parents to leave a baby younger than 90 days at a safe location without criminal consequences.

State legislatures around the nation began to pass these laws in the early 2000s in response to reports of gruesome baby killings and abandonments, which received copious media attention.

Avila, the New Mexico mother, reportedly told detectives that she was not aware that she was pregnant until Jan. 6 when she sought medical attention for

abdominal pain and the next day unexpectedly gave birth.

"It is not just teenagers. We have had (hotline) calls from women as old as 41," said Silverio, who is a member of Christ the King Parish in Perrine, Florida, as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, known as the Lazarists.

Following his wife's death in 2000, Silverio saw a magazine article about child abandonment worldwide and discerned it was God suggesting a new purpose for the remainder of his life.

In keeping with his IT roots, Silverio said A Safe Haven for Newborns has a strong presence on social media where teen mothers are likely to find them.

The organization also has developed a mobile phone app and encourages participating high school students in Florida and elsewhere to earn community service hours doing projects related to safe haven principles and the crisis of infant abandonment.

A successful intervention means not only that a child's life

is saved, allowing the child to grow to adulthood, but a parent also is saved from criminal prosecution and a lifetime of guilt, while the hopes and dreams of parents waiting to adopt also are fulfilled.

"It is a huge problem for the (New Mexico) woman, who will be charged with a serious crime and (be) incarcerated and stigmatized for the rest of her life, and the child the same: He will have to live for a lifetime with the knowledge of being thrown into a dumpster."

"We are reaching out in every way we can, but would we have reached (the New Mexico mother)? I don't know," Silverio said, "but we need to keep on trying."

"When a baby is left with a safe haven," he added, "they grow up and discover there are mothers who loved them enough to provide a family for them."

Editor's Note: To learn more about A Safe Haven for Newborns and its confidential, 24/7 multilingual referral helpline, go to www.asafehavenfornewborns.com.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Advertising in Today's Catholic

Reach Catholics with purchasing power in each issue.

PNC Bank Building
LEONARD J. Andorfer & Co., LLP 110 W. Berry Street, STE 2202
Fort Wayne 46802
(260) 423-9405
Fax: (260) 422-9206

- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Corporations, Individuals and Partnerships
- Estates and Trusts • Auditing Services

Visit us at www.ljandorfer.com

LINDA RILEY
Senior Loan Officer
NMLS: 234665

SHAWNEE
Construction & Engineering

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
7701 Opportunity Drive, Fort Wayne 46825
489-1234

Katie Brown
REALTOR® | Broker
260.437.5025
www.katiebrown.net
katie@katiebrown.net

CENTURY 21


USB UNION SAVINGS BANK
David Egts
Low Closing Costs & Great Rates
"MORTGAGE CLOSING COST CRUSHER"
260-418-6191
CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PROFESSIONAL

Expertise you can rely on.

Mike Kendzicky
Michael Kendzicky
Samantha Hengen, CFP®
Private Wealth Management
4220 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-247-6830 . 800-866-9022
rwbaird.com

©2018 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. MC-260563.

BAIRD

W.C. BORCHELT Sons, Inc. PLUMBING
HEATING AIR CONDITIONING ELECTRICAL
www.borchelheating.com | 260-485-3412
6332 Maplecrest Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Jobs in Fort Wayne with
PART TIME **FULL TIME**

CIOCCA Cleaning & Restoration

Openings on 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts
RETIREEES WELCOME
Apply online at cioccas.com

The Papers
INCORPORATED

Printers of
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

206 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MILFORD, INDIANA 46542

PHONE: 574-658-4111
800-773-4111

www.the-papers.com

NOTRE DAME FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Matt Kaiser
Director of Business Services
NMLS# 1087744

Business Development
P.O. Box 7878
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Direct (574) 400-4919
Fax (574) 575-4538
mkaiser@NotreDameFCU.com

800/522-6611 • NotreDameFCU.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

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.

Most Precious Blood School trivia night

FORT WAYNE — Trivia night at Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will be Saturday, Feb. 5. Cost is \$100 per team of 10. Doors open at 6 p.m. and 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 at 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 speak-

ers are Tim Staples, Nathan Crankfield, Father Wade Menezes and Jason Shanks. Visit rekindlethefire.net for information.

