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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 4

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Pro-life marchers' energy, enthusiasm is 'palpable,' says march official



Kris Church

**Hundreds of students, adult chaperones and priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend made the trip to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life, joining hundreds of thousands of others in displaying their respect for the most vulnerable members of society, the unborn.**

BY KURT JENSEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) – One aspect of the annual March for Life that never changes is the loud cheering when the lead group, carrying the banner, arrives in front of the Supreme Court.

That tradition was sustained Jan. 21 as groups from Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, and Immanuel Lutheran School in Alexandria Virginia, joined by Bishop Michael

F. Burbidge of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, arrived from the pre-march rally held in subfreezing temperatures on the National Mall. The march up Constitution Avenue to the court had taken them slightly more than two hours.

The crowd, not quite the more than 100,000 who attended in 2020 when President Donald Trump addressed the rally in person, nonetheless appeared robust, and easily was within the estimate march organizers

always give as being in the tens of thousands.

And that was just fine with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

“Every year is unique,” she told Catholic News Service before the rally began. “But the energy and enthusiasm of the marchers is palpable.”

Mancini wouldn't speculate on the future of the national march if, later this year, the U.S. Supreme Court effectively over-

turns the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by upholding the Mississippi abortion law in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

But there's one plan in place if that occurs.

Overturning Roe would return all abortion restrictions to the states. So Mancini said the plan is to have statewide marches established in all 50 states over the next seven years. There are currently a handful of state marches, an effort

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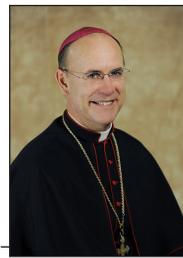
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## Catholics must not be indifferent, discouraged in cause of life

IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

*Homily from the Mass at March for Life – Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Jan. 22.*

The Catholic Church in the United States observes today, Jan. 22, as a “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” We do so since it was on January 22, 1973, that the Supreme Court of the United States legalized abortion across our nation in the infamous Roe v. Wade decision. The next year, the first March for Life was held. I remember as a sophomore in high school my classmates and I discussing the great injustice of the Roe v. Wade decision. As seniors, we participated in the second March for Life here in D.C.

It has been 49 years since Roe v. Wade, and because of that decision, millions of unborn children have never seen the light of day. That decision has affected our culture deeply and led to a serious distortion in our society, a completely individualistic concept of freedom – the freedom to take another’s life, the freedom to kill the most vulnerable among us, the child in the womb. This year, there is a real atmosphere of hope that the Supreme Court may overcome Roe v. Wade as it considers the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case, the most consequential challenge to Roe v. Wade in many years. Let us pray fervently during these months that the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, will illumine the minds of our Supreme Court justices.

Roe v. Wade has contributed greatly to the serious moral decline that has taken place in our nation during these past 50 plus years. Many people find it more difficult to distinguish between good and evil in what concerns the most basic value, the value of human life. Pope St. John Paul II rightly called the culture that has been formed “a culture of death.” The permitting of the killing of the weakest and most innocent human beings is done in the name of freedom of choice or the rights of women. St. John Paul II wrote: “To claim the right to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance: that of an absolute power over others and against others. This is the death of true freedom.”

God has given us the great gift of freedom. This gift is fulfilled through the gift of self and openness to others. It is violated when it leads to the harm and destruction of others. Freedom to take the life of a child not yet born or to take the life of a person near the end of his/her life becomes a freedom of the strong against the weak and tramples upon the most fundamental human right, the right to life. (cf. EV 12)

In our first reading today, St. John wrote: “For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one and slaughtered his brother.” We’re all familiar with the story in the book of Genesis about Cain killing his brother Abel, the first murder. After Cain murdered his brother, “The Lord



Kris Church

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22, the day after the national March for Life. Several priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend also made the trip to the nation’s capital in support of the unborn and to pray for an end to abortion.**

said to Cain: ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ Cain answered, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And the Lord said ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.’” This fratricide happened at the very dawn of history. That evil has continued and spread throughout history. How many attacks on human life have occurred since then!

Cain tried to cover up his crime with a lie. Throughout history, all kinds of ideologies have tried to justify and disguise atrocious crimes against human beings. Cain refused to accept responsibility for his crime. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” he asked. The answer should be: yes, I am. As St. John teaches so emphatically, we are to love one another. We are to be in solidarity with one another, especially with those who are weakest among us, the unborn, the elderly, the infirm, children, and refugees. There is a lot of indifference in the world to their plight, so much so that Pope Francis has called this a “globalization of indifference.” Many, perhaps without saying it aloud, cynically repeat what Cain said: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Notice that St. John said that “Cain belonged to the evil one.” How delighted Satan is when we are indifferent to the plight of our brothers and sisters in need, especially the little ones in their mothers’ wombs. Crimes against life continue and are even given legitimacy as happened 49 years ago with the Roe v. Wade decision with its assertion of the right to abortion.

We must not become discouraged in the face of various manifestations of the culture of death in our nation and in our world. There are also many signs of the promotion of a culture of life, like the March for Life yesterday. There are people all across our nation working every day for the cause of life, thousands of centers and initiatives supporting women who are in difficulty and may be tempted to have recourse to abortion. There are thousands of people who are not indifferent, who recognize that we are our brother’s keeper. There are many movements and initiatives to educate people on the sanctity of human life. And there are countless numbers of people who, through everyday works of mercy, are serving life, freely giving themselves out of love for their neighbor, especially for the weak and the needy. They are helping to build a civilization of love and life. Most are motivated to do so by their faith; faith in God as the Creator, faith

in “the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us,” as we heard in today’s Gospel from the Prologue of St. John.

The Second Vatican Council taught that “by His Incarnation, the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every human being” (GS 22). In becoming man, he shows us the incomparable value of every human person” (EV 2).

In speaking of the eternal Word through whom all things came to be, St. John says: “What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” All things came to be through the Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Life came to be through Him – human life on this earth leading to eternal life with God. God called us into being so that we can eternally be with Him, sharing in His life.

Though there is darkness in the world, though there is a culture of death in many places, we must always remember that the light shines in the darkness. There is all manner of evil and death in the world, but the light of the Word, Jesus, the Word made flesh, shines in the darkness. John’s whole Gospel is an invitation to embrace the light and not remain in darkness. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We must never forget this truth.

In a world of conflict between light and darkness, the death and resurrection of Jesus shows us that the victory belongs to the light. It is the victory of love. We celebrate this victory at every Mass, the living memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection. The Eucharist strengthens us to proclaim and to serve the Gospel of Jesus, the Gospel of life and love.

The Word became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. We celebrate this Mass here in her church, the beautiful Basilica of the National Shrine named in her honor. At the Annunciation, Mary said yes to life when she consented to be the mother of the Incarnate Son of God. She lovingly carried Him in her womb and cared for Him. She is our model of how life should be welcomed and cared for. We ask for her intercession for the cause of life, for the babies in their mothers’ wombs waiting to be born and for their mothers and fathers. We ask her to give us the courage to defend life, even in the face of criticism and opposition, and to persevere in our witness to her Son and His Gospel, the Gospel of life!



Josef Samuel

Around 500 people braved the cold to attend the March for Life in South Bend on Jan. 21, including many faithful lay Catholics and religious.

## Pro-life advocates demonstrate support at South Bend rally

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Every year since 1974, people within the pro-life movement have come together on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that codified abortion through all nine months of pregnancy nationwide at the cost of 63 million lives. Right to Life of Michiana held their annual Rally and March for Life on Jan. 21, beginning at St. Hedwig Memorial Center in central South Bend and processing to the Federal Courthouse. There, participants lined Main Street to pray until 1 p.m.

Since the Supreme Court met in November to consider Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a court case regarding Mississippi's new law prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks' gestation, hope has been rising in the pro-life community. This hope is that the justices will overturn or significantly modify Roe v. Wade, which would fundamentally change the focus of pro-life organizations around the country.

Speaking at the event, Jackie Appelman, executive director of Right to Life Michiana, urged everyone to make a commitment not just to turn out once a year but to work to change hearts and minds as well as laws. Committed members of the movement who offered prayers and loving support in front of a local abortion facility helped save the lives of at least seven babies last month. RTL Michiana has a trained Life Team group that stands ready to give presentations covering

fetal development, abortion, local support for women and ways to get involved to youth groups, churches, schools and others. The organization also offers a Life Defenders Boot Camp, which teaches people to logically and compassionately defend the pro-life position, empowering them to talk to friends and acquaintances about this issue.

Mike Jacob, outreach pastor at SouthGate Church, led those gathered in prayer. "Lord, You care and You cry for every single soul. Help us be Your voices for the voiceless. Make us the difference-makers. Let us be determined and not depressed."

Raised in a single-parent household in the projects in California, Jacob's pro-life commitment is deeply personal. His mother considered abortion when pregnant with him as a college student in 1969, but she valued his life more than her own convenience. Now the father of a long-awaited 19-month-old, Jacob asked how many in his audience love babies. However, he emphasized that babies, born and unborn, have value not because of their cuteness, but because everyone is made in the image of God.

He too urged all, in call and response style, to put their beliefs into action. "If you know something ... say something. Sneak your pro-life values into every conversation, whether you're at work, at school or at the store. ... If you say something ... you need to be ready to do something about it."

Around 500 pro-life advocates from the South Bend-Mishawaka area marched and prayed for this cause dear to their hearts. Some

of the stalwarts who have demonstrated every year, like John and Kathleen Ferrone, gathered on the grounds of St. Hedwig, South Bend to march to the federal courthouse on a cold, sunny day. They were joined by hundreds of younger participants, including large groups from local Catholic schools and whole pro-life families.

Groups of demonstrators on opposite sides of Main Street chanted familiar pro-life calls across the street to each other. Many passing motorists honked and gave thumbs-up signs, including the drivers of a cement mixer and a city bus.

Veronica, a sixth grader at Trinity School at Greenlawn, a Christian middle and high school in South Bend, said, "I don't support abortion; I think it's wrong." Kristen Kercher brought two babies in a stroller. Young children wore scarves proclaiming "Unique from day 1."

Nearly the entire eighth grade class of St. Matthew Cathedral School attended the demonstration. They professed their desire to help save babies and persuade mothers not to abort.

Additionally, Penn High School, Bethel University and other schools were also represented at the march. Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka and members of the Knights of Columbus, a sponsor of the event, could also be seen in the crowd.

For those mothers in crisis pregnancy situations, answers are available at HerMichiana.org. Educational and volunteer opportunities can be found at [prolifemichiana.org](http://prolifemichiana.org).



### Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, February 1: 7 p.m. – Little Flower Holy Hour Mass for Vocations; St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, Fort Wayne  
 Wednesday, February 2: 8:10 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit; St. Joseph School, Decatur  
 Wednesday, February 2: 6:30 p.m. – Theology of the Body talk, MOMs group, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, February 3: 5 p.m. – Mass, Windmoor Study Center, Notre Dame, South Bend  
 Sunday, February 6: 7 p.m. – Mass and Confirmation for Saint Mary's College students; Holy Spirit Chapel, South Bend



Jonathan Acierto

The pro-life demonstrations this year have significant meaning as the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case faces a decision in the Supreme Court this summer.

### Right to Life Michiana eyes post-Dobbs pivot: 'the beginning of a new stage'

BY JODI MARLIN

Melanie Lyon and her husband were excited, she said, to be able to attend the emotionally moving National March for Life in Washington, D.C. this year for the first time. The opportunity took on additional gravitas, however, when the South Bend couple realized this year could possibly be the march's last.

