

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Using talents is a focus of pastoral visit to St. Anthony de Padua

BY ERIN LYNCH



Derby Photography

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to students and staff of St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Parish and School in South Bend at his pastoral visit on Jan. 28.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began his pastoral visit to St. Anthony de Padua School in South Bend by celebrating Mass on St. Thomas Aquinas' feast day, Jan. 28. As St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of Catholic schools, Bishop Rhoades said he could think of no better school to celebrate this feast day at than with the community of St. Anthony de Padua. After the Mass, the bishop blessed the new combined school and parish office. He then visited the classrooms and had lunch with the teachers.

Teaching the students

Bishop Rhoades focused his homily on the kingdom of God and the two parables in the Gospel reading in which Jesus compared seeds that are sown in the ground to heaven. He taught the students that Jesus used stories like these to help the people with whom he was speaking to understand his message. He talked about how the seeds that grow into big branches are like the Church because it also started small and continues to grow. He encouraged each of the students to participate in the kingdom of God. "The kingdom of God is a kingdom of love and peace. It's a kingdom of justice. That's the community we belong to," he said. "When you go to Catholic school, you learn to

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Thousands march to defend life in Fort Wayne

BY JENNIFER BARTON

An estimated 2,000 pro-life advocates, many of them from various local Catholic parishes, came out to attend the 48th annual Northeast Indiana Rally and March for Life in Fort Wayne on Jan. 29. Congressman Jim Banks, representative for Indiana's 3rd district, gave the keynote address at the rally prior to the march through downtown.

Right to Life of Northeast

Indiana board member Dr. Peter Scaer led those present in prayer at the start of the rally. In his prayer, he entreated God for the safety and protection of "our children" from the moral evils running rampant today and for an immediate end to abortion in the state of Indiana, both of which were met with cheers of affirmation. Next, Mike and Lisa Davis shared their heartache over an abortion they had before their marriage and how it was only through a post-abortive healing

ministry called Deeper Still that they were able to find peace and a loving marriage.

As the keynote speaker, Congressman Banks was well-received by the crowd. He honored Cathie Humbarger, who served at RTL for 20 years and recently left to focus on her work at Reprotection, a nationwide organization that she founded, whose purpose is to enforce pro-life legislation already on the books, such as filing charges against former abortionist Ulrich Klopfer

for numerous violations he committed. Congressman Banks also said that, according to a recent poll sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 71% of Americans want some restrictions on abortion. "The poll also found strong opposition to taxpayer-funded abortion and mail-order abortion pills," he added.

"We are the majority. The people are with us, and God is with us, and we are on the right side

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Indiana family's bond with Catholic school extends for seven decades

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – As they worked together on their farm in southern Indiana, Ambrose and Mary Rose Kruer knew the power and wonder of seeds – how something so small could grow into something sustaining and life-giving.

And as the parents of 11 children, they also believed certain seeds needed to be planted in their children's lives: the strength of family, the foundation of the Catholic faith and a Catholic education. So, when their oldest child, Evelyn, was ready to go to high school in 1951, the Kruers considered it a gift from God that Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville opened that same year.

What they never imagined is how that connection with the school would continue for generations. Ever since Evelyn attended Providence in the fall of 1951, at least one Kruer family member has been a student at the school.

"My parents had 11 children who all attended Providence," said Norman Kruer, the sixth of the 11 children and a 1963 graduate of the school.

"They also had 34 grandchildren who all attended Providence. There have been 19 great-grandchildren who have gone or are now going to Providence through the 2023-24 school year," he told The Criterion, archdiocesan newspaper of Indianapolis.

And there is more. "Two additional great-grandchildren will be starting at Providence for the 2022-23 school year, which currently will continue the legacy through the 2025-26 school year. Then, of course, there are great-great-grandchildren on the way."

The start of that legacy came with a challenge. To get to Providence from the family's farm in the community of Starlight, Evelyn had to take two school buses. Then she took a cab, which was paid for by one of the pastors in the area, to complete the journey to school.

That's how much it meant to their parents to have their children get a Catholic education.

"They were strong believers in the Catholic faith and the education that went with it," Norman said. "They felt giving us a Catholic education was an obligation. They wanted us to stay in that culture. They believed in Catholic schools, and they passed that on to us, and we passed it on to our children. That's how the legacy was built."

When Norman went to Providence, he wasn't involved in any sports or activities at the school because as soon as his classes ended, he had to return



CNS photos/courtesy Kruer family via The Criterion

Ambrose Kruer and his 11 children pose together in this undated photo. When the photo was taken, Mary Rose Kruer, Ambrose's wife and the children's mother, had died. The couple made sure all their children attended Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville, Ind.



Ambrose and Mary Rose Kruer are seen in this undated photo. They planted the seeds of a bond between their family and Our Lady of Providence High School that has grown every year for seven decades.

home to help with the chores on the farm. Still, he considers those four years as having a great influence on his life because of the faith-filled education he received, including a career-shaping class in bookkeeping.

"That got me interested in accounting, and that led me to go to college at Bellarmine, a Catholic college, where I majored in accounting," said Norman, who retired in 2018 as the chief financial officer of a construction company.

The school also had an impact on his personal life since he married Kathy Howell, a 1965 graduate, and when their only child,

Brad, was born, it was already determined where he would go to high school.

"If you talked to all my brothers and sisters, there wasn't any doubt where our kids would go to high school," Norman said. "Kathy and I look at high school as an investment for the future. We always thought Providence was a good investment because of the teaching, the culture and the faith."

Brad, a 1993 graduate, and his wife, Kim, had the same belief in Providence for their three sons. Landon graduated in 2021 and now is at the U.S. Naval Academy. Luke is a sopho-

more at Providence. Lincoln will be a freshman there in the fall.

Currently, there are five descendants of Ambrose and Mary Rose at the high school. Luke and fellow sophomore Nina Kruer, plus three seniors, Peyton Kruer, Eli Krussow and Grant Williams.

"Providence means a lot to me," Luke said. "Ever since I shadowed here when I was in the eighth grade, it felt like home."

Peyton similarly embraces the family's school connection. Her grandfather, Merle Kruer, is a 1959 graduate and her father, Merle John Jr., is a 1990 alum. Her sister Madison is a 2019 graduate.

"It honestly feels like an honor being part of a family that's so passionate about this school," Peyton said.

She said the school has made an impact on her faith with its weekly Masses and opportunities for eucharistic adoration.

"It brings me closer to God," she said. "It also brings me closer to my classmates."

Norman Kruer knows this praise from the great-grandchildren would touch his parents. He also thinks they would be surprised this school tradition has continued for so long. "It was never on their mind that they were starting a legacy," he said. "Still, they'd be proud and appreciative of everything that's been done. And they'd be proud and appreciative of Providence for all it's done for us."

"Our whole family is proud of this legacy," he added.

Shaughnessy is assistant editor at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Artist deepens faith by painting portraits for those suffering sudden loss

BY NATALIE HOEFER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – D. Anne Jones knew she wanted to use her gift of painting portraits to help others in some way.

“I was talking to a friend who worked for (the nonprofit) Flashes of Hope taking pictures of kids with cancer, and a lot of the time, those were the last photos a family would have of their child,” she recalled. “I decided if I did a nonprofit, I could paint portraits at no charge and raise money to fund them.”

But it took tragedy to solidify the idea.

“Within eight weeks in 2012, I lost my closest sister, my mom and my husband,” said Jones, 61.

“I was in shock,” said Jones, a member of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville, just north of Indianapolis in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

From her loss, Jones identified who she wanted to paint portraits of and for whom she would create them.

“I paint portraits at no charge for families or individuals who lost a loved one to a sudden, unexpected or tragic death,”

Jones said of her nonprofit organization, Face to Face Fine Art.

“My goal is to help aid in their grieving process and commemorate and honor the deceased by creating a lasting memory of their life.”

She told *The Criterion* newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese that her effort is “an outlet that became a calling,” of which God is very much a part.

Losing her daughter in 2019, becoming guardian of her granddaughter and moving to a new part of Indiana in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic proved only to strengthen Jones’ faith and her calling.

Her journey actually began decades earlier at age 12 when she realized she had a gift for creating art and began doing portraits. It was in art class where she met her husband, Christopher.

“I was 15 when we started dating,” she said. “We were together 36 years and married for 32.” Together they had five children.