Belonging Catholic schools meeting: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

FORT WAYNE — A meeting is offered the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. via Zoom to connect with others interested in helping children with disabilities attend Catholic schools in the diocese. To get the link, call 260-399-1452 or email asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive

FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope will host a Blood Drive Friday, Feb. 12, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school gym, 7215 Saint Joe Rd. Donations must be scheduled for adequate staffing (sorry, no walk-ins at this time). Each donor also receives a \$10 gift card. Sign up now for your favorite time at <https://olghfw.com/ministries/outreach-ministries/american-red-cross-blood-drive>. Contact Debi Schoedel at 260-485-9615 or debi@olghfw.com.

'There's More' parish mission

GARRETT — St. Joseph Church will host a Lenten parish mission. Father Richard Kaley will speak on God's unconditional love, knowing Christ and the call to a personal relationship with Jesus during this parish mission. Meet Sunday, Feb. 27 through Tuesday, March 1, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the church. Refreshments and conversation will follow each evening after the mission. Visit www.stjosephgarrett.com for more information.

Online NFP support group

FORT WAYNE — Are you looking for some support and fellowship in using natural family planning? Join our monthly online support group for NFP users in the

diocese. Meet over Zoom on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month from 8-9:30 p.m. Email Caty at cburke@diocesefwsb.org for the Zoom meeting link and passcode. Sponsored by Marriage and Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Saint Mary's College Choir at Mass

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has invited the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir to participate in Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1102 S. Clinton St., Sunday, Feb. 20, at 11:30 a.m. All are invited to attend.

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 p.m., with the talk starting at 7 p.m. 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. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot for more information.

The CrossWord

January 16, 23 and 30, 2022

A	T	O	M	S	Z	A	P	A	S	H
R	A	D	I	I	I	W	O	S	P	A
T	I	D	A	L	O	D	T	E	N	T
				M	E	A	N	I	L	I
N	O	W	I	N	E	Q	U	I	R	K
N	A	B	T	R	A	U	M	A		
E	T	N	A		I	I	I	R	R	E
				F	L	A	M	E	S	X
I	S	R	A	E	L	T	E	A	P	O
S	L	U	R	P		U	S	E	D	
L	A	P		E	O	S	S	O	P	U
E	Y	E		R	U	E	A	B	A	S
S	S	E		S	I	S	I	W	O	M



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

Create Your Legacy With Us

For more information about how to include the Catholic church in your will or estate plan, contact Mike Shade at (260) 949-2441 or mshade@ccfnei.org

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Judson Beamsley, 95,
St. Vincent de Paul
James Bishop,
81, Immaculate
Conception

Fort Wayne

Elizabeth L. Bailey, 93,
St. Charles Borromeo

Roselyn L. Ream, 93,
St. Charles Borromeo

Judy Scherber, 72, St.
Elizabeth Ann Seton

Huntington

Mary C. Welches, 87,
SS. Peter and Paul

Barbara Thompson,
67, St. Vincent de Paul

Rita Berghoff, 93, St.
Mary Mother of God

South Bend

Leonard Gish, 82,
Holy Cross

Gloria Decker, 92,
Cathedral of St.
Matthew

Warsaw

Bonita R. Kellem, 77,
Sacred Heart

Hal E. Smith, 58,
Sacred Heart

Join our amazing Pioneer staff as a Substitute Teacher!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School is seeking committed substitute teachers to ensure students receive quality instruction while their teacher is away. This opportunity offers flexible days and hours, meaningful work and compensation of \$85/full day and \$50/half day.

- Apply for an Indiana Substitute Permit at the DOE: Substitute Permits (in.gov)
- Complete the Substitute Teacher application for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton school at: <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=df643>

Questions?

Email Shelley Turney at stourney@seascfw.org or call 260-432-4001, ext. 303



1st Source Insurance

1stsource.com/insurance

Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC or by any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank, and may involve investment risk, including loss of value.

Despite reducing poverty, expanded child tax credit's future is uncertain

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

CNS — A few weeks before Christmas, Jessica Moreno and her three kids were able to move from her parents' home in Wood Dale, Illinois, outside of Chicago, to their own apartment a few blocks away.

"The apartment was heaven sent," she said. "I was looking at homelessness. I can't imagine being in that situation with three kids in the winter."

Moreno, 34, who works part time as a paralegal, credits the \$750 a month she received under the enhanced child tax credit program for allowing her family to make the move.

Since the pandemic began nearly two years ago, Moreno had worked irregular hours as courts closed and the need for legal work slowed. She and her children moved into her parents' "tiny, teeny house." It was crowded, but everyone sacrificed so no one would be out on the streets.