"Obviously this won't end abortion, but the march began in direct response to Roe v. Wade. This could be the end, which is what we've been praying for," she said.

Lyon, outreach coordinator for Right to Life Michiana, said engagement with the organization by supporters of the unborn, as well as harassment and vandalism by abortion rights activists, have increased in recent weeks. She has witnessed emotions become heated on both sides of the discussion because both sides anticipate a historic change in the near future regarding access to abortion.

The hopes of Catholics and others in the pro-life community across the country rest on the

outcome of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The case is currently under consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court and challenges the constitutionality of a 2018 Mississippi law banning abortion after week 15 of pregnancy.

A potential positive outcome – in other words, if the Mississippi law is upheld – will effectively overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that

affirmed a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

More photos are available at [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



Discussions have been frequent about what a post-Roe future would look like. Should the Mississippi law be upheld, the decision of how much to limit access to abortion would be returned to the states. The staff and volunteers of Right to Life Michiana are optimistic Indiana would pass fairly restrictive abortion legislation, but that doesn't

# Marches all over the country stand, pray in support of life



CNS photo/Leah Millis, Reuters

Pro-life activists take part in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Jan. 21.

## MARCH, from page 1

that began six years ago.

Jeff Hunt, director of the Centennial Institute, a think tank attached to Colorado Christian University, said he thought legalized abortion was a nonstarter with the young people who have dominated March for Life for many years.

"Many of them grew up with their brother's or sister's sonogram taped to the refrigerator door," he said. "I think that's shaping the idea that a child is not a bunch of cells you can kill." He thought the current generation of young people is "naturally more pro-life than previous generations."

Marianne Hofer, coordinator of the student pilgrimage from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, said, "We're extremely excited. We're very honored to be here at a time when Roe could be overturned."

The university sent 230 students. Hofer estimated that about half were at their first March for Life.

The march was briefly delayed after it got underway when members of Patriot Front, known as a white nationalist hate group, attempted to march alongside. But they were quickly dispersed.

"March for Life promotes

the beauty, dignity and worth of every human life by working to end the violence of abortion. We condemn any organization that seeks to exclude a person or group of people based on the color of their skin or any other characteristic," Mancini told CNS later in reaction to Patriot Front's effort to join the march.

"Such exclusion runs counter to our mission which recognizes that all human lives are equal from the moment of conception: equality begins in the womb," she said.

In a statement issued ahead of the march, Bishop Burbidge said the March for Life "is a powerful witness to essential truths that unite us: All of life is sacred and, thus, the life of the unborn child must be protected from the horror of abortion and life at every stage must be revered, cherished and treasured."

"We march peacefully each year in our nation's capital to give witness to these truths to a nation in which many in public office and others throughout our communities continue to reject them. Yet we will never despair nor tire of proclaiming the Gospel of Life, with firm belief in the power of God to transform hearts," he added.



Jonathan Acierto

Right to Life of Michiana hosted a Prayer for Life demonstration in Elkhart on Saturday, Jan. 22, outside of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. The event began with Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a life chain along Bristol Street to pray for an end to abortion in the U.S. Other pro-life organizations such as Right to Life of North Central Indiana, serving Kosciusko, Whitley and Cass counties held similar protests at their local courthouses.



Josef Samuel



Provided by Mary Kloska

At left, pro-life advocates marched from St. Hedwig Parish in South Bend to the Federal Courthouse at the Michiana March for Life, praying for an end to abortion. At right, students from Marian High School marched in support of the unborn at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



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# ICC advocating at Statehouse for families in deepest poverty

The Indiana Catholic Conference is out front on a number of bills at the Statehouse that would affect individuals and families considered among the poorest of the poor in the state.

Leaders of the ICC – the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana – support some of the proposed legislation while opposing other bills, in line with the long history of Catholic social teaching with respect to the most vulnerable.

“Some of these bills would benefit families in the greatest need and help lift them out of poverty, while we have serious concerns that others may have the opposite effect,” said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC. “We always want to stand with the most economically disadvantaged among us, especially our children.”

The ICC strongly supports House Bill 1361, a bipartisan measure that would strengthen protections for those who qualify for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF is a federal government program that provides grants to the states to administer cash assistance payments to families in deepest poverty.

But those families often face barriers in receiving that help because of outdated state guidelines, according to Rep. Chuck

Goodrich (R-Noblesville), the primary author of House Bill 1361. That includes a current asset limit of \$1,000 for families qualifying for TANF to continue receiving those temporary benefits, which have a lifetime cap of 24 months for adults.

The measure that Goodrich calls “hand-up legislation” would increase that asset limit to \$10,000 – and would exempt \$20,000 of total equity value of the family’s motor vehicles from eligibility guidelines. Because these families need reliable transportation for getting to and from work and child care services, this provision is critical, according to the ICC, other advocates and co-authors of the legislation.

“This bill allows people to better themselves and stay on the program until they are in a position to no longer need assistance,” said Rep. Cherrish Pryor (D-Indianapolis), among the co-authors of House Bill 1361 and a longtime collaborator with Rep. Goodrich on TANF-related legislation.

The bill passed unanimously Jan. 20 in the House committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs and is now awaiting action by the full House of Representatives.

A broader TANF-related bill backed by the ICC and other advocates for the poor, including

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, was awaiting a committee hearing at press time. Senate Bill 327 marks the latest attempt to update major provisions of the TANF program in Indiana, which hasn’t seen substantive change in more than three decades.

As in previous years, Sen. Jon Ford (R-Terre Haute) is leading the charge to modernize TANF in Indiana by pushing for the first monthly increase in cash payouts in 34 years and dramatically expanding eligibility for the program.

For those in deepest poverty, TANF’s cash assistance payments are a lifeline. But those monthly payouts – \$288 for a family of three, for example – have not been increased since they were set by state law three decades ago. Moreover, only a fraction of the poorest families in Indiana currently receive even those modest benefits from the federal program because of outdated eligibility guidelines

– another issue that Senate Bill 327 is designed to address.

Indiana’s eligibility level for TANF is the fourth-lowest in the United States, behind Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. To be eligible for TANF, the maximum income of a Hoosier family must be less than 17 percent of the federal poverty level. Indiana set its income requirements to qualify for TANF in the mid-1990s, when welfare reform was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Those eligibility guidelines have not been adjusted for inflation since then.

While the ICC and its allies continue to advocate for these long-awaited changes, they are working to oppose another TANF-related measure. House Bill 1410 would transfer oversight of the mandatory job search guideline for TANF eligibility to the state level from the local level, where it is currently administered.

ICC leaders argue that local agencies providing support services for families in deep poverty are best equipped to understand each family’s unique needs and circumstances and, therefore, are in the best position to oversee and monitor their job search activities.

“We want to be clear that we are not opposed to the concept of the applicant job search requirement, as the Church

greatly values the dignity and transformative power of work,” said Alexander Mingus, associate director of the ICC. “Our primary concern is based on the Church’s understanding of subsidiarity, which means that decisions should be made at the lowest competent level, especially when decisions affect the poor and most vulnerable.”

Jessica Fraser, an advocate for the poor who has worked on TANF-related issues for 10 years, shared similar concerns with legislators about House Bill 1410. “This bill doesn’t really change policy,” said Fraser, director of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, formerly the Indiana Institute for Working Families. “But it changes the state’s ability to be flexible when people are going through tough times.”

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

### LIFE, from page 3

mean the pro-life fight will be over.

For one thing, Lyon said, Indiana is next door to Illinois. “Chicago has essentially no abortion regulations, so I think we’re going to see a lot of women from our community traveling there to get an abortion.”

Pivoting from community protests and full-time sidewalk counseling at the local abortion facility to increasing the support available to women facing crisis pregnancies will be Right to Life Michiana’s mission should Roe be overturned. Just last week, members of the organization were present at the official opening of a baby box installed in South Bend.

“That’s a really important part of the post-Roe culture, offering options to women with crisis pregnancies,” Lyon said.

Another front on which to fight will be the FDA’s relaxation of access to the abortion drug mifepristone, which is now available by mail in some states after a simple telehealth visit. “If Roe is overturned, it’s not the end of the fight. It certainly will be progress, but it’s the beginning of a new stage in this fight of defending the preborn and supporting women.”

Signage at the South Bend March for Life was expected

to reflect in creative ways this hoped-for end to Roe v. Wade. Emotions were also expected to run high for several Right to Life Michiana members who have remained active in the pro-life mission for 10, 20 or even 30 years.

“This march will be extra special for them,” Lyon noted. As the organization celebrates its 50-year anniversary, the stories of how the convictions of those volunteers led to action, and their experiences during those decades are being documented and will be presented at [www.prolifemichiana.org/](http://www.prolifemichiana.org/).

Lyon hoped the South Bend community would be inspired by this year’s march to regularly give of their time to convince women in crisis pregnancies to carry their babies to term and support them along the way.

“We hope they’ll realize they need to do something to end this injustice. We can’t always rely on the law to protect human life. Even if it’s just praying every week for an end to abortion, that would be meaningful. Unfortunately, a large portion of our population supports and celebrates abortion. Because of that, we really need all hands on deck from those who really believe all life is worth saving.”

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## Pope declares St. Irenaeus a doctor of the church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis officially has declared St. Irenaeus of Lyon a doctor of the church. In a decree released by the Vatican Jan. 21, the pope ordered that the second-century theologian be given the title of “doctor of unity” and said St. Irenaeus’ life and teachings served as “a spiritual and theological bridge between Eastern and Western Christians. May the doctrine of such a great teacher increasingly encourage the journey of all the Lord’s disciples toward full communion,” the pope said. During a meeting with Pope Francis Jan. 20, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, asked the pope to “accept the affirmative opinion” of the cardinals and bishops who are congregation members to confer the title on St. Irenaeus, who was known for his defense of orthodoxy amid the rise of gnostic sects. St. Irenaeus is the second doctor of the church named by Pope Francis after St. Gregory of Narek, who was given the designation in 2015. He brings the total number of doctors of the church to 37. Born in Smyrna, Asia Minor – now modern-day Turkey – St. Irenaeus was known as a staunch defender of the faith.

## Archbishop: Church, its people stand ready to help expectant mothers

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Catholic Church and its people stand ready not only to help expectant mothers bring their pregnancies to term but to assist women who have had abortions, said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The ministries are many, he said in his homily at the Jan. 20 Mass that began the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The vigil is held prior to the Jan. 21 March for Life in Washington. “I salute Project Rachel and other pioneering ministries that provide healing and spiritual renewal to women and couples after an abortion,” Archbishop Lori said in his homily. He also praised the Sisters of Life, which he called “a growing religious community of women who, by their way of life, bear witness to the beauty and dignity of every human life. This they do as they welcome pregnant women into their homes and provide life-changing spiritual resources to women in crisis,” he said. Archbishop Lori diverted from his homily to seek – and receive – a round of applause for them and all sisters at the Mass.

## Conflict increases in Tigray region of Ethiopia



CNS photo/Reuters

A survivor of an airstrike by Ethiopian government forces receives treatment at the Shire Shul General Hospital in the northern region of Tigray, Ethiopia, Jan. 8, 2022. The Adigrat Catholic Eparchy has asked for an international push for dialogue and aid.