Christopher was Catholic. Jones, who was baptized and raised in a fundamentalist Christian church, was with him at Mass at St. Bavo in Mishawaka in the early 1990s when she heard the priest ask from the pulpit, “Are you looking for a new church home?”

She felt a nudge and contacted Gus Zuelke, the parish’s religious education director.

“The one thing he talked about was the Eucharist becoming God,” she said. “I never understood the point of com-



CNS photo/courtesy Face to Face Fine Art via The Criterion

In this undated photo, the daughter of Judy Dietrich poses with a portrait of her deceased mother painted by D. Anne Jones through Face to Face Fine Art. Dietrich was killed in a car accident when her daughter was a baby.

munion in the fundamentalist church. When I learned the whole truth about the bread and wine actually becoming the body and blood of Christ, something clicked, and it made sense!”

The couple lived most of their

married life in northern Indiana, where Jones was a stay-at-home mom. She took portraiture classes her mother-in-law paid for “just so I could get out of the house.”

In 2002, she started travel-



CNS photo/courtesy Face to Face Fine Art via The Criterion

A police officer stands in front of a portrait of officer Perry Renn of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department painted by D. Anne Jones through her nonprofit, Face to Face Fine Art. Officer Renn was shot and killed in the line of duty July 5, 2014.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, February 8: 6:30 p.m. – Theology on Tap talk, University of Saint Francis Historic Women’s Club, Fort Wayne
Friday, February 11: 9:30 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka

ing to art and craft shows 46 weekends a year, completing up to 1,000 portraits annually. By 2011, however, Jones was burning out and began considering how she could use her gift in a nonprofit capacity.

That November, her closest sister, Lisa, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She died four months later, March 17, 2012. Lisa’s death was too great a loss for their mother to handle.

“Mom was a miracle. She had pancreatic cancer for 22 years. Originally, they told her she’d live five years,” Jones said.

“When my sister Lisa died, she was done and just wanted to go. Seven weeks later, my mom died. We buried her the day before Mother’s Day.”

But Jones still found cause for joy. One of her and Christopher’s children would be married just seven days later.

“That morning of the wedding, my husband did not wake up,” Jones said. “He was totally fine the night before. We went to bed, told each other we loved each other, and I found him dead at seven in the morning.”

She leaned heavily on her faith after the loss of three loved ones within eight weeks.

“I don’t know how anyone gets through the loss of anyone major in life without the Lord.

It’s like all the people I was closest to were taken. I had no one else to turn to but the Lord,” Jones said.

Through her loss and through prayer, Jones found the cause she was looking for to create a nonprofit. In the process, her own heart healed.

“I really believe that if you are hurt and in pain, if you can do something for somebody else, it helps take your mind off your own pain,” she said.

With her nonprofit Face to Face Fine Art, those who lose a loved one suddenly, unexpectedly or tragically can apply for a free painting of the person. Applications are reviewed and voted upon by the board of directors.

“If there’s funding, they OK as many as they can,” Jones explained, noting that it costs \$400 to make a portrait, or \$450 if a frame is requested. “If there’s not enough money, then they might approve an application, but it will be a while before the portrait is made.”

Since 2013, Jones has created more than 200 portraits, including some for people overseas.

In addition to seeking healing through her portrait projects, she also published a book that year. Titled “Balm for the Heart: My Journey Through Loss and Bereavement,” it is described on Amazon.com as telling the story of “how God used (Jones’) losses to draw her closer to himself and to enter into a more intimate relationship with him.”

In 2019, tragedy again struck. Jones’ daughter, Leah, died unexpectedly, leaving behind an 11-year-old daughter, Emma. Jones became her legal guardian and moved to Zionsville in February 2020 so Emma could remain in her school.

Then the pandemic struck.

“I was in a new town, isolated, not knowing anyone,” Jones said.

Once again, her faith and her devotion to her nonprofit cause got her through.

“God let me experience all this (suffering) so I can have empathy for other people,” Jones said. “And I want to help.”

Editor’s Note: For more information about Face to Face Fine Art, to donate or to find a link to D. Anne Jones’ book, go to facetofacefineart.org.

Hoefer is a staff writer at The Criterion newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Annual Celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

WASHINGTON – The Catholic Church held its annual celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on February 2, and parishes commemorated the event over the weekend of February 5-6. This is always a special time for individual parishes to celebrate the gift of consecrated life and pray for men and women discerning a consecrated vocation with the global Catholic Church.

Instituted by St. John Paul II in 1997, World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is celebrated in conjunction with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, which commemorates through the blessing and lighting of candles that Christ is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Those who live the consecrated life often feel called to a different charism than diocesan priesthood. Both diocesan priest-

hood and consecrated life are necessary for building the life of the Church, though they accomplish this in different ways. Some consecrated men and women feel called to missionary work beyond their geographic region, some feel called to lives of extreme poverty or seclusion. Consecrated men and women include religious priests, brothers, sisters, nuns and monks from numerous orders, some well-known, others less familiar. Consecrated virgins also serve God and others, even while living in the world.

Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations spoke of how the example of consecrated men and women should spur all of the faithful on to greater holiness. "With lives of poverty, chastity, and obedience, consecrated men and women provide us with an example of complete dedication



File illustration

to Christ. They remind us that regardless of the vocation the Lord calls us to, we are all called to union with Christ and to do our part to build up the kingdom of God."

As it does every year, the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate to conduct a survey of the religious Profession Class of 2021. The survey polled women and men religious who professed perpetual vows in 2021 in a religious congregation, province, or monastery based in the U.S. CARA received a response from 547 of 742 major superiors for an overall response rate of 74% among religious institutes. Of the 182 identified men and women religious who professed perpetual vows in 2021, 62 sisters and nuns and 60 brothers and priests responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 67%.

Some of the major findings and highlights of the report are:

- On average, responding religious report that they were 19 years old when they first considered a vocation to religious life.

- The average age of responding religious of the Profession Class of 2021 was 37. Half of the responding religious were age 34 or younger. The youngest was 24 and the oldest was 70.

- Three-fourths of responding religious (76%) were born in the

United States. Of those born outside the United States, the most common countries of origin are Vietnam and the Philippines (five religious from each).

- Nine in 10 (86%) responding religious reported that someone encouraged them to consider a vocation to religious life. Men are more likely than women to be encouraged by a parish priest, friend, mother and parishioner.

- The Profession Class of 2021 is highly educated. Two in ten responding religious earned a graduate degree before entering their religious institute. Seven in 10 (70%) entered their religious institute with at least a bachelor's degree (63% for women and 77% for men).

- Four in five (80%) participated in one or more religious programs or activities before entering their religious institute. Two-fifths of respondents (39%) participated in youth ministry or youth group. Three-tenths participated in young adult ministry or group (33%) and Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (30%). One in five (18%) participated in a World Youth Day prior to entering their religious institute.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is home to hundreds of religious men and women from around 20 different orders, including the Congregation of Holy Cross; the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ; the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

and many others. Some of these priests pastor local parishes. The diocese is also home to two consecrated virgins and a small community of cloistered nuns, the Poor Sisters of St. Clare.

Sometimes women can feel overlooked when it comes to their discernment process. That is why the diocese has resources in place to encourage women to pursue their vocations, similar to the ones for men discerning priesthood. Jessica Hayes, OV, has been appointed as advisor for vocations to the consecrated life, and posters encouraging faithful Catholics to pray for women in formation for the consecrated life are displayed throughout the diocese.

Some of these women have been called to orders outside the geographic boundaries of the diocese, such as Sister Mary Vianney Lyon, in formation with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Sister Lucia Marie Langford, OP at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, New Jersey.

Though there is much joy to be found in consecrated life, like every vocation, there are always challenges. Those called to this way of life can certainly benefit from the prayers of the faithful laity to aid in their spiritual battles, as many great religious saints also faced.

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Bill protecting women from coerced abortion moves to Senate

The Indiana Catholic Conference and others including the state attorney general's office are backing a bipartisan bill that would make it a felony in Indiana to coerce a woman into having an abortion.

House Bill 1217, which passed the Indiana House of Representatives 73-18 on Jan. 25 and is now under consideration in the Senate, requires medical personnel to ask a pregnant woman seeking an abortion whether she has been forced by someone to do so. If she indicates that she has, the medical provider would be required to offer her information on services available, the use of a telephone and an alternative exit from the health care facility.