Moreno learned about the program and worked with case managers at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, to file the paperwork to receive the enhanced child tax credit each month from July until December, when the program ended. She credited the agency for its never-ending work on her case.

Catholic agencies and anti-poverty advocates are calling on the Senate to enact the bill, saying the enhanced child tax credit strengthens families and reduces poverty.

higher families.

More than 61 million children in more than 36 million households benefited from the credit, according to a study released Dec. 22 by the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University. The monthly payment in November alone kept 3.7 million children out of poverty, the center found.

Before the expansion, 27 million children — including about half of Black and Latino children

The expanded child tax credit program was enacted in March under the American Rescue Plan. It was the most recent measure in a series of legislative efforts to pump money into the economy in response to the financial downturn caused by the onset of COVID-19.

The expanded tax credit covered 2021 and called for families with children to receive six monthly advance payments rather than wait to claim the credit

on their annual tax return. The provision raised the credit to a maximum of \$3,600 for children younger than 6 and \$3,000 for children 6 to 17. The previous credit was capped at \$2,000 per child. Significantly, the credit became "fully refundable," meaning that children in families with the lowest incomes received the same amount as children in



CNS photo/courtesy Jessica Moreno

The children of single mother Jessica Moreno of Wood Dale, Ill.; Julian, 16, Jenessis, 6, and Jayden, 12; are seen in an undated photo. Moreno used a series of \$750-a-month checks under the expanded child tax credit program to rent an apartment for herself and her children and avoid becoming homeless.

and half of children living in rural communities — received less than the full credit or no credit because their families' incomes were too low.

Moreno said the monthly advances under the expanded child tax credit improved her family's life. "I was able to do more things for the kids, get them school supplies, pay for a few things, saved some for an apartment and pay some bills. I don't think I would have been able to do any of that without those checks," she said.

However, the advance payments ended in December. While she will be able to claim an additional amount of the credit on her federal tax return due April 18, she's expecting that making ends meet now will be more difficult.

(Tax Day is usually April 15, unless it falls on a weekend or holiday, as it does this year, so it's been pushed to the next available business day.)

Moreno decided to share her story with Catholic News Service in an effort to convince the U.S. Senate to enact President Joe Biden's Build Back Better Act, which includes a provision to extend the expanded credit through at least 2022. The House of Representatives

Development, explained.

Officials at Catholic Charities USA, including Anthony Granado, vice president of government relations, are working with senators to move the tax credit forward as part of the Build Back Better Act.

Granado said the expanded child tax credit has been "essential for families who lost jobs, for low-income families, for people who don't get to work from their laptops (at home), working-class people who cannot afford child care."

Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies are part of the drive to ensure that the tax credit continues at least through 2022, Granado said. The legislation is stalled in the Senate.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who is Catholic, has wavered on his support for the bill and has raised questions about a tax credit that does not include a work provision. In the chamber with 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats, Manchin's vote is needed to approve the measure, allowing Vice President Kamala Harris to break the tie.

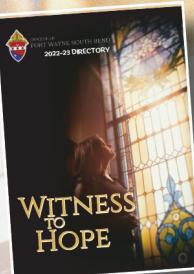
Manchin's office responded with a brief email to a CNS inquiry to discuss the bill: "Senator Manchin has always supported the child tax credit and would like to see it targeted to those families who need it most."

Laura Peralta-Schulte, senior director of public policy and government affairs at Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, said efforts are underway to reach out to Manchin to better explain how the credit "is a transformational policy" that has eased the stifling effects of poverty. She pointed to findings from the Columbia University study that shows people have used the payments for everyday needs including food, bills, clothing, school expenses and rent or a mortgage.

"There's so much discussion about the dignity of families. The data shows that government can play a role alleviating poverty and when people get resources they actually use them for the essential needs," Peralta-Schulte told CNS.

As the lobbying continued, Moreno returned to work Jan. 13 after she and her daughter dealt with illness from COVID-19 for nearly two weeks. Her sons moved back in with her parents during the ordeal. Now she is focused on keeping her family housed and in school. She is looking for a better paying job that offers more hours while she contemplates a return to classes to finish a college degree at Governors State University, a 95-mile round trip from Wood Dale.

Financially, it's a struggle, Moreno said. "The \$750 would be helpful."



**2022-23
DIRECTORIES
available**

Place your orders now
[Visit diocesefwsb.org/directory](http://diocesefwsb.org/directory)