## Indiana Catholic, a former U.S. senator, is Vatican ambassador nominee

WASHINGTON (CNS) – President Joe Biden will nominate Catholic lawyer Joseph Donnelly of Indiana, a former member of the U.S. House and Senate, to be the next U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. The White House announced Biden’s pick for the ambassador post Oct. 8. The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate. Donnelly, 66, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2013, representing Indiana’s 2nd Congressional District, and was a U.S. senator from 2013 to 2019. He is currently a partner at Akin Gump, a Washington firm specializing in public law and policy law. He was a member of the Afghanistan Study Group and has been a professor at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1977 and a law degree in 1981. “Joe has been an exemplary public servant in Congress, an

invaluable friend of Notre Dame and of me personally, and he is an ideal choice to represent the United States at the Vatican,” said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins. When Donnelly was running for reelection to the Senate in 2018, Democrats for Life of America said: “Donnelly has been a consistent pro-life voice as well as advocate for women and families, co-sponsoring many important pieces of legislation.”

## El Salvador welcomes four new martyrs, symbols of Vatican II church

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (CNS) – Unlike the spotless image of many holy men and women, a depiction of one of the new martyrs of the Catholic Church looks anything but polished. The boy is hunched a little. His cuffed pants are slightly too big for his small body. His shirt, improperly unbuttoned, hangs just a bit longer on one side than the other. Bullet casings are at the bare feet of the unpolished martyr. That’s the image his parish in El Paisnal, El

Salvador, presented to the world, with the message that the most simple and poor, like Nelson Rutilio Lemus, a teenage boy, are worthy of the grace of martyrdom. Lemus was assassinated in his rural hometown next to his pastor, Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, and sacristan Manuel Solórzano, March 12, 1977. The three, along with Franciscan Father Cosme Spessotto, were beatified Jan. 22 in an outdoor evening ceremony at Salvador del Mundo Plaza in San Salvador. Beatification is one of the final steps toward sainthood. Salvadoran Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, who presided at the ceremony, placed the martyrs’ and the Catholic Church’s role into the context of the country’s civil conflict in the 1970s and 1980s, which ended with peace accords in 1992. The martyrs beatified were part of more than 75,000 civilians killed. “Of the four martyrs of El Salvador who have just been beatified, we can say what John (in the Gospel) affirms ... that ‘they come from the great tribulation’ and ‘that they have washed their clothes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb,’” the cardinal said.

## Pope confers ministries of lector, catechist on lay women and men

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Highlighting the importance of the Bible in the life of faith and the role of lay women and men in sharing the Gospel, Pope Francis formally installed eight men and women in the ministry of lector and eight others in the ministry of catechist. During Mass on Jan. 23, the church’s celebration of Sunday of the Word of God, the pope used a revised rite for formally installing lectors, a ministry he opened to women a year earlier, and the new rite for the ministry of catechist, which he established in May. Pope Francis installed six women – from South Korea, Pakistan, Ghana and Italy – and two Italian men in the ministry of lector, telling them they were placing themselves “in the service of the faith, which is rooted in the word of God.” Three women from Spain, Brazil and Ghana and five men from Italy, Peru, Brazil and Poland were installed as catechists, and Pope Francis told them they were called “to live more intensely the apostolic spirit, following the example of those men and women who helped Paul and the other apostles to spread the Gospel.”

## Franciscan friars praise young Catholics for standing up for life at march

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Though not every participant at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. is Catholic, the faithful presence of those who are is made abundantly apparent every year. Among the annual marchers are Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and this year was no exception. They were among the thousands of people from all walks of life who came together in unity to show their support for the lives of unborn children Jan. 21 for the 49th annual march and rally marking the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The Franciscan friars traveled to Washington, D.C. from multiple locations in New York and New Jersey, bringing with them lay associates and young people to gather on the National Mall to listen to rally speakers and then march as a group up Constitution Avenue. “To be here and gather together with young people and old people, and to be encouraged by the witness. ... We are here to promote the dignity of life. I want to be a part of that movement,” said Brother Thomas McGrinder, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal for the past 25 years. “I am encouraged by what I see with all of the young people, it is always a great grace to be here with them and support their witness as well,” he said.

## Holy Cross Association announces conference

SOUTH BEND — The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross present an upcoming virtual conference for anyone wishing to grow in their spiritual life. “Reaching Out – Touching Minds and Hearts Through Information, Formation and Transformation” will take place on Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. over Zoom. Featured presenters are Judith R. Fean, MA, former vice president at Saint Mary's College with the topic “Pope Francis' Gift to Holy Cross” and Michael Reiling, MA, retired high school theology teacher and retreat leader speaking on “Transforming Your Life in Christ.” Register for the conference at [holycrossassociates.org/chapters/national-and-regional-conferences](http://holycrossassociates.org/chapters/national-and-regional-conferences).

## Synod listening sessions

FORT WAYNE — Pope Francis is seeking input from all members of the laity, especially those whose voice is not typically heard. You are invited to share how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. To this end, the diocese is hosting listening sessions across our geographical region. The diocese will then prepare a summary document on these consultations to share with the Vatican. Please prayerfully consider attending a listening session. The listening session for Vicariate A will take place at St. Pius X in Granger on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. It will begin with Mass, with the listening session to follow. Vicariate D will host its listening session on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, beginning with adoration. Vicariate E will have a listening session on Monday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, beginning with Mass. Vicariate F will host a listening session on Saturday, Feb. 12 at SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington, with Mass and Holy Hour prior. The session for Vicariate C will take place on Tuesday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish in Ligonier and will be bilingual. Visit [diocesefwsb.org/synod/](http://diocesefwsb.org/synod/).

## Taizé Prayer service scheduled

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host a Taizé prayer service on Feb. 8 from 7-8 p.m. both in person and via livestream. This prayer service offers song, quiet contemplation and inspired readings to aid in spiritual growth. It will take place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods on the second Tuesday of each month. Persons of all faiths are welcome to attend. For more information or to find the livestream link, go to [taize.sistersofprovidence.org](http://taize.sistersofprovidence.org) or call 812-535-2952.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Knights of Columbus support seminarian education



Jennifer Barton

Knights of Columbus Council 451 presented vocations director Father Andrew Budzinski with checks to support the seminarian education fund. Representing the Knights are Doug Baisinger, financial secretary, Grand Knight Dennis Redding, and treasurer Joe Mikolay. The council boasts around 360 members and are very active in their native parish of St. Charles Borromeo and the Fort Wayne community. They chose six seminarians with ties to the parish as recipients of their fundraising efforts.

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton student wins spelling bee



Provided by Lois Widner

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton seventh grader Elizabeth Hill won the 2022 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School Spelling Bee and will go on to compete at the county level. Pictured are Kim Conte, pronouncer for the bee, Elizabeth Hill, Ella Funk, runner-up, and Chad Hormann, teacher and bee moderator.

## Seeking Totus Tuus summer missionaries

Totus Tuus is looking for college-aged adults to serve as summer missionaries around the diocese. Four missionaries will be chosen to travel to six parishes for week-long summer formation programs geared toward elementary and high school students. Totus Tuus uses fun activities such as theatrical skits to teach lessons pertinent to the Catholic faith, with Mass, recitation of the rosary and adoration a part of each mission day. Training is provided at the Totus Tuus location in Peoria, Illinois prior to the start of the summer rotation. To apply, visit [diocesefwsb.org/totus-tuus](http://diocesefwsb.org/totus-tuus).

## 'You Can Lend a Hand' coupon books on sale

FORT WAYNE — Support local Catholic schools through the yearly “You Can Lend a Hand” coupon books on sale beginning Feb. 1. Participating Burger King locations include most restaurants in northern Indiana, select cities in Michigan and Van Wert, Ohio; Chili's in Fort Wayne, Goshen, Mishawaka, Michigan City and St. Joseph, Michigan and Papa Vito's locations in Mishawaka and St. Joseph, Michigan. Coupons offer deals on sandwiches, meals and more. For anyone outside the region who would still wish to support Catholic education, donations can still be made at the website [youcanlendahand.com/buycoupons-donate](http://youcanlendahand.com/buycoupons-donate). Coupon sales end on Feb. 28.

## Saint Mary's Women's Choir performing at Cathedral

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has invited the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir to participate at Mass on Feb. 20 at 11:30 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The choir is a 40-voice ensemble which has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, including Carnegie Hall in New York City and even as far away as China. They have participated in choral competitions and recorded four compact discs on the ProOrgano label. All are welcome to attend.

# St. Charles Borromeo starts first parish CRS chapter

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades met virtually with a delegation from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, as the parish marked the beginning of their chapter of Catholic Relief Services on Jan. 19. St. Charles Borromeo became the first parish to start a CRS chapter in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"I'm really grateful to Father Tom and to all of you for not just your interest in CRS but your willingness to spread the word and to be involved," Bishop Rhoades told those gathered at the kick-off.

"I do believe we are, as you think of Cain after killing his brother Abel, said to God, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' and, of course, the answer to that is yes.

"Oftentimes we focus so much attention on our immediate community and on our nation," Bishop Rhoades continued, "which of course is important because there are needy people everywhere. But there's dire poverty. There are people dying in poor nations of the world. And our responsibility, I think, God will judge us, you know these are our brothers and sisters in the human family."

Beth Knobbe, community engagement manager at CRS, also expressed her enthusiasm and gratitude for the new parish chapter. "I'm just so excited to be with all of you tonight as we officially kick off a new CRS chapter at St. Charles Borromeo," she said. She thanked those who had attended and articulated her hopes that members of the parish would learn about the mission of CRS and be inspired to aid in it.

"We are at a really pivotal moment in history," Knobbe continued. "Millions of people around the world are experiencing poverty, hunger, violence and other affronts to their human dignity. You may know that there are more people displaced today than at any other time in history. And, for the first time in nearly 20 years, extreme poverty rates are expected to rise as a result of the COVID pandemic."

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, shared a story about an interaction he had with CRS in Tanzania 30 years ago. "There had been a drought, there had been a famine. Catholic Relief Services was able to organize relief efforts — that's not their primary way of operating — but



it was needed there."

Father Shoemaker explained that a priest in Tanzania told him that the relief brought in by CRS was more efficient than government aid because they could use resources already in place, namely parishes and rectories throughout the country to distribute food and other essential goods to those in greatest need. "The people knew one another and knew who was

in need and who wasn't," he said. The Catholic Church is the largest Christian community in Tanzania.

"I'm just impressed with everything Catholic Relief Services has done over the years," Sister Genevieve Raupp said at the meeting.

"And with our students," she continued, "we try to always, every year, do some type of a collection, not Rice Bowl, but we are



File photo

collecting money, sending to help in one of the many relief areas throughout the world and making the kids in tune to that."

Knobbe closed her comments, saying "Congratulations on a brand new chapter of CRS at St. Charles Borromeo. I'm excited to journey with you, it's very exciting."

High schools and universities within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend already have relationships with CRS, and St. Charles was the first local parish added to that list.

CRS operates in more than 100 countries throughout the world, working in nearly every country in Africa and Asia espe-

cially, but also through Central and South American countries and in the U.S. Mostly CRS is known for their yearly Lenten almsgiving opportunity, the Rice Bowl collection.

They work to assist the poor and vulnerable and carry out the commitment of the USCCB by doing so, as stated in their mission statement: "We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching."

For those who wish to contribute to CRS, or to learn more information, visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).



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# Parents, religious and teachers essential for educating children intellectually, spiritually

BY DR. JOSEPH BRETTNACHER



Welcome to the 48th Annual Catholic Schools Week. It provides me with an opportunity to thank all the parents who have chosen a Catholic education for their children in our schools. We take the responsibility of working with you seriously. We know that parents are their child's primary and most important teachers. Our schools help parents by educating the whole child spiritually, intellectually, and socially. We help students develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ within his mystical body, the Church, become disciples of Christ, fulfill their destiny to become saints, and reach the ultimate goal for students in our Catholic schools – heaven.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Faith, Excellence, and Service." Allow me to add a twist to the theme, tailored for our 39 elementary schools and four high schools, rather than discuss national statistics. We will look at faith, excellence, service, and add another extremely important element ... why Catholic Education is more affordable than you may think.