In addition, the bill also mandates reporting of a coerced abortion to law enforcement. If ultimately passed by the Senate, the legislation would make Indiana the 19th state to offer protections to women from coerced abortion.

"I believe in the sanctity of life," said Rep. Joanna King (R-Middlebury), the primary author of the legislation. "I want to make sure that when there is a woman who is pregnant and has no desire to abort her child, and someone is forcing her to do something against her will, that there are criminal penalties for that person."

During a Jan. 18 House committee hearing on the bill, an official representing the office of

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita expressed full support for the legislation.

"Coercion is terrible in all contexts, but it is especially horrific in the context of abortion because it means life or death," said Corinne Youngs, policy director and legislative counsel for the attorney general's office. "Examples abound of where women are coerced into abortion."

Youngs also linked this issue to the culture of violence facing many vulnerable women in difficult circumstances. She cited data revealing that 22 percent of women have experienced "intimate partner violence" and that evidence suggests the problem has escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This bill has the potential to unearth horrific (examples of) human trafficking, domestic abuse and child abuse," Youngs continued. "The state has an interest in this law for protecting women from social, emotional, physical and psychological harm. Failure to protect these women is wrong."

The ICC, representing the five Catholic bishops of the state of Indiana, also rose in support of the bill during the committee hearing, calling coerced abortion a "morally reprehensible act."

"The provisions of this bill provide resources for vulnerable women and hold offenders accountable," said Alexander

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

Mingus, associate director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "This reflects the Church's priorities, and we lend our full support."

Protecting human life from conception to natural death is at the forefront of the Church's priorities – and, therefore, the ICC's. Pro-life issues are particularly in the spotlight as the country awaits a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could potentially overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

The current case before the high court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, involves a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. The ruling, anticipated this summer, was on the top of the minds of the 1,000 Hoosiers who recently converged on downtown Indianapolis at the annual Indiana March for Life. This year's march coincided with the 49th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that has led to the deaths of more than 62 million unborn babies.

Throughout its 55-year his-

tory, the ICC has supported pro-life initiatives brought before the Indiana General Assembly. According to Angela Espada, the sixth and current executive director of the ICC, this includes standing up for the unborn while opposing the death penalty and assisted suicide.

"We must be passionate about respecting all human life," Espada said. "That means being passionate about correcting lax gun laws and ending capital punishment. And if the Supreme Court's ruling allows states to restrict or even ban abortion, those who are passionate about saving the unborn should join other pro-life Hoosiers, who have supported mothers and their children, to expand their efforts and provide necessary services."

Rep. King, who is a relative newcomer to the Indiana House of Representatives, says her primary focus at the Statehouse will be women's and children's issues. House Bill 1217 is her first piece of legislation, and she is undaunted in championing it despite opposition from Planned Parenthood and other critics.

The lifelong Elkhart County resident, who is a small business owner as well as a longtime school board member and Boys & Girls Club trustee, also says that faith plays a key role in her decision making.

"I am a Christian, and faith has always been a very important part of my life," said King,

the daughter of Amish parents and herself the mother of four and grandmother of two. "Valuing life has always been something that's a part of our DNA."

"I want to do everything I can to get this bill across the finish line."

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

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Vietnamese Dominican stabbed to death while hearing confession

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (CNS) – A Dominican priest serving ethnic groups in Vietnam's Central Highlands was stabbed to death while he was hearing confession. An informed source from Kon Tum told ucanews.com that Dominican Father Joseph Tran Ngoc Thanh, who provided pastoral care for ethnic groups in Kon Tum province, was stabbed in a church on Jan. 29. The source said Father Thanh, 40, died hours after being hospitalized, reported ucanews.com. Local police said they arrested his killer, who is reported to be a drug abuser. Bishop Louis Nguyen Hung Vi of Kon Tum, who celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Thanh Jan. 30, said he was stunned with grief by the priest's sudden death. He said he never thought such a horrific story would happen before Tet, the Lunar New Year holiday. "We could not understand God's plans except for offering our brother to him," Bishop Vi said.

Pope to meet university students as part of synodal process

ROME (CNS) – Highlighting the importance of a Church that truly listens, Pope Francis will participate in a virtual meeting hosted by Loyola University in Chicago with students from North, Central and South America. The Feb. 24 virtual meeting, titled "Building Bridges: A Synodal Encounter between Pope Francis and University Students," will be an opportunity to "address the salient challenges of our times," the university's website said. "The pope will dialogue with these university students who will share concrete educational projects that seek to justly transform environmental and economic realities," as well as discuss the challenges of migration, it said. Speaking with Catholic News Service Jan. 28, Michael Murphy, director of Loyola's Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, said he and several colleagues, including Emilce Cuda, an official at the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, discussed the idea of an event for university students in preparation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on synodality. In November, he said, while discussing possible speakers for the event, "we kind of joked, 'Hey, let's see if Pope Francis is free.'"

Benedictines' Ozark hermitage offers 300 acres for spiritual reflection

NEW BLAINE, Ark. (CNS) – As society gets more anxious, divisive and turbulent with each passing day, Hesychia House of

NEWS BRIEFS

Fallen New York City Police officer laid to rest



CNS photo/Mary Altaffer, Pool via Reuters

Dominique Rivera, wife of Officer Jason Rivera of the New York Police Department, walks behind her husband's casket holding a cross after his funeral Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Jan. 28, 2022. Rivera was killed in the line of duty while responding to a domestic violence call.

Prayer has been a beacon of stability and peace. There is something awe-inspiring in pulling into the 40-year-old hermitage amid the backdrop of the distant Ozark Mountains, the cattle grazing and 300 rolling acres the Benedictine sisters credit to God. "Deep down, the fact that this property, this space has been dedicated explicitly, explicitly for God since 1879, it's permeated with prayer over a century," said Benedictine Sister Louise Sharum, Hesychia's founding director, about the property owned by the Benedictines. Hesychia is a ministry of the Benedictines' St. Scholastica Monastery, but last July the religious order began a partnership with the Religious Sisters of Mercy to lead the house of prayer. Two members of that order, Sisters Lisa Atkins and Anita DeSalvo, were chosen to be Hesychia's director and assistant director, respectively. In 1981, the blessing of Bishop Andrew J. McDonald, then-bishop of Little Rock, Arkansas, Sister Louise and two other sisters began the Hesychia House of Prayer.

"Hesychia" is Greek for "resting in God." It is open to anyone who desires to connect with God without distractions. This can mean staying for a night or weekend to even months or years. More about Hesychia House of Prayer can be found at stscho.org/hesychia.html.

Vatican projects budget deficit for 2022 as pandemic continues

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Presenting a budget projection that foresees a deficit of \$37.1 million in 2022, the prefect of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy said he believes the Vatican is on the path to honesty and transparency in financial matters. "We are well aware that we have made major mistakes in financial management, which have undermined the credibility of the Holy See. We seek to learn from them, and we believe we have remedied them so that they do not happen again," the prefect, Jesuit Father

Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, told Vatican News. On Jan. 28, the secretariat released the Vatican's 2022 "mission budget," reflecting a new approach to reporting the income and expenses of the offices of the Roman Curia and related institutions. The "mission budget" includes not just the Vatican Secretariat of State, apostolic nunciatures around the globe and the dicasteries, councils and commissions of the Roman Curia, Father Guerrero said. It also includes entities that "are either the property of the Holy See or depend on and are under the financial responsibility of the Holy See," including the Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome, the four major basilicas of Rome and the shrines of Loreto, Pompei and Padua. The Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo founded by St. Padre Pio, will be included in next year's budget, he said. The combined budget of the 60 entities that were part of the previous Holy See budget would have been close to 300 million euros (\$334 million) for 2022, but with the

addition of the 30 new entities into the "mission budget," the combined budget for 2022 is close to 800 million euros, he said.

People must never forget or repeat horrors of Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The cruelty of the Holocaust must never be repeated, Pope Francis said on the eve of the international day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The day, celebrated Jan. 27, falls on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp complex in 1945. At the end of his weekly general audience at the Vatican Jan. 26, Pope Francis said, "It is necessary to remember the extermination of millions of Jews and people of different nationalities and religious faiths. This unspeakable cruelty must never be repeated," he said. "I appeal to everyone, especially educators and families, to foster in the new generations an awareness of the horror of this black page of history. It must not be forgotten, so that we can build a future where human dignity is no longer trampled underfoot," the pope said.