## Faith

Catholic Schools Week is a time to reflect on past bishops, priests, and religious who built, oversaw, ran, taught, and supported Catholic education. An interesting historical note is that Father Julian Benoit was appointed to the diocese in 1840. He took on finishing a church, begun by his predecessor, then built the first schools in what is now the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The first was St. Augustine Academy, which opened in 1845, and then more followed. He secured the Sisters of Providence and Brothers of Holy Cross to help run them. Father Benoit expressed, "I can do nothing without schools."

I, of course, must add a brief note about Saint Mother Theodore Guerin. She was the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and opened an academy for girls less than a year after migrating from France. She continued to establish schools across Indiana and eastern Illinois throughout her adult life.

We are grateful to the religious orders that have taught in or run our schools. They include

the Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of St. Agnes, Sisters of Holy Cross, Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Franciscan Sisters of Joliet Illinois, Sisters of St. Francis of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of the Precious Blood, Sisters of St. Francis of Kunegunda, Sisters of Providence from St. Mary of the Woods, the Dominican Sisters, Sisters of Nazareth, Sisters of St. Francis of Lafayette, Felician Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph Tipton, Holy Cross brothers and sisters, and many others. Let us also not forget the past priests who have run or taught in our schools for their very important contributions and support of Catholic education.

Currently, we are fortunate to have the Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, pastors, and religious who support Catholic education.

Bishop Rhoades is a staunch advocate for our schools. He genuinely cares for our administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents. The bishop works hard to ensure those who teach religious instruction have outstanding and correct doctrine. So, too, he expects all our administrators

and educators to live the Gospel, practice strong pedagogy, and work to distinguish their schools spiritually and academically.

We are blessed to have excellent pastors, priests, and other religious support Catholic education. These men and women work hard to assist parents. Through their collaboration with each other, we are able to fulfill the serious obligation parents have to provide their children with suitable Catholic education, both in our schools and in our parishes.

The laity, current and past administrators, faculty, and staff, have filled in for the religious who were prevalent in our schools up until the mid-1960s. They are faith-filled people who see Catholic education as a vocation. Let us not forget their contribution to our schools.

God has blessed us with these Christ-like servant-leaders who help to ensure our schools are faith-filled.

## Excellence

An excellent Catholic education requires committed administrators, faculty, and staff. The commitment is always apparent,

but especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. During this crisis, our Catholic schools strived to keep open wide the doors for in-person learning. They have put in long hours and endured much stress to keep our children safe while teaching them. Their faith in God has helped them become beacons of hope for parents and their children. May God continue to shower His blessings upon them.

Excellence is evident in our 43 diocesan schools in many ways. We educate more than 11,500 students, and by the time they graduate, more than half earn an honors diploma. In addition, 100% of our K-8 students attend Mass weekly. Our four high schools earned an "A" rating from the Indiana Department of Education, and 98.1% graduated in four years. On average, we have 17 students per teacher, allowing for more individualized instruction. We have more than 700 dedicated educators and we have diversity in our schools (21.6% Hispanic/Latino and 10.9% racial minorities). Also, a significant number

LETTER, page 10



**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON**  
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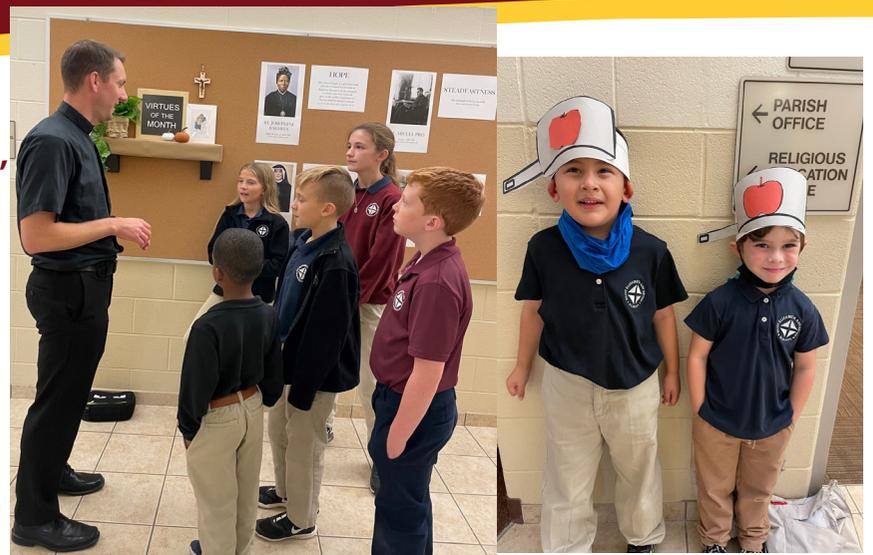
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- Kindergarten reception is February 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. for new, interested families (reserve your place for 2022-2023!)
- Be on the lookout for 2022-23 preschool & K-8th grade enrollment dates

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**LETTER, from page 9**

of our schools score higher than the state average on proficiency tests. The list could go on.

**Service**

Service to others is an essential component of Catholic education. When our students participate in service activities, learning locally and abroad, they demonstrate their faith, values, and learn how to make the world a better place both now, and throughout their lives.

Many of our schools plan to do the following, among many other acts of service as part of suggestions from the National Catholic Education Association:

- Donate educational materials for students in underserved communities and poorer schools.
- Host an awards assembly recognizing students and teachers who have demonstrated outstanding community service.
- Put together care packages to send to active-duty military with personalized notes and other items.
- Write notes, make posters, or decorate treat baskets to deliver to

community leaders, local service organizations, nursing homes, and local children's hospitals.

- Write notes, make posters, or decorate treat baskets to deliver to neighbors and local businesses around the school to thank them for being great neighbors!

- Host a dress-down day fundraiser, asking students to donate \$1 toward a Catholic charity or service organization.

- Invite community members into the school for muffins or other appetizers or a student-led tour or event.

Many of our Catholic graduates go on to a lifetime of service to their communities due to their service learning.

**Affordable**

With the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, Scholarship Granting Organizations, and school-specific tuition assistance, affording a Catholic education is easier than you may think.

Indiana Choice Scholarship Program: The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program has three criteria. The student must reside in Indiana. Each student must meet

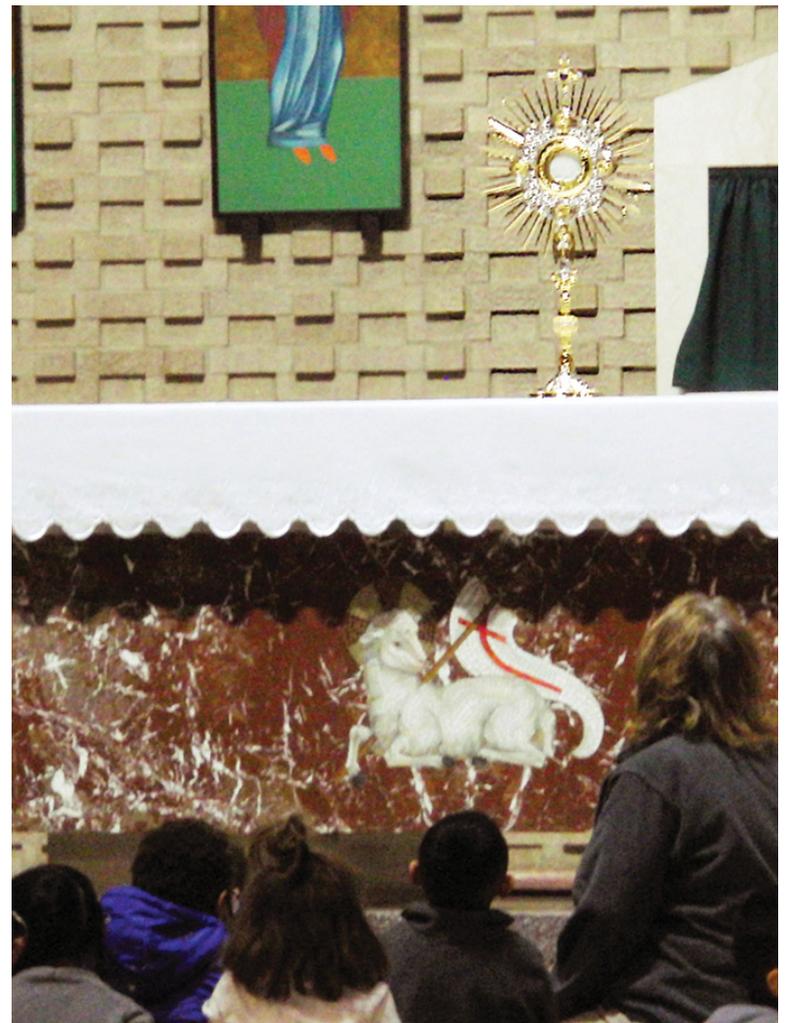
one of eight Choice Scholarship program tracks. Families whose household income is less than 300% of the Child Nutrition Program Income Eligibility Guidelines qualify for 90% of what it costs to educate a student at their local public school. For instance, a family of one can make up to \$71,484 adjusted gross income and qualify; a family of four, \$147,075; a family of eight, \$273,060; and a family of ten \$298,257. Contact your local Catholic school for a comprehensive list.

- Scholarship Granting Organizations: Families qualify for scholarships based upon the same household income guidelines listed above through the Scholarship Granting Organization.

- School-specific tuition assistance: Many schools in the Diocese of Fort-Wayne-South Bend provide tuition assistance such as family discounts, parishioner rates, and scholarships.

Your pathway to Catholic education is as simple as contacting the Diocesan school of your choice, applying for assistance, and enrolling.

Happy Catholic Schools Week!



Photos by Elisejane Plecnik

Students as young as kindergarten learn the importance of spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist as they attend adoration on Mission Fridays at St. Matthew Cathedral School.

## Mission Fridays present faith, excellence, service

BY ELISEJANE PLECNİK

Tucked away on bustling Miami Street southeast of downtown South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral School has a vibrant faculty, staff and students who live out the theme of the 48th annual Catholic Schools Week: "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." The 2022 theme was chosen by the National Catholic Educational Association.

This year, St. Matthew Cathedral School rolled out its unique Mission Fridays program, and both students and school administrators share the fruits of the program's efficacy. The activities in Mission Fridays permeate the school's curriculum and community on- and off-campus.

Mission Fridays focus on prayer and activities that enrich the spiritual, intellectual, moral, social and physical development of all students at the school. The Adoration Club is a Mission Fridays faith activity for all grade levels to pray as a whole school community. As of September, the kindergarten through fourth grade students and their teachers walk over to St. Matthew Cathedral to share 20 minutes with Jesus at their assigned adoration time. Fifth through eighth grade students are permitted to participate in adoration at 7:30

a.m., before school begins.

"It is amazing to watch," said Dr. Lindsey Esbensen, vice principal and school librarian. She accompanies the kindergartners and first graders to adoration often, and remembers how she first felt some concern over the kindergartners' patience when adoration for their grade was introduced. But she trusted that things would work out, and is blessed to witness the parts come together as a fruitful whole. "The students are trying to figure out why this is so important, and the teachers are doing such an excellent job of conveying to them, 'This is Jesus right here, with us,'" she stated.

Esbensen describes with joyful admiration how she witnesses young students sitting quietly and praying. Some of the 5-year-olds cover their eyes in order to concentrate and genuinely focus on prayer. Their teachers emphasize adoration with a consistent message: "It is important to listen for God." Esbensen concluded that: "If kindergartners are able to (be still) for 20 minutes, you know adoration Fridays are working ... some of the most touching things I've seen are just how good they are and how truly reverent they are of the Blessed Sacrament."

Mission Fridays initiate integral development through service activities. They promote a sense

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of community and build dialogue between parents, faculty, staff and students. Kindergarten to fourth grade students participate in year-long service projects each school year. For 2022, this student cohort aims to help raise money as well as aid in the collection of clothing and accessories for newborn children, called layettes, for the Women's Care Center by May. The faculty are in steady preparation so that students grow in their knowledge and faith through their service efforts. The hope is that they see the positive impact they bring to the community at large and to those who live in poverty.

Older students engage in service activities on a weekly basis in four groups, arranging boys and girls into separate ones. Friday afternoons, each group participates in defined stations that promote youth ministry, music, career or vocation development and life skills activities.

"A beautiful fruit of Mission Fridays is a desire for faith formation that led to the creation of the St. Philip Neri Club, an after-school volunteer program for seventh and eighth grade students," said John Fyrqvist, director of religious education at the school.

Fueled by the students' electric enthusiasm, Fyrqvist guides the club members to live out the Catholic faith through service. "We want to actually live out our faith in a real way – asking that question, what does it mean to

'live the Gospel,' in our communities as middle schoolers, and what opportunities might present themselves?" he said.

These activities give club members life skills and an opportunity to see their work in action. The St. Philip Neri Club recently prepared a pancake and sausage breakfast at the school to send to Our Lady of the Road, an organization that aids homeless people. The meal fed more than 100 people in need.

Mission Fridays end with prayer: Benediction, rosary on the first Friday of the month and activities appropriate to liturgical seasons. When asked about how Mission Fridays started, Sister Gianna Marie Webber, principal of the school, shared, "The thought process for it has been in my mind for years and it came together this year ... we've got a very good team for it. Even though it's a crazy year to roll this out, we need to do it now, and put it into place for the years to come so it's part of the Cathedral School of St. Matthew."

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## Mother, daughter recognized as exemplar teachers

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Some mothers and daughters share material possessions like clothing and shoes. Some share hobbies. A few have the same career paths. But even fewer share what Maureen and Katherine Alexander have experienced: four years teaching together.

And this year they have the extraordinary privilege of being honored with the esteemed Christ the Teacher award together. Maureen is at St. John the Baptist in South Bend and Katherine is at St. Pius X in Granger.

"I am touched to share this honor with my daughter," Maureen stated. "Family and faith are the most important parts of our lives."

Katherine agreed. "This is very special to share this beautiful recognition with my mom."



Provided by Katherine Alexander

**Katherine Alexander followed her mother Maureen into the field of education, even teaching together at the same school. This year, both received the Christ the Teacher award for their schools, St. Pius X in Granger and St. John the Baptist in South Bend, respectively.**

### Double awardees

Their career paths were similar. Both women first experienced the same desire to work with children as babysitters, both attended Saint Mary's College, both taught at St. Anthony de Padua School in South Bend and both made the decision to move to new schools in the same year.

Maureen teaches third grade at St. John the Baptist, though she had taught fifth grade in previous years. Katherine teaches middle school math and science. She also serves as athletic director and coaches sports at St. Pius X.

Both women previously received the Christ the Teacher award in different years while at St. Anthony de Padua. Maureen was teaching kindergarten when she won it, and Katherine was working with second graders, which was special for her as she walked with them through their sacraments.

"It was very bittersweet leaving St. Anthony's and moving on to new schools for both of us, but I think if we would have stayed at the same school, this would have never happened," Katherine said. "How cool it is to share this honor together in the same year."

At both of their schools, the awardee is nominated by fellow teachers, rather than by students and parents. It was a different feeling, knowing that their peers recognized their work as exceptional.

### Someone to emulate

Katherine had a couple of excellent role models who inspired her to pursue a teaching career, one of which was definitely her mother. "Growing up, I had a front row seat at witnessing teacher life and my mom made it look so effortless by the

way she gracefully handled each day," Katherine commented. She admired the way that Maureen was able to balance her work and home life, raising three children. "She made it look so easy and fun."

Katherine has learned for herself that while teaching is not easy, it is definitely enjoyable. "It's meaningful work. There is purpose. And no class or day is the same, so I like that."

Her high school physics class at Marian High School gave her an additional boost toward the classroom when then-teacher – and now principal – Mark Kirzeder helped instill in her a love of science through his classroom lessons. He is part of the reason she chose science and math as her specialty. The benefit of teaching in a Catholic classroom, she said, is that: "I talk about my faith and I incorporate that in my science class every day ... science and religion go hand-in-hand."

### Setting the example

Now Katherine is the one who fills the role as an example for her young students. When she came to St. Pius X, she decided that it was important for her students to witness her faith outside the classroom, and became a parishioner there, where her students can see her as a greeter or extraordinary minister of holy Communion on various Sundays. In a humorous twist, the baby she nannied for as a young adult is her godson and currently one of her eighth-grade students.

"I realized my students are learning how to be a good human from me," Katherine said. "They're not going to remember what I said, but they'll remember how I made them feel, and I think that's really what made me into the teacher I am today, that realization."

While they each have had

some experience in the public school setting, both mother and daughter believe they have been called to teach within the Catholic schools system. When she started teaching, Maureen wanted to be in a place where her children could attend, and as her parents sacrificed to send her and her siblings to Catholic schools, so she wanted the same for her three children.

St. Anthony de Padua is still her home parish, but she feels needed at St. John the Baptist. "I teach at a school where less than half the population are Catholic, but their parents have chosen St. John's as an alternative education for them," she said. This gives her an opportunity to be a witness to the faith and "incorporate anything I can so that they'll remember God every day."

St. John the Baptist has begun using the Virtue=Strength program this year in the classroom, and Maureen has adapted each month's virtue for her young students to understand. She also took extra time after school this year to learn phonics to help fill the gap that many of her students have faced due to the pandemic and the educational struggles that went with it. "I think I've chosen the right school that needed a teacher and needed the dedication that I have."

In her years as a teacher, Maureen has also mentored future teachers and has particularly paid back her alma mater by accepting 10 Saint Mary's students as student teachers.

Although she has roughly 35 years of teaching under her belt, Maureen has no plans for leaving her chosen field. "I've had success this year with children who were having trouble in public schools and making them feel at home in our Catholic school, and that's gratifying. The teachers that I teach with and the students that I help – it's the reason why I go in every day."

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# Bishop Luers student grateful for Catholic education

BY JENNY CONRAD

**B**ishop Luers High School student Gabby Durnell is thankful, and her grateful spirit permeates her commentary on high school life. She recently earned a \$1,000 award from the Institute for Quality Education for her essay submission to their “Voices for Choices” competition. This essay contest is typically reserved for parents. Gabby was the only student in the state of Indiana to submit an essay and is one of three awardees. Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne also received a matching prize. Along with her parents, principal Jim Huth and admissions director Jenny Andorfer, Gabby will travel to Indianapolis to attend a breakfast with Governor Eric Holcomb and state legislature representatives at the end of the month in recognition of her award.

Her gratitude extends well beyond scholarship recognition or monetary awards. Gabby is passionate about the Indiana School Choice program and what it has meant for her family and her high school education.

Gabby’s path to Bishop Luers began while she was still in middle school. She grew up in the Southwest Allen County School district, but sensed that, as high school approached, she needed a change. “I wanted a school that teaches Christian values and pushed students academically and athletically. And I wanted a greater diversity of all types – income levels, beliefs, backgrounds, ethnicity ... a place where everyone doesn’t necessarily think the same way or come from the same type of background. I heard good things



Provided by Jenny Conrad

**Bishop Luers sophomore Gabby Durnell, center, was surprised to learn that her essay was chosen as a winner of the \$1,000 “Voices for Choices” scholarship by the Institute for Quality Education. Pictured with her are her parents Jason and Victoria Durnell, Jenny Andorfer, the admissions director who ensured that Gabby would be able to attend Bishop Luers, and principal Jim Huth.**

about Bishop Luers and started to check it out.”

Her parents were open to investigating the school as well. Victoria Durnell remembers her husband, Jason, who grew up in Fort Wayne, telling her that Bishop Luers always had a very good reputation. Together with Gabby, the Durnells decided to visit the school. Victoria stated, “I was impressed from the beginning – the class size, academics, teachers and staff impressed me. And everyone was so personable, you couldn’t help but feel warm and welcomed. Our top priority was putting Gabby where she would grow spiritually, academically and athletically. We believed Bishop Luers would be a good fit.”

Once their decision was made, the enrollment process began. But shortly after, they hit a roadblock. Gabby recalls the situation. “The pandemic came and my mom lost her job. Now with

only one income, my parents didn’t know how we could afford private school tuition,” she said. “So, sadly, my parents made the decision they would call the admissions director and let her know I wouldn’t be coming.”

Victoria still remembers making that phone call to Andorfer, and how hard it was to say that Gabby wasn’t coming to Bishop Luers.

“I poured everything out in that phone call. It was so emotional for me,” Victoria said. “I kept saying ‘we want her there, but I just don’t know how we can do this.’ And I didn’t want to take up a spot that could go to another student, so we decided to stop the enrollment process. Mrs. Andorfer just listened, then said to me, ‘We can find a way to make this happen.’”

Andorfer also recalls that conversation. “At the time, I told her we’d do everything we could

to help them. I knew she truly believed this was the best place for Gabby and we never want to turn a child away due to financial circumstances,” she said.

So she sat down with Gretchen Steele, the tuition manager at Bishop Luers, and evaluated any financial aid the Durnells might qualify for, including the School Choice voucher. After that, Victoria, thrilled that there were available resources, applied for everything she could. She praised Andorfer for providing her with scholarship information and walking them through the process. Finally, they had enough financial aid to enroll Gabby. Victoria commented, “The whole process renewed our faith in people and their willingness to help. We had no doubt then, or now, that this was the kind of place we wanted Gabby to be.”

Andorfer’s message to the Durnells is the same one she

wants to share with every family; to reach out to the school with questions or concerns, and they would be happy to provide assistance.

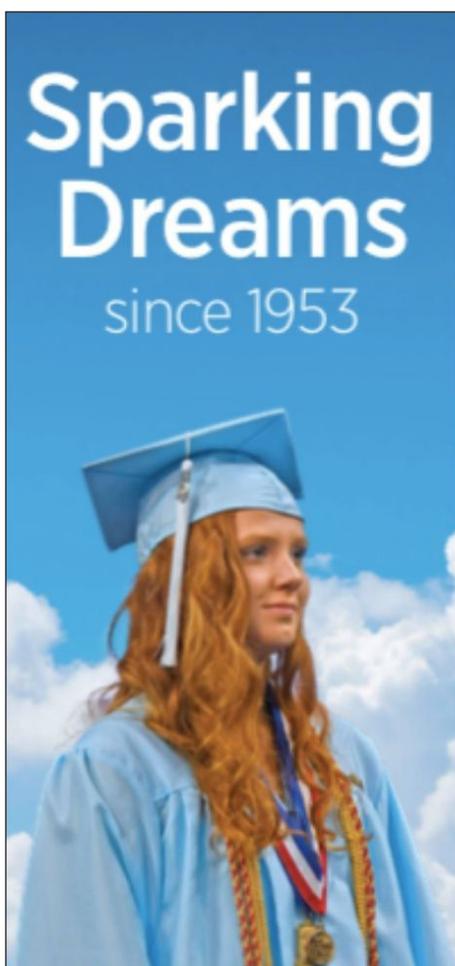
Thankful to begin her freshman year of high school, Gabby jumped right into student life. She became a cheerleader and joined the track team. But the biggest impact on Gabby came in a different way – her religion class. She remarked, “I already considered myself a Christian, but didn’t really know much about my faith, so my knowledge really grew as I learned so much in class.” Her freshman retreat played a big role in her faith journey. “I saw how much everyone’s faith meant to them and how much they cared about it. I decided I wanted to become Catholic myself so I could receive the Eucharist.”