Florida mom says reversal process for chemical abortion saved her baby

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (CNS) – Serenity and grace are two things Kayla credits for saving the life of her new baby girl. "The Serenity Prayer is constantly teaching me to accept things I cannot change, have courage to change things that I can, and have wisdom to know the difference. Despite my shortcomings and failures, God's grace is sufficient," said Kayla, who used only her first name in an interview with Gulf Coast Catholic, the news outlet of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. In 2020, the mother of two discovered she was pregnant with her third child and considered having an abortion. "I was in a very uncertain place, in a sense, and I had this big decision to make. I had all my reasons why, and I decided I didn't want to go through with it," Kayla said. At an abortion facility, she was administered the first pill in a series to induce a chemical abortion. The chemical procedure, commonly called the "abortion pill," is a two-part, two-day process. "I just cried and held my stomach. I cried out to God to please save my baby," said Kayla. Through an online search, she learned about the successes of the abortion pill reversal protocol, or APR. It's a way to counter the first abortion pill using a decades-old treatment utilized to prevent miscarriages by prescribing women progesterone. To learn more about the abortion pill reversal protocol, go to <https://www.heartbeatinternational.org>.



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver pray during a Mass marking Black Catholic History Month Nov. 21, 2021, at Our Lady of Victory Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Knowing Black Catholic history can help end racism, professor says

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

The history of Black Catholics and other marginalized people in the U.S. Church covering more than two centuries is one worth knowing and can guide the Church's response to the challenges of racism and social justice, historian Shannon Dee Williams believes.

Addressing the online opening session of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering on Jan. 29, Williams explained that the journey of how people who are often overlooked have influenced church history deserves more than a footnote in historical record.

The gathering convened online for the second consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic, addressing the theme "Justice at the Margins."

Williams, associate professor of history at the University of Dayton, focused her comments on the history of Black women religious, who faced racism within the Church from religious congregations and clergy. She highlighted the lives of Mother Mary Lange and Sister Thea Bowman, who have the title "Servant of God," and Venerable Henriette Delille, all of whom withstood

discrimination as they carried out their call to a religious vocation. She called on attendees to learn, as she did over the past 15 years, about the history of Black Catholics since early in the founding of the United States.

Williams confessed it was a history she knew little about until she began researching a topic during graduate studies.

Growing up and throughout her schooling, Williams admitted that she was not interested in Black Catholic history and, although she was a lifelong Catholic, she had never seen a Black woman religious.

"In fact, the only Black sister that I knew at the time was Sister Mary Clarence, the fictional character played by Whoopi Goldberg in the critically acclaimed 'Sister Act' franchise," she said.

But while searching for a topic on which to focus her graduate work, Williams came across a story about the formation of the National Black Sisters'

Conference in 1968. She excitedly called her mother later in the day to discuss her discovery.

Williams recalled that her mother was unaware there were Black nuns serving the church.

In the course of her research, Williams soon learned about the rich history of Black women who endured discrimination within the Church and religious congregations in their attempts to live a religious vocation. She also found stories and documents about the Black Catholic experience overall. The more she read, the more she wanted to learn.

"One of the powerful of those myths was my belief that Black Catholics were footnotes in the story of the development of the U.S. Catholic Church, that the story of the Black Catholic community did not become significant until the 20th century, when their numbers grew significantly as African American southerners migrated to Northern, Midwestern and Western cities and converted to

Catholicism," Williams said.

Her research led to the revelation that Black Catholics are as much a part of the story of the American Catholic Church as are Europeans.

Since then, Williams said, her work has been "grounded in the fundamental belief in the transformative power and possibilities of Black historical truth-telling in the fight against racism and white supremacy."

Williams invited attendees to bring justice to the margins by undertaking a series of actions that promote racial equality. One step is to pray to end "individual and institutional racism and the toxic reality of anti-Blackness," she said.

A second action would be to "always educate ourselves" through a reading club that includes books on anti-racism and the diversity of the American Catholic Church and inviting speakers to address Black Catholic history.

Williams suggested that

"In fact, the only Black sister that I knew at the time was Sister Mary Clarence, the fictional character played by Whoopi Goldberg in the 'Sister Act' franchise."

— Shannon Dee Williams

events in parishes and other communities can be scheduled during Black History Month (February), Black Catholic History Month (November), as well as Women's History Month (March), Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May), Hispanic Heritage Month (September) and Native American Heritage Month (November).

Learning about the history of diverse communities will help address racism while promoting understanding and equality, Williams said.

Williams also called on Catholics to be "intentional" in supporting racial justice causes through actions such as special collections for historically Black Catholic schools and others serving marginalized people; scholarships and fellowships for descendants of enslaved and colonized people; and programs addressing mass incarceration, environmental racism and voter suppression.

"For me, the possibilities of racial justice, of reconciliation and peace are only possible through this ongoing power of Black Catholic historical truth-telling," she said.

St. Anthony de Padua School we



Photos by Derby Photography

Celebrating the Mass, from left to right, are Deacon Brian Miller, Father John Sollee, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Ben Muhlenkamp.

VISIT, from page 1

live in God's kingdom, to grow in love, to follow Jesus and to learn from Him.

"A Catholic school helps you to live as citizens of God's kingdom."

Bishop Rhoades then spoke about St. Thomas Aquinas. He said, "Some of the greatest members of the kingdom of God were the saints because they lived the teachings of Jesus, and we are all called to be saints." He shared the story of St. Thomas Aquinas' life and how he was called to be a priest almost 800 years ago. He told everyone how St. Thomas grew up with a lot of wealth and even lived in a castle. When the future saint told his parents that he wanted to be a Dominican priest, they did not want this because of their vow of poverty, so they locked him in their castle for more than a year. But St. Thomas persevered and eventually his parents agreed to let him become a Dominican priest.

Bishop Rhoades talked about how influential St. Thomas Aquinas' writings still are so many years later. He said that St. Thomas "wrote beautiful philosophy and theology and became an excellent teacher."

He also told the students about how St. Thomas Aquinas' fellow classmates gave him the nickname of "dumb ox" because of how quiet he was in class. Despite this teasing, he said that St. Thomas Aquinas went on

to become "a great teacher who wrote all those books that we read today, explaining the faith so beautifully. He was not only smart, he was holy and he loved God very much. He loved the Church and he loved the people."

Bishop Rhoades then encouraged the students to be like St. Thomas, saying, "You should use your gifts. God has given all of you gifts. Some of you may come by studies easier than others, but the important thing is that we all work hard."

Blessing the workspace

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades stopped into the office at St. Anthony de Padua to offer a blessing for the new addition to the school and church. Father Ben Muhlenkamp, the parish pastor and interim principal, gave him a tour of the space. The eighth-grade class was present for the blessing, as some of the students had helped with the project. Previously, the church and school offices were in separate buildings and this new addition allows both staffs to be in the same office. Kim DeBoe, the school secretary, noted that, "It's just such an incredible blessing to be able to be in the same space."

This is a project that was made possible through the involvement of the greater St. Anthony de Padua community. A volunteer offered to do the

masonry involved to create the new entrance, which will add a greater sense of security to the school. Breeyan Antongiovanni, the vice president of the board, said that "so many community members, both in our parish and in our school, were able to help under the great leadership of Father Ben and Andrew Turba, our maintenance person, who has helped tremendously with the project."

Bishop Rhoades offered a blessing over the new spaces and sprinkled each room with holy water. Father Muhlenkamp even ensured that the new coffee bar was blessed.

Visiting the classrooms

After the blessing, Bishop Rhoades took the opportunity to meet with the classes, from preschool up through eighth grade. In preschool, he talked to the kids about Jesus, telling them, "Jesus is my best friend," and encouraging them to form a friendship with Jesus as well.

When he learned that the seventh grade was doing projects on the countries in Africa, Bishop Rhoades talked about his trips to Nigeria and Ethiopia, working with Catholic Relief Services to help bring food to those in need. Many students' jaws dropped when he told them that he celebrated a five-hour Mass in Nigeria, helping to ordain 23 priests.

In all the classrooms, Bishop Rhoades asked the students

if they had any questions and many came up about his crozier and miter, with one student in sixth grade asking why he took his hat on and off so much during Mass. Bishop Rhoades explained that when he is addressing the public, he keeps his miter on, but if he is talking to God, such as during the consecration, he takes the miter off. Father Muhlenkamp remarked from the back of the classroom that he never knew that and that even he was learning new things from this visit.