Gabby believes faith is a key part of the “Luers spirit” she loves. “I think ‘Luers spirit’ to me is always trying your best at everything you do, being kind to everyone and being devoted to your faith,” she said.

Victoria agrees. “The entire school community – staff, students, alumni, everybody – is a big family. You can talk to anyone and you feel accepted and welcomed.”

Now midway through her sophomore year, Gabby’s gratitude for her opportunity to shine at Bishop Luers continues to grow and she feels strongly that other students should have the same opportunity. “All families should be able to attend the right school for them and their child.”

“Without school choice and scholarships, things would be a lot different for me. I am so thankful.”



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Provided by Regina Zedaker

During construction of the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene, young students at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne sign their names onto beams that became the chapel's frame.

## Oratory an invitation for students to 'listen to Jesus'

BY KATIE SLEE

On a frigid January day, a class full of St. Vincent de Paul School students bundled up to cross the street and make their way to the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene in Fort Wayne. They knew the temperature and were aware of the wind chill, but nevertheless were excited to brave the elements to spend time in the presence of Christ.

Despite the number of students in the oratory, those in the building could hear a pin drop. Some students knelt to pray, oth-

ers journaled, some read prayers, a few simply sat and took in the peace. One young man made his way to the front and knelt, gazing at the Eucharist.

This isn't the image of youth to which society has become accustomed. Second grade teacher Amy Johnson explained, "they actually crave the silence. Their whole life, their whole world is full of so much noise that they have found they look forward to this. They need this."

The Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene is a perpetual adoration chapel located on the campus of St. Vincent de Paul

Parish. It is a short walk across the street for students and staff who want to spend some time in quiet prayer and rest in the presence of Christ. The building maintains the practice of complete silence. There is no singing, no spoken prayer, or instruments. The only exception to this is a weekly Mass offered on Friday evenings.

While accessible to anyone at any time, there is a list of adorers who sign up for a holy hour so someone is always present. One need not be signed up to walk in, and those who drop by can stay for however long they choose.

Adoration is open to all people, parishioners or not, Catholic or not. Even those with no faith affiliation at all are welcomed and encouraged to walk in and feel the peaceful presence. In a world full of noise and distractions, this in itself is a powerful conversion tool.

Beyond the adoration of the

Eucharist, Johnson said she has noticed her students observing and appreciating other aspects of the oratory. "We have had conversations in which they have shared that they also 'adore the art,'" she explained.

According to Johnson, Father Daniel Scheidt had an active and passionate role in selecting the art for the space. He spent a lot of time mindfully and prayerfully choosing what to display. Among her students' favorite works to look at is the Tree of Life, a striking carving held aloft in the center of the oratory that depicts the crucified Christ, not on a traditional cross, but on the Tree of Life. In addition to the carving, stained glass windows with images of saints familiar to the children are beginning to be inserted.

Parish advancement director Regina Zedaker shared that the students of St. Vincent feel such a connection to the oratory

in large part because they have played a significant role in the construction of it.

"We had the students write their names on the tresses as it was being built. They were able to take a tour of it while it was under construction, and the workers took the time to explain some of the pieces. The students also wrote on the back of the floor tiles before they were installed. They could share prayers, verses or just their names and know that they were always going to be in the presence of Christ."

Johnson affirmed the tie her students have to the oratory. "They know it is a holy place," she said. "They know it is special."

While it might not always be an easy task to get a class full of second graders to sit in silence, Johnson said she has noticed that the consistent practice of adoration has been a key component of their faith formation as she prepares them to receive their first Communion this spring. She has diligently and faithfully incorporated this experience into their sacramental education to prepare them not only for the big day itself, but for their faith life in the future. Johnson is striving to shape a generation of Catholics who, even for a few moments, remember to stop and listen so they can refocus their daily lives to center on what really matters. These lessons are not only sinking in, but they are also being shared by the children.

When asked what her favorite thing about going across the street to adoration is, student Elsie Tippmann summed it up clearly and without hesitation, saying, "I just like to sit and listen to Jesus." In a complicated and noisy society full of anxiety and distractions, anyone would benefit from pausing, even briefly, and learning a lesson from a second grader.

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# Catholic Charities volunteers provide welcome to Afghan refugees in Fort Wayne

BY KEVIN KILBANE

**T**hey gave of their time for different reasons. Their work transformed an unused former nursing home into Catholic Charities' new Cabrini Center, which will offer temporary housing and resettlement services to Afghan refugees starting a new life in the Fort Wayne area.

"Volunteers were instrumental in every piece of getting this open," said Nicole Kurut, mission advancement manager for the Catholic Charities office serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The social service ministry welcomed back those volunteers Jan. 20 for a thank-you luncheon at the Cabrini Center. The event included a blessing of the building by Father Mark Gurtner, vicar general of the diocese, a lunch of Afghan food and tours of the finished facility. Volunteers also had a chance to meet a few Afghan families staying there, the first of whom arrived in mid-January.

Catholic Charities named the center after St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants and first American citizen to be named a saint. Born in Italy, Mother Cabrini came to the U.S. in the late 1800s to minister to the thousands of Italian immigrants who had arrived in America before her. She and the religious order she founded, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, aided those in need by opening schools, orphanages and hospitals.

The sisters' mission is to bring Christ's love to the world, which fits well with the work Catholic Charities will do at Cabrini Center, Dan Florin, local Catholic Charities interim chief executive officer, said during brief remarks at the luncheon.

The need for a space like the Cabrini Center sprang up in late August as U.S. troops started their final withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Afghan military and government collapsed before U.S. personnel could exit, leaving the country under the control of the Taliban. A U.S. airlift carried more than 100,000 Afghan refugees out of the country before troops left.

Most of those refugees were taken to one of several military bases in the U.S., including Camp Atterbury, an Indiana Army National Guard base located just south of Indianapolis. About 40,000 Afghan refugees remain at military bases overseas, Kurut said. Those still overseas are scheduled for future resettlement in America.

At the time Afghan refugees began arriving in America, Fort Wayne had little housing available, Kurut said. So Catholic



Photos by Kevin Kilbane

**Dan Florin, interim CEO of the Catholic Charities office serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, speaks Jan. 20 during a thank-you luncheon for volunteers at the social service ministry's new Cabrini Center in Fort Wayne. Volunteers were vital in Catholic Charities' efforts to open the center, which will provide services to Afghan refugees being resettled in the Fort Wayne area.**

Charities looked for other ways to accommodate some of the new arrivals.

The diocese already owned the building that now is the Cabrini Center. The original portion had been constructed in 1958 as a convent for religious sisters, Florin said. It later became a nursing home but had basically sat unused for a year or more when Catholic Charities took possession of it in October, Kurut said.

Volunteers from Allen County, the nearby city of Warsaw and places in Ohio swarmed in to clean up the interior and remove items left from its previous use, Kurut said. They unboxed and sorted donations of clothing, kitchen items, bed linens and other things the families will need to set up their own households. They set up rooms for use by Afghan families, who can stay there 30 to 60 days while Catholic Charities helps them find housing of their own.

Eleven members of Knights of Columbus Council 451 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne volunteered at least 200 hours of time picking up donated household goods at owners' homes and delivering them to the Cabrini Center, said Dennis Redding, the council's Grand Knight.

Redding, whose wife Jill sorted clothing donations, said the volunteering matched two key missions for Knights of Columbus members: "We are associated with the Catholic Church, and this project helped the Church. And it gave us a chance to impact people's lives."

Members of the Carpenter's Sons, a ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne, tackled the remodel-



**With help of many volunteers, Catholic Charities converted an unused building owned by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend into the Cabrini Center, a hub for providing services to Afghan refugees being resettled in the Fort Wayne area.**

ing work that required more skilled labor, Kurut said. Catholic Charities hired a contractor to repair a larger room that had sustained water damage.

The Afghan resettlement project also became an interfaith effort, with congregations from other religious denominations in the Fort Wayne area holding fundraisers or organizing other activities to assist Catholic Charities, Kurut said.

"None of this would have been possible without our volunteers," she emphasized.

Those who volunteered found the experience extremely rewarding. "I like working with all the other volunteers," said Linda Gutoskey, a St. Charles Borromeo parishioner and member of its parish council. Gutoskey helped

sort and process items that had been donated to Catholic Charities for Afghan families.

"It's exciting," she said of working with volunteers from different organizations and states. "Then to see the Afghans arrive with their children and the place come alive. It was fun to watch and to be a part of."

Mark and Lisa Meadows of Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw had been in touch with Catholic Charities about volunteer opportunities when they heard about the Cabrini Center project. They already assist with a Haitian ministry at their parish, so helping Afghan refugees resettle locally appealed to them, Lisa said. "It is a local need," she explained.

Mark set up shelving in vari-

ous rooms in the building, and he and Lisa both helped move items onto the shelves.

They also coordinated an Afghan refugee simulation event Jan. 16 at their parish. A total of 40 adults and 24 teens participated to gain a better understanding of the challenges a refugee faces in leaving one country and starting over in another.

"It gets you thinking about it in a different way," Mark said.

As of Jan. 20, the Fort Wayne Catholic Charities office has assisted 101 Afghan refugees with resettling in the Fort Wayne area, Florin said. They currently expect to resettle a total of about 125 Afghans here.

Catholic Charities also recently opened a refugee resettlement sub-office in South Bend, Kurut said. It will welcome 30 Afghanistan refugees to that area before moving into resettling refugees from other nations.

Helping newly arrived Afghan families poses new challenges for Catholic Charities, Kurut said. The families had to flee their own country suddenly rather than working through the process of coming to America during years in a refugee camp. Families frequently are large, consisting of several members. Many adults worked in skilled careers in their homeland, including as physicians, lawyers and other professionals. Those who choose to resume their careers in America will have to pass the required exams and licensing standards.

The Cabrini Center will be a hub for assisting Afghan refugees with building a new life here.

In addition to serving as interim housing, the center will have case managers on site to assist families with government services paperwork and various sign-ups, such as enrolling children in school, Kurut said. Families will go to the center for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and job development training. Entertainment and activity areas will allow refugees to meet and make friends with other Afghan families being resettled here.

Local volunteers will also provide homework help to children and mentor adults as they adjust to their new community and culture, Kurut said.

With the community's help, Catholic Charities can continue carrying out the Gospel teaching to welcome the stranger.

Catholic Charities still has opportunities for volunteers to help Afghan families resettle in the Fort Wayne area, such as sorting donations or preparing meals for the families.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and needs, go to [ccfwsb.org](http://ccfwsb.org) and scroll down to information under the "Refugees" heading.

## COVID-19 and scientism

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, I was puzzled about how our reactions to it divided along party lines. There is no obvious reason why Democrats should fear sickness and death more than Republicans. But the division has persisted, indeed hardened; there is clearly something else going on.