Bishop Rhoades also explained to several classes that he wore a ring to signify that he is married to the Church. He told the students that just as husbands are called to sacrifice for and care for their wives, he is called to sacrifice and care for his flock.

The fourth grade class shared that they were reading biographies and the bishop took time to ask each student whose biography they were currently reading. Three different students were reading a biography on James Madison and Bishop Rhoades told them about the time he visited Madison's house in Virginia. He also shared with the class that he was currently reading a two-volume biography on Pope Benedict XVI.

Katie Lasseter, one of the fourth-grade teachers, commented, "Bishop Rhoades took the time to speak to each one of the students and they were so enthusiastic about that and so

excited to share what they were learning." Antongiovanni, who has four children at the school, said that "Bishop Rhoades was just so patient and kind with the kids and he took the time to speak to them one-on-one and answer their questions and just gave them the gift of time. He spent a lot of good, quality time with them."

Community

St. Anthony de Padua's community is one that has come together in numerous ways. Father Muhlenkamp remarked, "Today is just such a great celebration of what a community can do together. A lot of those kids' parents contributed in numerous ways to the completion of that project, hanging drywall, and I am so grateful for the generosity of the people here at the parish." As St. Anthony de Padua searches for a new principal, Father Muhlenkamp is currently acting as the principal as well as pastor. He expressed his gratitude for the number of ways that all the teachers and administrative staff have stepped up and used their gifts to help the school continue to run smoothly. Pam White, the assistant to the principal, said, "The teachers are the heart of the school." Antongiovanni agreed, noting that one of the reasons her children attend the school is the "wonderful teachers. They are so approachable; they take the time to care for the whole child."

Welcomes Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Bishop Rhoades and Father Ben Muhlenkamp, pastor of the parish and interim principal at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic School, pose in front of a statue of the school's patron and namesake.



Above, Bishop Rhoades stands in as a middle-school teacher for seventh grade during his visit to St. Anthony de Padua School.



St. Anthony de Padua teachers invite Bishop Rhoades to a luncheon to celebrate his pastoral visit to the parish and school.



Stephenie Johnson's preschool class welcomes Bishop Rhoades to their classroom as a special guest.



A third-grade student answers a question from Bishop Rhoades as he spent time in the classrooms at St. Anthony de Padua school during his pastoral visit.

Safety, student welfare at heart of Bishop Luers renovations

BY JENNIFER BARTON

If one were to ask Bishop Luers High School principal James Huth what makes his school so special, he would say that it is the students themselves. He often speaks of specific classes as “a good group of students.” With that at the forefront, recent improvements to the Fort Wayne high school have been made for the greater benefit of the students.

Over the last couple of years, the school has undergone several bouts of renovations worth more than a million dollars, courtesy of generous donor support. “And more to come,” Huth added. “I would suggest just kind of keep an eye on us, because we’re moving, we’re improving, getting better every day.”

All of the improvements have been made with the safety and well-being of the Bishop Luers community in mind. On the exterior, sidewalk improvements and increased lighting have provided a safer environment. The gymnasium has undergone changes to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inside the classrooms, another improvement went into play this year, due to the pandemic.

Healthy air

COVID-19 can be spread through the air, so one of the things that organizations like schools are doing to prevent its spread is purifying the air that the students breathe. When the company Energy Harness demonstrated UVC air purifiers at a principals’ meeting, Huth knew he had to jump on board – and



The gymnasium at Bishop Luers High School received a much-needed facelift and upgrade last summer, courtesy of two anonymous donors, with more than 200 cans of paint being used on the ceiling alone.

quickly. “We were lucky to get in line because these people are busy all over the country right now, so we got in line early for installation,” Huth explained. The ceiling vents went in at the beginning of the school year, using EANS-1 (Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools) funding.

How the UVC purifiers work is fascinating, Huth commented.

The air handlers circulate 900 square feet of air every hour, passing the air through ultraviolet radiation, where it is held for a couple of seconds. There, the UV rays kill any bacteria and germs present. The UV rays also render viruses incapable of replicating, as viruses are not living things and can only replicate through a living host, such as bacteria, animals or plants. Huth

is hopeful that the new technology will decrease the instances of influenza and colds as well as COVID.

“We’ve been blessed with that money and thought this was a very fruitful way to spend that money in terms of creating some safety; psychological and physical safety for our people and for our kids,” he said, adding that students and teachers “feel much more safe in the building.”

Each classroom has one or two units, depending on the size of the room, and the cafeteria has seven. “Every space in the building is being circulated through these units.”

This technology has been important to the school because, as Huth has seen, in-person teaching is much more effective than virtual learning, and the Catholic schools have been striving to maintain in-person learning. He commented, “We know that our learning, our teaching is all done by relationship, and it’s really hard to have relationships across a video monitor.”

Improving for the future

When Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his annual pastoral visit in January, he blessed the renovated gymnasium. During renovations, the floor was sanded down to its original 1958 white maple and refinished with a new, faded-red-and-black paint job, new aluminum and composite bleachers instead of

the old wooden ones, retractable basketball stands and a fresh coat of ceiling paint.

“The gym touches – it’s our family room,” said Louise Jackson, director of mission advancement at the high school, “it’s athletics, it’s performing arts, and it’s where we have our all-school Mass, so it’s not just a gym.”

All of these improvements were made possible by two anonymous donors who “wanted us to make a statement,” as Huth put it, for marketing purposes and to attract new students. Jackson is excited about the updates, which may appeal to potential Luers families to “see what is inside the building.”

Another way that Bishop Luers is attracting new students is through a scholarship in place for incoming freshmen, giving them \$1,000 for the first year, \$750 the next two years and \$500 for their senior year. Jackson said that the scholarship started in the fall and will be available again next fall. Even transfer students can get a portion of the scholarship. “Anyone who’s thinking about coming to Luers, we can make it very affordable,” Jackson stated.

“We feel that our students deserve a safe environment ... we feel our students are worthy of a fresh coat of paint, good lighting,” she continued. “We should have the best that we possibly can for our students, for their learning environment in this Catholic high school.”

Catholic at its heart

Overall, though, Huth is proud of the Catholic tradition maintained within the walls of Bishop Luers. Their service learning program is a large part of this. “A lot of our kids receive services,” he stated. “But we want them to walk out of the doors of Bishop Luers High School knowing how to give service also.”

Through the program, students participate in active service projects such as making sandwiches for soup pantries, writing letters to servicemembers and those in prison and caring for creation by sorting seeds for Eagle Marsh Wetlands.

“The question of ‘Is Christ alive here at Bishop Luers High School?’ I think speaks for itself,” Huth said. Around five to 10 students receive sacraments each year when the bishop visits, and Huth credits the school’s theology department for instilling a love and interest for the faith within even non-Catholic students. “This is where the rubber meets the road, and it’s happening here.”

Like Huth, Jackson is looking to the future and the great things Bishop Luers can accomplish moving forward. Improvements will continue on the 64-year-old building, making it a safe, welcoming and creative learning space for all its students.



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Bishop Luers students focus on their education, while two UV air purifiers mounted in the ceiling above work to clean the air they breathe and neutralize airborne pathogens.

Rekindle the Fire conference resumes enriching men's faith life

BY BRIAN SAPP

“We are Catholic men who seek to rekindle the fire of Christ's love within us and become better leaders, friends, husbands, fathers and sons; the men God calls us to be, through prayer, fellowship, faith and spiritual service to our family, parish and community.”

This is the mission statement of the Rekindle the Fire Men's Apostolate, according to their website. For nearly 10 years now, Rekindle the Fire has hosted a men's conference that has drawn more than a thousand men to the area each year to enrich their spiritual lives.

The Rekindle the Fire conference is back after a year's hiatus. Organizers are excited to bring together men from around the diocese to light the flame of Christ's love through dynamic Catholic speakers, confession and eucharistic adoration. The day will be enhanced by Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. This year's Rekindle the Fire conference will take place on Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center.

Rekindle the Fire leaders say this year's speakers are men who will push attendees to be better leaders, husbands, fathers and sons. The lineup of speakers includes Tim Staples, Father Wade Menezes, Nathan Crankfield and Jason Shanks. Along with celebrating Mass, Bishop Rhoades will take part in a question-and-answer session with Redeemer Radio's Kyle Heimann.

In addition to the speakers,

more than a dozen priests will be available throughout the day to hear confessions for the men at the conference. Conference organizers will also have a eucharistic adoration chapel for those who want to spend time before God in prayer.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's conference had to be canceled. Instead of a live conference, Rekindle the Fire created a series of monthly videos. The videos featured several national and local Catholic speakers. They also offered a short reflection and blessing from

priests throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Those videos are still available at the group's website, rekindlethefire.net.

Each of the speakers brings their own knowledge of the faith and a unique perspective on Catholic life. Tim Staples converted to Catholicism in 1988. He is a fixture on Catholic Answers Live, working as a senior apologist. Staples has spoken on many topics, but has a fondness for telling audiences about Mary's role in God's plan for His people.

“I have attended over half of the Rekindle the Fire conferences and find them rejuvenating. It's like a ‘booster shot’ during the winter.”

MIKE WOEHNKER



Father Wade L. J. Menezes, CPM, is a member of the Fathers of Mercy. They are a missionary preaching religious congregation based in Auburn, Kentucky.



TIM STAPLES

Father Menezes has written for many national Catholic publications. He has also been a guest and hosted programs on EWTN.

Another convert to Catholicism, Nathan Crankfield became the first in his family to become Catholic at the age of 13. After his service in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer, Crankfield worked at Dynamic Catholic Institute. In 2020, he created Seeking Excellence Ministries to serve God's Church by using his gifts for writing and speaking.



NATHAN CRANKFIELD

Jason Shanks is the president of the Our Sunday Visitor

Institute. He says his role with the OSV Institute seeks to help Catholics strengthen their relationship with Christ. Shanks will share his story about his battle through a severe case of COVID-19.



FATHER WADE MENEZES

Rekindle the Fire conferences and find them rejuvenating. It's like a 'booster shot' during the winter. I enjoy the variety of speakers and the fraternity of those who attend. What a great preparation for the season of Lent!"

Tickets are available at Rekindlethefire.net. The cost is \$50 for regular tickets. Student tickets are available for \$25.



JASON SHANKS

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POSITION OPENING: MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The United States Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross seeks a **Marketing Communications Manager** for its Office of Vocations (located in Moreau Seminary on the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame). The position designs and produces electronic and print media, as well as promotional items and materials, highlighting the formation programs and vocations office programming of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics and must possess a bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university. Strong organizational skills required. The United States Province offers an outstanding compensation and benefits package that includes paid time off, paid holidays, medical/dental insurance, 403(b) retirement savings with an employer match as well as a pension plan.

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Director, Office of Vocations

via email at jderiso@holycrossusa.org.



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Should Catholic health care survive?

In January, five Catholic medical and professional associations came together to establish the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance.

Its board members represent the Catholic Medical Association, National Catholic Bioethics Center, Catholic Benefits Association, Catholic Bar Association and Christ Medicus Foundation. Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, will serve as its first episcopal adviser.

The first health care system to join the alliance is a 12-hospital system, Franciscan Health, also known as Franciscan Alliance. Order of St. Francis Sister Jane Marie Klein, who chairs its board, says the new organization “will defend the right of faith-based providers to deliver care in concert with their religious beliefs.”

Never was the need for such defense more urgent.

One development demonstrating that need is a proposal by the Biden administration to issue new regulations interpreting the Affordable Care Act’s ban on sex discrimination.

This echoes an effort by the Obama administration years ago to use that clause to require health care providers and health benefits plans to help provide “gender transition” services and abortions. This creative redefinition of “sex” was contested by some federal courts, then rescinded by the Trump administration.

But President Joe Biden has voiced strong support for a proposed “Equality Act,” which

includes similar requirements and would explicitly nullify any appeal to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to claim a religious exemption.

Threats to Catholic health care also arise from some states. In California, a Catholic hospital is being threatened with a civil rights violation for declining to remove a woman’s healthy uterus to help her identify as a man.

In that state, New York and my home state of Washington, health plans have been told they must cover elective abortions if they cover childbirth.

These latter actions should be illegal under a long-standing federal conscience clause known as the Hyde/Weldon amendment, but this administration, like the Obama administration before it, does not seem interested in enforcing such laws.

These mandates pose problems for many health care providers besides Catholics. For example, most hospitals and most doctors in the U.S. do not perform elective abortions. But Catholic health care is especially odious to groups dedicated to certain secular ideologies.

Through its commitment to the U.S. Catholic bishops’ Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services, which affirm the dignity of each and every human being from conception to natural death, it stands in the way of the assumption that health care encompasses everything an individual may desire that a health professional is technically able to do.

So entire organizations like MergerWatch exist to starve



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

Catholic hospitals out of full participation in our health care system.

Attacks on Catholic health care attack patients, Catholics and others who seek health care affirming the spiritual as well as physical well-being of everyone in need.

But especially during a pandemic, when our health care institutions are struggling to cope with a dramatic rise in life-threatening illness, it poses a grave danger to every American.

Catholic facilities make up the largest nonprofit health care network in the country, and have been found to provide better and more cost-effective care than other institutions. They are estimated to care for one in six hospital patients.

Efforts to make them violate their mission or close their doors endanger us all, regardless of age, race, sex or political affiliation. Even at a contentious and polarized political time, you would think this is something everyone can agree on.

Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The struggle for hearts and minds will continue

In advance of the Supreme Court’s much-awaited decision on the Mississippi law that would ban most abortions after 15 weeks, the abortion wars have heated up again.

When pro-lifers rallied in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21 for the 49th time to mark the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, there was by all accounts a palpable expectation that by next year, *Roe* may have become not “settled law” but rather “discarded law.”

Should the court reverse *Roe*, however, that will not mean the end of the struggle, since the issue will be kicked back to the states.

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, rallied her troops for this struggle during her speech on the National Mall Jan. 21. “If *Roe* falls, battle lines will change, but the fight for life will need to continue,” she said.

The other side is gearing up for battle too, as it faces the prospect of a reversal as dramatic as *Roe* was 49 years ago when it dismantled state restrictions on abortion. The gloves were off at many media outlets this anniversary.

In a particularly heated column, *The Washington Post*’s Monica Hesse said pro-lifers bear responsibility for unplanned pregnancies and more.

“I hope you’re ready for your odious brave new world,” she wrote. “I presume each and every one of you is planning to



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

adopt several kids.” Hesse went on to list all the areas of parental leave and family assistance that she believes the pro-life movement will be responsible for.

Her bitter complaint can be turned on her, of course. With the legalization of abortion, many Americans felt they had little responsibility to support a woman and her child, since abortion is the obvious out. Certainly a few generations of irresponsible fathers-to-be felt that way.

Should the Supreme Court rule as the pundits predict, what the future will look like is certainly unsettled.

During a Georgetown University panel discussing where the pro-life movement is headed, Dan Williams, a history professor at the University of West Georgia, noted that “if the 16 Southern and Midwestern states who are likely to restrict abortion ... are allowed” to close all their abortion clinics, “it would not equal the number of abortion clinics in New York.”

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God calls the unworthy



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 5:1-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading this weekend. Written before the Babylonian conquest, this prophecy was composed when, relatively speaking, and with some qualification, the southern kingdom of the Hebrews was tranquil and prosperous.

Nevertheless, Isaiah felt that he was called by God to confront the people about their infidelity to God, or at least their lukewarmness in responding to their role as God’s special people. The story, told in this reading, conveys by its drama and bluntness

the totality required in Isaiah’s willingness to answer the divine calling to be a prophet.

Here in this reading, Isaiah displayed the fervor and power that are typical of the writing in all three sections of this ancient book.

Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the next reading. Paul recalled the death of Jesus and then the Lord’s resurrection, giving the details that Peter, whom Paul calls “Cephas”, using the Greek term, saw Jesus after the Resurrection, that James saw Jesus, and that even 500 of those who believed in the Gospel saw the risen Lord.

The reading is also autobiographical. Paul declared that he himself is an Apostle, having been called by the Lord, however, he called himself “least” among the Apostles, since he, unlike the others, once persecuted Christ living in the community of Christians.

Still, God called him. Unrestrained by this sense of personal unworthiness, Paul wholeheartedly responded to this calling. He was God’s instru-

ment. Through him, God worked the plan of redemption and mercy.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. This passage shows the fine literary hand at work in the composition of the Gospel of Luke, and by extension the other Gospels. Here Luke uses the Gospel of Mark as a source, but then he adds details drawn from a source also apparently known to John.