One possible cause is that a pandemic invites government intervention, something Democrats are fond of. We've seen more of that from President Joe Biden, blue-state governors and big-city mayors than from their Republican counterparts.

Another reason for our division is not political, though I missed it for a long time because it aligns with party affiliation. It has to do with beliefs about science.

The cognoscenti say that those who object to vaccines, masks, quarantines, tests, crowd controls and school closings fail to "follow the science." Mainstream media see those objectors as mouth-breathing nimrods who lack the wit or the education to know what's good for them.

This is unfair. There is much we don't know about the progress of the infection or the efficacy of our responses. We used to worry about doorknobs and surfaces; now we don't. We've gone back and forth about masks.

It now seems that the vaccines, although they help prevent severe outcomes from infection, are much less effective at preventing transmission of the omicron variant than they were the delta variant.

It's not that science isn't helpful, but there is a kind of

scientism on the secular left that helps explain our disunion on this subject. And it's better aligned with religion than with politics. The division is not confined to public health policy. We see it in disputes over climate change and gender identity and abortion.

In each of these cases, the adherents of scientism argue that experts in the field have fully comprehended some matter of social concern.

For COVID-19, it's the infectious disease experts at the Centers for Disease Control. For climate change, it's NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Gender identity is the concern of the American Psychiatric Association. In recognizing a constitutional right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, Justice Harry A. Blackmun, former counsel for the Mayo Clinic, mentioned the word "physician" 48 times.

I say "scientism" rather than "science" because there is an almost religious commitment to the creed defined by the experts. And a corresponding resolution to stamp out heresies.

Last year, President Biden's press secretary said the White House was working with Facebook to prevent disinformation about vaccines. Google and YouTube banned ads from videos contradicting "well-established scientific consensus" about the causes of climate change. Amazon pulled Ryan Anderson's book about transgenderism.

And as with other varieties of



JOHN GARVEY

### INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

religious commitment, scientism commits us to a moral code. You're not just mistaken if you don't follow the directions of the experts; you're a bad person. Hence the phenomenon of COVID-shaming and Greta Thunberg's denunciation of the "injustice" of climate change.

But science can't tell us anything about moral responsibility. Its tools are logic and empirical measurement. It can assess whether mRNA vaccines work, and how fast the omicron variant spreads.

But it has no way to solve moral equations like how to weigh the risk of this infection against the importance of visiting the sick, going to church, educating your children, respecting privacy, kissing your grandmother.

Experts tend to picture the world with their own specialty in the foreground. My nephrologist tells me not to drink milk, lest I get kidney stones. He forgets that I need calcium and vitamin D for bones and teeth. Scientism suffers from the same cognitive bias in dealing with COVID-19. Minimizing the risk of infection is not our only challenge in life.

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

## Frost fair: creating something new in the dead of winter

The latest book by Sam Usher stopped me in my tracks. I've devoured the children's books brilliantly illustrated by this Chicago dad, and the title of his new release immediately drew me in: "A Night at the Frost Fair."

The cover art felt at once familiar and mystical. Here in Minnesota, my family's winter nights are spent skating under moonlight, like the children he illustrated. But they skate on London's River Thames, in the shadow of the Cathedral, and their story takes place two centuries ago.

It's set during the Little Ice Age, the period from the 13th to 19th century when the North Atlantic region experienced particularly cold winters. During that time, the River Thames froze over at least two dozen times. Old London Bridge, which was made of 19 arches, slowed the river's currents, making it more likely to freeze.

Boatmen who could no longer ferry people across the river but needed to generate income converted their boats to sleds and swings, and the Frost Fair was born. The river became a magical street filled with music and torches, booths and brightly painted swingboats. One year an elephant was led across the river.

A season of isolation became a time for merriment. The freez-



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

### TWENTY SOMETHING

ing cold made it possible.

This feels like a metaphor – and a relevant one for the seemingly interminable winter we find ourselves in. It is dark and cold; we are sick and tired. We still have not overcome Covid-19, and it's getting harder to imagine a future without it.

How can we, in our weariness, throw together a Frost Fair of our own design?

The answer is hinted at in the song "Blankets of Snow," a winter anthem by the bluegrass duo the Okee Dokee Brothers. They sing: "Let the milk and cocoa simmer on the heat. Don't you know the bitter cold makes the bittersweet."

The older I get, the more clearly I see the beauty of winter, spinning lace on every tree branch. I also see the adventure it offers. As a kid, I frolicked in fresh snow sheerly for the fun of it. As an adult, I embrace it as a way of life – a noble, Nordic resilience.

CAPECCHI, page 17

## The prophets lead all peoples to salvation in Christ



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 4:21-30

The Book of Jeremiah provides the first reading for this weekend. This book is regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophetic works because of its length and the brilliance of its language. Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem.

As occurred with many, indeed most, of the prophets, his prophecies drew sharp rebukes. He even was accused of blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. (It was this statute

that centuries later led some to demand the crucifixion of Jesus.)

Despite the ordeals created by these rebukes and accusations, Jeremiah never relented in proclaiming fidelity to God as a personal, and national, imperative and he never doubted that he was on a mission from God in very precise, challenging words.

In this weekend's reading, Jeremiah recalls the day when God called him to the mission of prophesy. He gives the period of time, the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 BC. God told Jeremiah to be bold and predicted the controversial response to Jeremiah's prophesying, urging the prophet not to be daunted by unfriendly or angry reactions.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the most compelling and best known sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature.

Clear and straightforward, it is the beautiful explanation of love. Few better definitions of

love, this ability so vital to and treasured by humans, in nature, exist.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities, smallness and shortsightedness of youth are overcome.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appeared in the synagogue in Nazareth.

In earlier verses not part of this weekend's reading, Jesus stood to read a section of the Book of Isaiah, in which Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet.

Isaiah gave details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God's spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor, and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declared that this prophecy has now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus spoke as the long-awaited spokesman of God.

The audience was outraged, especially when Jesus recalled an

incident, mentioned in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy upon gentiles.

This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the chosen people infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

#### Reflection:

The Church remembers the great feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany and that of the Baptism of the Lord in early January when it celebrated the mercy of God that came to us in the Lord Jesus.

Now, building upon this idea of God's gift of mercy and the possibility of our eternal life, the Church this weekend presents these readings.

As the Gospel made clear, God's love excludes no one, but all must do their part in receiving divine mercy. We ourselves must love others, with love as pure and unselfish as that described by St. Paul.

Granted, it is more easily said

than done. Reactions to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that human insights are limited and self-centered. We can be bitter and angry in our selfishness and short-sightedness.

God supplies us with what we cannot find or create on our own, eternal life but also genuine wisdom. Thus, God sent Jeremiah. Thus, God sent Jesus to us.

#### READINGS

**Sunday:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 Lk 4:21-30

**Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3 Ps 86:1-6 Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-11b, 11d-12 Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51 Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:3-34

# The ethics of pig to human organ transplants

Early this year, a Maryland man suffering from severe heart failure underwent a new experimental procedure, receiving a pig heart transplant. His medical team had determined he would be a poor candidate for a human heart transplant or for an artificial heart, so he was offered the opportunity to participate in a novel treatment using a genetically modified pig's heart.

The pig had been specially bred and modified with DNA edits to increase the likelihood of successful transplantation. Three genes of the pig that contribute to the rapid antibody-mediated rejection of pig organs by humans were "knocked out." Six human genes that would produce "human protective proteins" and improve immune acceptance of the pig heart were also inserted into the pig's genome. An additional gene knockout was done to prevent the pig's heart from becoming too large.

The transplantation of animal organs into humans is known as "xenotransplantation" and is a new field that appears poised to expand rapidly in the future. Xenotransplantation can be ethical as long as pilot studies are performed in animals ahead of use in humans, safety issues are carefully addressed, the benefits of the transplantation procedure outweigh the burdens and risks are reasonably limited.

While we have a duty to treat animals well and should try to avoid causing them undue suffering, it's also clear that human beings have been given by God a legitimate dominion over members of the animal kingdom. Animal trials have always been key to launching new therapies in humans.

Pig organ transplants into baboons and other non-human primates have been taking place for decades. These transplants have become more beneficial and less risky over time, especially as tailored genetic modifications have been introduced into the pigs. Xenotransplantation offers an important advantage over traditional human-to-human transplants: the opportunity to

modify the donor organ, rather than only modifying the recipient through suppressing his or her immune system.

In the early days of implanting pig organs into non-human primates, researchers faced the serious problem of immediate organ destruction due to hyperacute rejection, with the failure time being measured in minutes, rather than hours or days. Hyperacute rejection occurred because the baboon's immune system recognized a carbohydrate molecule on the surface of the pig organ. By knocking out the troublesome carbohydrate molecule via genetic engineering, and relying on additional immune-suppression techniques, scientists were able to extend significantly the survival times of transplanted pig organs in baboons, in some studies up to nearly three years.

The very complex changes made in the genetically engineered pigs, when coupled with continued advances in immune-suppression strategies in organ recipients, led to the realization that it might finally be possible to attempt implantation of a genetically modified pig heart into a human patient.

In the future, additional and more sophisticated genetic engineering of source animals and the use of new immunosuppressive agents in recipients should further improve compatibility and decrease the chances of xenotransplant rejection.

Still, it should be noted that there are other potential concerns besides organ rejection. Animal retroviruses or diseases could potentially be transmitted to humans when they receive an animal organ. Some have argued, however, that by maintaining strict control over how animals are housed, fed and bred for organ procurement, scientists can achieve a greater degree of assurance in terms of minimizing their exposure to pathogens through the highly biosecure laboratory conditions the animals are raised in; meanwhile, for human organ donors, detailed knowledge of individual exposure profiles may not be available.



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Surveys and focus groups assessing attitudes to xenotransplantation generally report public support for the use of pig organs. Such surveys also suggest that many Christians, Jews and Muslims would consider xenotransplantation to be acceptable as a life-saving measure. Some people object to the use of animals, but the fact that more than 100 million pigs in the US are slaughtered annually for human food production lessens for most the concerns around using them to alleviate the chronic shortages of life-saving organs. Thousands of people die every year on waiting lists for human organs.

Moreover, if pig organ transplants into humans were to become standardized and widely available, this could also significantly reduce the illegal trade in human organs like kidneys, where the poor and disadvantaged are often victimized.

Even though remarkable advancements have been made in "neutering" pig organs so they no longer provoke a powerful immune response in humans, and striking progress has been made in extending survival times for xenografts, there are sure to be many more twists and turns along the road of getting our immune systems to cooperate fully with implanted animal organs.

Recent forays into xenotransplantation offer a significant first step on the long journey from yesterday's "scientifically unimaginable," to today's "barely achievable," to tomorrow's basic "standard of care."

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

consider dormant, worthless. But she does so with gentle realism.

"If happiness is a skill," she writes, "then sadness is too. ... As adults, we often have to learn to hear the clarity of its call. That is wintering. It is the active acceptance of sadness. It is the practice of allowing ourselves to feel it as a need. It is the courage to stare down the worst parts of our experience and to commit to healing them the best we can. Wintering is a moment of intuition, our true needs felt keenly as a knife."

This concept feels encapsulated in our Catholic faith, which delivers healing through sacraments we cannot find elsewhere. The priest doesn't say Mass; he celebrates it. In the dead of winter, the Eucharist nourishes us.

Our faith gives us the lens to see the bittersweet in the bitter cold. It draws us around the fire.

**Christina Capecchi** is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

### CAPECCHI, from page 16

If it's above zero, we bundle up and head to the neighborhood pond, our sled filled with ice skates and firewood. We roast more marshmallows in the winter than the summer. That's when we need the fire.

I'm reading Katherine May's bestseller "Wintering," which chronicles a period she calls "wintering," when she and her husband experienced serious health problems and their son's anxiety peaked. Katherine mines meaning out of a season many

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 30, 2022

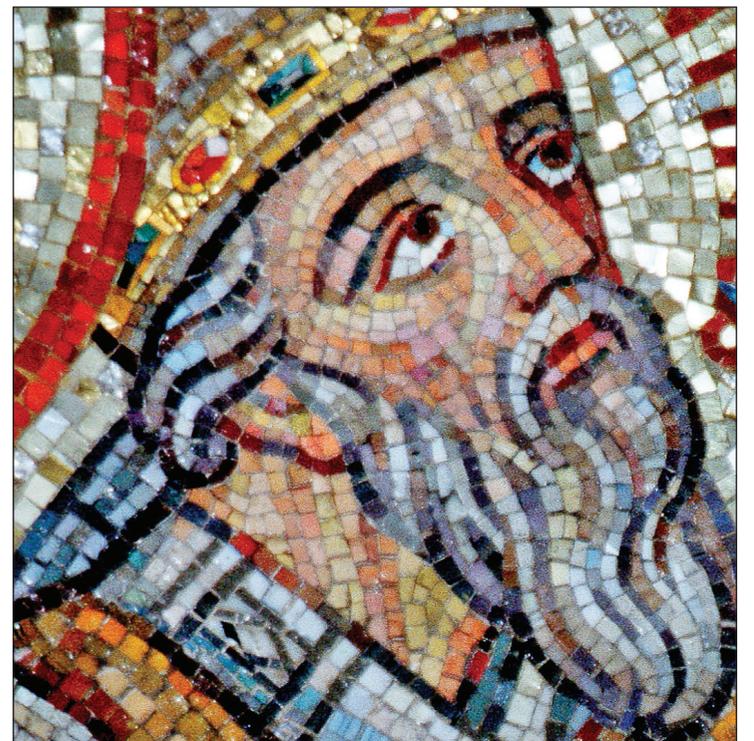
Luke 4:21-30

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

YOUR HEARING	GRACIOUS	WORDS
PROVERB	CAPERNAUM	WIDOWS
ELIJAH	THREE	YEARS
SEVERE	FAMINE	SIDON
LEPERS	CLEANSED	NAAMAN
SYRIAN	SYNAGOGUE	DROVE HIM
TOWN	BUILT	HURL HIM

### NOT WELCOME

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



## ST. VALENTINE

FEAST: FEBRUARY 14

How Feb. 14 came to be celebrated as the feast for lovers is somewhat a mystery. What little is known of the feast's namesake can be attributed to the lives of two martyrs: one a priest, the other a bishop. Their lives have no connection to the contemporary holiday. The priest Valentine reportedly was beheaded in 269 by Emperor Claudius II. The bishop, known for healing, was martyred earlier. It's probable that a medieval custom of sending messages of love on this day somehow merged later with the feast.

## Director of Sacred Music

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, which serves a Roman Catholic community of more than 9,700 in Carmel, Indiana, seeks candidates for our position of Director of Sacred Music.

The successful candidate should be an energetic, collaborative individual with experience in liturgical music within a parish setting to direct the liturgical music ministries of the parish. The person will be responsible for the preparation, coordination, performance, and organization of Music and music ministers/choirs. The director must be collaborative and knowledgeable of the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

The Director of Sacred Music is responsible for planning/directing a comprehensive parish music program which includes several choir/musician groups, musicians, and cantors performing at various liturgies including funerals and weddings. This person also serves as the parish music resource person in the areas of religious education, social ministry and evangelization. The successful candidate will have comprehensive knowledge of Catholic music and liturgy; be a Catholic in good standing; leadership, communication, planning and organizing skills and responsiveness to facilitating the worship life of the parish are required. This is an open position that is available immediately. Qualified and interested candidates are invited to send letter (email preferred) of interest and resume to:

Kevin Sweeney  
**St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church**  
 10655 Haverstick Road  
 Carmel, IN 46033  
 317-846-3850  
[kevin.sweeney@setoncarmel.org](mailto:kevin.sweeney@setoncarmel.org)

## Director of Pastoral Care

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, which serves a Roman Catholic community of more than 9,700 in Carmel, Indiana, seeks candidates for our position of Director of Pastoral Care to serve seniors in our area.

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing support, programs, and resources to meet the needs of the community and extending the resources of the parish — from middle-aged to seniors, or struggling with physical or mental-emotional health, grieving or otherwise in need of support by providing practical assistance and spiritual guidance for life's transitions and crises.

The responsibilities of the director will cover many functions relating to spiritual health, social activities, counseling and education: providing spiritual support services and outreach programs. The successful candidate will be a Catholic in good standing, have a bachelor's degree, prefer BSW, MSW, Pastoral Ministry, or Theology degree.

This is an open position that is available immediately. Qualified and interested candidates are invited to send letter (email preferred) of interest and resume to:

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**St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church**  
 10655 Haverstick Road  
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CNS photo/Disney

**This is the movie poster for "Encanto." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

## Encanto

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — Will viewers be charmed by Disney's "Encanto"? For the most part, the answer is probably yes, though this vivacious animated musical does include content that could be of concern for the parents of impressionable kids.

The setting, from which the film takes its title, is an enchanted enclave in Colombia. Long ago, this realm became home to Alma (voice of María Cecilia Botero), a then-young refugee mother who had recently been widowed when her courageous husband fell afoul of a band of soldiers.

Now, Abuela Alma presides as the matriarch of both her community and her family, the Madrigals, each member of which has traditionally received a supernatural talent on reaching the age of 5. All, that is, except Alma's 15-year-old granddaughter Mirabel (voice of Stephanie Beatriz) who, a decade back, awaited her gift in vain.

As Mirabel, strong-willed Alma and Mirabel's protective parents, Julieta (voice of Angie Cepeda) and Agustín (voice of Wilmer Valderrama), continue to wrestle with this misfortune, they find themselves threatened with a far worse one. A dark vision of the whole clan's doom granted years before to Mirabel's Uncle Bruno (voice of John Leguizamo) seems on the verge of fulfillment.

Amid colorful visuals and catchy songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the script, penned by Charise Castro Smith and Jared Bush (both of whom co-directed with Byron Howard), delivers worthy messages about com-

munity service, cooperation and family reconciliation. Yet "Encanto" may not be a good fit for the youngest moviegoers for a variety of reasons.

Along with the screenplay's strong emphasis on magic — including divination — and the vivid dangers through which Mirabel must pass, the movie also includes a slightly ambiguous treatment of religion.

Thus the namesake area includes a church whose amiable, briefly glimpsed priest is shown to be a local leader. Yet if the mystical is pervasive — the Madrigals, for example, live in a house that's essentially alive and that moves its elements around to protect and accommodate them — Christianity has only a marginal presence in the movie. That's an imbalance that might be hard to explain to small fry.

On the other hand, there's certainly no note of animosity against the faith discernable in the proceedings. Instead, Catholicism seems to be momentarily acknowledged as part of the culture, but then implicitly relegated to a state of mild-mannered irrelevance.

"Encanto" is preceded by a sweet-natured short cartoon, "Far From the Tree." The story of an overly curious young racoon, it includes some potentially scary moments, but is otherwise acceptable for all.

The film contains nonscriptural beliefs and practices and characters in peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

*Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

## The Marriage Course Online

**MISHAWAKA** — Strengthen your marriage from the comfort of your own home with The Marriage Course Online. Based on a brand-new film series featuring “regular” couples and relationship experts from around the world, this free seven-week program will take place online over Zoom on Thursday evenings from 8-10 p.m., Feb. 3 through March 17. Topics covered are strengthening connection, the art of communication, resolving conflict, the power of forgiveness, the impact of family, good sex and love in action. The program is hosted by Lisa Everett, director for Marriage and Family Ministry for the diocese. For more information and to register, visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course).

## Most Precious Blood School trivia night

**FORT WAYNE** — Trivia night at Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will be 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](mailto:office2@preciousblood.org).

## 2022 Rekindle the Fire men's conference

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

## Belonging 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](mailto: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 preferred time at <https://olghfw.com/ministries/outreach-ministries/american-red-cross-blood-drive>. Contact Debi Schoedel at 260-485-9615 or [debi@olghfw.com](mailto:debi@olghfw.com).

## Sensory-friendly Mass celebrated each week at St. Vincent de Paul

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

## REST IN PEACE

### Angola

Thomas E. Cranston, Sr., 78, St. Anthony of Padua

Andrew Hemlock, 37, St. Anthony of Padua

### Bristol

John Kopidowski, 78, St. Mary of the Annunciation

### Fort Wayne

Bernard J. Noll, 55, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mary M. Prete, 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Roselyn Ream, 93, St. Jude

Ruth Guertin, 96, St. Jude

David L. Aker, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Myron Wogoner, 79, St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Joseph Fodrocy, 85, St. Pius X

Richard Sorenson, 96, St. Pius X

### Huntington

Esther A. Hinen, 93, SS. Peter and Paul

### Mishawaka

Mary Mahank-Barnes, 96, St. Bavo

### South Bend

Marjorie Fisher, 94, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Delphine Crynes, 79, St. Adalbert

Michael A Espinoza, 46, St. Adalbert

Ann E. Shidaker, 78, St. Adalbert

Suellen Goralczyk, 75, St. Casimir

Patricia Romanski, 86, Holy Family

### Warsaw

Beatrice L. Shank, 96, Sacred Heart

Submit your event at  
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Holy Family School  
in South Bend seeks an

## Elementary Principal For 2022-2023 school year

The elementary school principal, under the direction of the pastor, is charged with the complete administration of the school. These duties include, but are not limited to, the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as spiritual leader of the school with and under the pastor;
2. Witness Catholic values and work with others to establish a faith community;
3. Establish rules and procedures to carry out assigned responsibilities;
4. Follow directives of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office and other diocesan offices;
5. Implement diocesan policies;
6. Implement, monitor, and assess the diocesan curriculum;
7. Establish instructional programs;
8. Ensure that teachers are supportive of the Catholic faith by their teaching and example;
9. Hire, assign and evaluate employees;
10. Supervise the work of employees;
11. Develop the school budget and manage the fiscal operations of the school;
12. Establish student conduct and discipline rules;
13. Act as spokesperson for the school in cooperation with the Diocesan Communications Office;
14. Coordinate marketing and development efforts in cooperation the the appropriate diocesan office;
15. Develop and implement a strategic plan for the school; and
16. Work closely with the local school board, which is consultative to the pastor and principal.

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

## FOREVER LEARNING INSTITUTE

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**Catholic Charities**  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Seeks a full-time  
**Counseling  
Liaison**

This position serves as the primary point of contact for Diocesan priests and Catholic school personnel who are seeking counseling/clinical resources and guidance for parishioners, students and school families. The role of the Counseling Liaison will be to research appropriate clinical service options in each of the four counties of the Diocese, utilize existing cooperative relationships and expand our referral network with mental health professionals on behalf of the organization and its constituents, maintain an up-to-date list of suitable referral sources and other connections with local community service agencies that adhere to the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

### Minimum Job Requirements:

- Master's degree in mental health field with a minimum of two years professional experience including skills in brief assessment and referral.
- Preference given to an LMHC or LCAC.
- Ability to work independently and effectively to provide services with limited supervision
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must be able to work flexible hours as needed and travel as required.

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