Of course, Jesus is the central figure in the story. The next most important figure is Peter. A fisherman, along with his brother, Andrew, both destined to be great Apostles, both evidently living in Capernaum, Peter was in his boat on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus embarked. The Lord began to preach to the people assembled on the shore.

Then Jesus told Peter to row into deeper water and lower the nets into the water. Peter mildly protested, saying that he and his associates had fished all night, but with no success.

Nonetheless, Peter did as he was told. The nets were so filled with fish that Peter and his com-

panions had difficulty in pulling the nets aboard.

Humbly, aware of the Lord’s power, Peter confessed his own sinfulness. Jesus swept beyond this admission, recognizing Peter’s faith instead, and called Peter thereafter to fish for souls.

Reflection

For weeks since Christmas, the Church has been introducing us, as it were, to Jesus. The great feasts of the Epiphany and of the Baptism of the Lord told us about Jesus.

Now, subtly but firmly, the Church urges us to respond to this entry of Jesus into our consciousness. How shall we respond?

The Church answers the question by putting before us three great figures in the tradition of holiness, Isaiah, Paul, and then finally Peter.

Each reveals his unworthiness to be a part of the great and divine mission of salvation. Yet, fully realizing this unworthiness, God called them each to a particular task.

Each person who hears the word of Christ and is healed and strengthened by Christ’s life in grace, has a holy task. Each believer, each of us, has a role to play in the work of salvation, beginning with personal salvation. Everyone is unworthy and weak.

Nevertheless, God calls us and promises us that all that truly is needed is to be a disciple.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-5, 7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 M 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3-5, 10-11 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40 Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-11b, 12-15 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7b, 19-22 Mk 8:1-10

The lie projected onto the National Shrine

It was an appalling sight. As the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life was taking place on the inside of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Jan. 20, a pro-abortion group that for some reason calls itself "Catholic" was desecrating the building on the outside.

Through the darkness, pro-abortion organizers projected the following phrases on the shrine's usually stunning 329-foot bell tower: "1 in 4 abortion patients is Catholic," "Pro-choice Catholics you are not alone" and "Pro-choice Catholics" in a cruciform shape. Only if these "protesters" had proffered the proverbial "bird" to the Eucharist could they have been more obscene.

The group responsible, "Catholics for Choice," succeeded in partially disrupting the events surrounding the Jan. 21 March for Life not only with its "light show" but with its subsequent "victory lap" on social media.

"I know that my faith teaches Catholics to honor personal conscience. And yet, the Catholic hierarchy seeks to polarize pro-choice Catholics and villainize people who make the moral choice to have abortions," tweeted Ashley Wilson, the communications director for the organization late Jan. 20. "I am tired of feeling the shame and stigma for being a pro-choice Catholic. And I'm not here for people to judge my own personal relationship with God."

Jamie Manson, the president of the organization, followed up with a morning-after rationalization, if there can be such a thing. "We went to the Basilica to draw attention to the fact that women in the church have abortions," she tweeted. "These are likely the women who serve as his lecturers and eucharistic ministers; who sew his vestments and wash his dishes. To ignore them is to betray them."

What a complete and utter lie. Catholic women who have

had abortions are not villainized. They are not betrayed by their Church. They are beloved – by the Church and by the God whose love and mercy is infinite for each of his flawed children. Multiple ministries within the Church are available to post-abortive women, filled with empathetic staff and volunteers who offer necessary healing, support and counseling.

And the door to returning to full communion with the Church for our sisters (and our many brothers who also actively participate in abortion) is always open through the sacrament of reconciliation. The absolution received in the confessional leaves no shame or stigma behind. It brings only peace.

Furthermore, how many testimonies have been offered by Catholics who regret their abortions – stories that have been a moving part of the March for Life? These are women who would leap at the chance to be able to make a different decision, and they are not represented by the self-aggrandizement of a group that claims to represent all Catholics who have had abortions. They are not victims; they are strong, brave women of God.

Counter-marchers are always an unfortunate part of the March for Life experience, but never before has an anti-life message been broadcast in such a brazen, disrespectful and sacrilegious manner – and, more shamefully, by those who claim to profess the same faith that in no uncertain terms calls for the protection of life at all stages.

That the group's vile display made use of the outside of a church building certainly serves as a parallel to reality: The members of such an organization and their supporters stand outside the Church – and by their own choice.

"The true voice of the Church was only to be found within the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception last evening," Cardinal Wilton D.

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

Gregory of Washington said in a Jan. 21 statement. "There, people prayed and offered the Eucharist, asking God to restore a true reverence for all human life. Those whose antics projected words on the outside of the church building demonstrated by those pranks that they really are external to the Church and they did so at night – John 13:30."

The cited Scripture passage – "So he took the morsel and left at once. And it was night" – refers to the very betrayal of Christ himself by Judas Iscariot. Indeed, it is not Catholics who have had abortions who are betrayed by the Church, but groups like "Catholics for Choice" that betray not only the Church but the God who commands his children not to kill. Thankfully, the same merciful Son that brings peace to the former can offer the same to the latter, should they but have the humility to ask.

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

ERLANDSON, from page 12

California's governor has already said he wants to make his state an "abortion sanctuary." And of course abortion by pill will continue to be available, legally or illegally.

It may serve both political parties to continue this war, keeping the divide that has served politicians well. According to James D. Robenalt, writing in The Washington Post, "The Roe ruling drew an enduring red line through American politics, where compromise was impossible, and opponents were not only wrong but wicked."

But what serves political interests may not serve the interests of women and children.

The battle for hearts and minds remains the greater challenge, and that struggle will never be won in the political trenches alone.

Pro-lifers must continue their efforts of finding ways to help families. The expanded child tax credit could help mothers choose life when they might otherwise feel financially trapped.

Making every parish a resource center for struggling mothers, as Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann's "Walking with Moms in Need" program proposes, is another. Assisting the two million Americans a year looking for babies to adopt is third.

The pandemic has shown the weak spots in our health care

and our economy. As Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston said in his Jan. 21 homily, "A land where the rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer will always be fertile soil for abortion. ... What are we doing for the disenfranchised of our own country?"

Pursuing these issues may make for strange political bedfellows but could have powerful and lasting consequences for families while reducing the abortion toll.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 6, 2022

Luke 5:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Peter's first fishing trip with Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWD	PRESSING IN	BOATS
FISHERMEN	SIMON	ASKED
PUT OUT	SAT DOWN	TAUGHT
FINISHED	SPEAKING	A CATCH
MASTER	ALL NIGHT	PARTNERS
PETER	KNEES	SINFUL
SONS	AFRAID	FOLLOWED

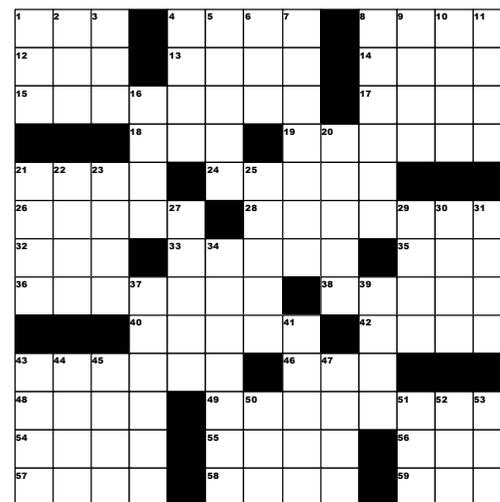
FISHING TRIP

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

February 6 and 13, 2022



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Readings: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/ 1 Cor 15:1-11 / Lk 5:1-11 & Jer 17:5-8/ 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/ Lk 6:17, 20-26

ACROSS

- 1 Airport abbr.
- 4 Understand facts
- 8 Gnaw
- 12 Stringed instrument's partner
- 13 "Nothing"
- 14 Not there
- 15 "Love __ all things."
- 17 Train track
- 18 Fourth letter
- 19 Angel did to Mary
- 21 "A __ of brass"
- 24 "Gird your __"
- 26 Variation on "Louis"

- 28 Joining
- 32 All Souls month
- 33 Drop (2 wds.)
- 35 Female deer
- 36 Overfull
- 38 Synthetic fiber
- 40 Append (2 wds.)
- 42 The Apostles __ with Jesus
- 43 Surroundings
- 46 Incorporated (abbr.)
- 48 First man
- 49 Dealing with ethnic groups
- 54 Dawdle
- 55 Where 48A lived

- 56 Coffee alternative
- 57 Sliding toy
- 58 Aching
- 59 Swab

DOWN

- 1 Tide goes out
- 2 "Lest you dash this against a stone"
- 3 Punching tool for leather
- 4 Genuflect on
- 5 Type of orange
- 6 Lyric poem
- 7 Fishermen were, with nets
- 8 " __ died for our sins"
- 9 "Cure"
- 10 Canal
- 11 Join metal
- 16 Without purpose
- 20 Negatively charged particle
- 21 Lack
- 22 Lotion ingredient
- 23 " __ is patient"
- 25 Outlay of money
- 27 Slither
- 29 Lazy
- 30 Middy
- 31 Chap
- 34 "Love __" (lasts)
- 37 Permanently injured
- 39 Young Women's Christian Association
- 41 Kinder
- 43 Charts
- 44 Graven image
- 45 Sea of Galilee is one
- 47 Days in a novena
- 50 Hubbub
- 51 Long-term memory
- 52 Lion name
- 53 Shrill bark

Answer key can be found on page 15

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

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:

Kevin Sweeney
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
 10655 Haverstick Road
 Carmel, IN 46033
 317-846-3850
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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 with 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

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Training for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion
FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized trainings for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion from 10 a.m. till noon on Saturday, Feb. 5. The Fort Wayne training will be at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, and the South Bend training will be at St. Anthony de Padua Church. Visit diocesefwsb.org/trainings/ for additional information and registration. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required online or by mail.

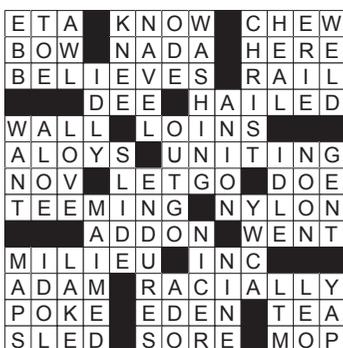
St. Stanislaus Kostka men's BBQ
NEW CARLISLE — The 64th annual men's smoker will be on Sunday, Feb. 20, from noon to 5 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the door. Ticket price includes a chance of door prizes, draft beer and a BBQ meal. There will be nearly 200 Tip Boards, Blackjack tables, Texas Hold'em, plus ample tables and seating for private games. For more information, call the parish office at 574-654-3781. (Must be 21 to enter.)

Pasta for Peace
ANGOLA — Every third Thursday of the month, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the St. Anthony de Padua Parish Council will host "Pasta for Peace" which will focus on fellowship, friendliness and the joy of good food at St. Anthony Parish Hall, 700 W Maumee St. A goodwill offering will be accepted. Contact Patti Webster at 260-665-2259 or patti@stanthonyangola.com for information.

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. Contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1452.

The Crossword

February 6 and 13, 2022



REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne
 Barbara Stemen, 79, St. Jude
 Marilyn Ulshafer, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger
 Carol Bryant, 86, St. Pius X

Stephen Ciszczon, 94, St. Pius X

Brad Synder, 26, St. Pius X

Huntington
 Robert A. Jeffers, 84, SS. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
 Mary J. Morris, 87, St. Bavo

Leonard Bonk, 80, St. Joseph

Nancy Dakins, 79, St. Joseph

George Eberlein, 83, St. Joseph

Sharon Funk, 81, St. Joseph

Thomas Hirl, 75, St. Joseph

New Haven
 Marsha J. Barker, 60, St. Louis Besancon

South Bend
 Theresa Lindzy, 91, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Jerome Lape, 104, Christ the King

James J. Rakowski, 80, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Esther Szabo, 98, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Paul J. White, 83, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Wabash
 Vincent J. Bauccho, 86, St. Bernard

Waterloo
 Margaret E. Miller, 96, St. Michael the Archangel

Warsaw
 Maria C. Vuittonet, 87, Sacred Heart

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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 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 and 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.

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- 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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MARCH, from page 1

of history when it comes to this issue," he said, receiving loud applause.

In a separate statement to Today's Catholic, Congressman Banks said, "One of the things I look forward to most every year is speaking at the annual Northeast Indiana March and Rally for Life.

"This year's march is special because there's so much to be hopeful about. For one, a historic number of bills have passed in state legislatures nationwide to protect the unborn. If the Dobbs Supreme Court case decision is favorable – and I'm optimistic – then abortion in those states could be slashed.

"Republicans in Congress are also as unified as ever in opposing abortion as we head into the midterms, which I am also very hopeful about. So long as I'm in office, I'll always fight to protect the unborn."

This year could be crucial for the pro-life movement. The Dobbs case he spoke of could become a landmark in the fight for life: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The Dobbs in this case is Thomas E. Dobbs, the state health officer in Mississippi. Jackson Women's Health Organization is the only provider of abortion in that state, and they filed a case against the recently passed legislation which put severe restrictions on abortion in Mississippi.

"The Dobbs case is, at its core, a viability case," said Abigail Lorenzen, operations and media director for RTL of Northeast Indiana. Viability means the gestational age in which an infant has a high probability of survival outside the womb. The state of Mississippi chose 15 weeks of gestation to ban abortion, even though that age is not currently considered viable. "They knew when they wrote the legislation and they knew when they signed it and the governor knew when he signed it that they were going at a head with Roe v. Wade, and that was their goal," she said.

The Supreme Court has the right to take up or refuse any case that appeals to it, and Chief Justice John Roberts agreed to hear this particular one. Lorenzen said that a decision on the case will come in June, July at the latest in case of COVID-related delays.

Lorenzen said that using viability to determine when an unborn child has the right to life is ludicrous, "because it's not based on anything but arbitrary, human development of technology." Medical technology has pushed the age of viability back and continues to do so. The ear-

liest recorded age an infant has survived outside the womb is around 20 weeks, with extensive medical care.

"The Dobbs case is essentially asking them to look at the way Roe was decided in the first place, to say, 'This was completely unconstitutional to begin with, this should not exist at all, and we're going to show that by putting the line at 15 weeks.'"

Lorenzen disclosed that Indiana does not have any bills regarding abortion pending in the 2022 session of the state legislature, mostly because of the wait-and-see attitude surrounding the Dobbs case. She, like many others in the pro-life movement, is optimistic that

Roe might be "chipped away at," if not completely overturned, leaving abortion laws to be decided by the individual states.

Currently, the seven-county area that RTL of Northeast Indiana covers (dominated by the city of Fort Wayne) is considered

an abortion desert, the second-largest in the nation. However, the Planned Parenthood clinic in Fort Wayne does refer women for abortions at other locations, and that is where RTL's sidewalk counselors can have an impact on the lives of pregnant women and the unborn.

One area that Lorenzen believes the pro-life movement has made significant progress in is the treatment of women seeking abortions. She said that the majority of these women are pushed into that decision by someone else or misled by the abortion industry itself. Often, once they leave the clinic, the realization of what they did hits them, along with remorse for their actions. "They obviously need our compassion, they need healing, they need forgiveness; they don't need condemnation and all of this really angry talk that we sometimes hear outside of abortion clinics."

The below-freezing temperatures kept some of the usual marchers from attending, but many others braved the cold, including some first-time attendees, such as Brooks Gray, a recent graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School. He has attended two previous national marches in Washington, D.C. and said, "We march because everyone deserves to have a chance at life. That's the real reason."

Father Luke Okoyo, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, also made time to attend his first march since arriving from Nigeria last summer. Alongside a group of his parishioners, he was proud to prayerfully march to support the unborn.

"We march because everyone deserves to have a chance at life."

That's the real reason."

BROOKS GRAY



Photos by Jennifer Barton

The Knights of Columbus color guard prepares to lead the 48th annual Northeast Indiana March for Life in Fort Wayne on Jan. 29 outside the University of Saint Francis' Robert F. Goldstein Performing Arts Center.



Abigail Lorenzen, operations and media director for Right to Life of Northeast Indiana, addresses the crowd at the rally about the importance of continuing to stand up for the unborn.



Thousands prayerfully marched down the streets of Fort Wayne. Local Catholic parishes such as St. Jude were represented by members of their community who gave of their time to pray for an end to abortion in America.



Many young families braved the cold to honor the millions of babies lost to abortion each year.



Demonstrators march past the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne on their way to the E. Ross Adair Federal Building.