Bishop Rhoades visits Marian High School on patroness’ feast day

BY DENISE FEDOROW

It was a rainy start to the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Friday, Feb. 11, but Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades received a warm welcome from the staff and students at Marian High School in Mishawaka. “It’s wonderful to be with you on your feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes,” the bishop told them at morning Mass, and stated how he always looked forward to coming to the school. He recalled being there in the fall to dedicate the newly built grotto and said that it’s a good place to go and pray and to “celebrate her love for the Son and her love for us.”

Mary’s humility

The bishop’s homily focused on the Magnificat proclaimed in Luke’s Gospel. He asked the students, “Did you ever hear your favorite song on the radio and say, ‘that’s my song?’ We just heard in the Gospel Mary’s song, the song she proclaimed at the Visitation. Mary’s song is called the Magnificat because in the first words of her song she says, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord.’”

He told the students that Mary’s song has become the song of the Church and that it’s prayed every evening in Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church. He then encouraged the students to see the Magnificat as their own song, as their school is named after Mary, and she serves as its patroness.

“This song that came from Mary’s lips also came from her heart. It reveals her soul. It is woven from the threads of scripture, the Word of God that she reflected on and pondered in her heart,” he said.

He continued, “Mary’s greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself. She was totally humble. ‘We see Mary’s great humility at the Annunciation; she called herself ‘the handmaid of the Lord.’ She placed herself completely at God’s disposal and with great faith said, ‘Let it be done to me according to your word.’ And so God chose her to be His dwelling place in the world. He became flesh in her womb.”

The bishop said that God chose Mary of Nazareth from among all the women in the world because he was attracted by her humility. “Mary recognized this and said in the Magnificat, ‘For He has looked upon His lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.’ What Mary has prophesied has come true. Two thousand years later we call her the Blessed Virgin Mary and our Blessed Mother.”

Mary makes Satan so angry because she is the humblest of all creatures and he is the proudest. She’s also the most obedient to God and he’s the disobedient rebel. In our fight against the work of sin and evil in our lives and in the world, one of our strongest weapons is to pray to Mary, the lowly young virgin of Nazareth. The devil runs away from those who are close to her.”

Returning to the Magnificat, Bishop Rhoades explained that Mary shows how when God breaks into history, He turns it upside down, particularly in reversing the fortunes of the poor and the mighty in the next life. He also referenced the first reading from Isaiah 55:1-5 about the Suffering Servant “who was spurned and condemned, stricken and pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins. Of course, this is prophecy about Jesus. Jesus is the Suffering Servant of God who was crushed for our offenses. He was humiliated in His passion and crucifixion. This sounds like a terrible defeat, and it was, but not for God, but for Satan. Because Jesus defeated him with love. He defeated sin by loving us to the end and being obedient to His Father.”

He spoke of how Mary shared in Jesus’ pain and suffering and her heart was pierced, but her Immaculate Heart triumphed, and she was assumed body and soul into heaven. As the Magnificat can teach Catholics much about holy living, Bishop Rhoades invited the students to pray it daily and even gave each of them a gift — a holy card of the Magnificat.

Visiting Classrooms

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades visited several theology classes.

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Synod listening sessions give Catholics a voice

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Faithful Catholics from around the diocese have come together in the last few weeks at various locations – people from different parishes, of varying ages, both religious and laity, single and married. English- and Spanish-speaking. The numbers have varied by location, but all of them have one thing in common: a deep love for the Catholic Church and a desire to hear and be heard.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been making progress on fulfilling Pope Francis’ call to ensure that members of the Church have a chance to contribute to the upcoming Synod on Synodality in 2023. The first step in the process is more than halfway to completion within the diocese with the listening sessions being held in each vicariate. “The focus is listening, and that’s really what I see,” said Anne Therese Stephens, synod coordinator for the diocese.

A synod is simply a meeting of bishops, called by the pope to aid in a particular matter. The difference in the Synod on Synodality is that Pope Francis has requested an additional step in allowing the people, including laypeople and clergy, to give their feedback on how the Church is building community among its members and other Christians. Armed with this information, the bishops will meet next year for the official synod.

To collect this information, Stephens and other members of the diocese came up with several questions for participants to pray over before attending a listening session at the appropriate site for their vicariate. As of this writing, four of the six sessions have taken place. Stephens has attended most of these sessions and stated that “generally, they’ve gone well. The feedback I’ve gotten from people is that they’ve enjoyed hearing how concerned people are,” that the participants are “very invested and deeply in love with the Church and wanting to bring the Church to her fullest potential.”

Overall, there have been two themes that Stephens has routinely heard being brought to the bulk of the conversations. “I think evangelization and just educating people,” she relayed. “There’s this drive to move in that direction. And then the other is an increase for knowing the real presence of Jesus, like in adoration.”

Members of Vicariate E were invited to attend a listening session at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne on Feb. 7. Father Andrew Budzinski emceed the evening, and reminded those present that a listening session was “not the time for theological debate,” but a time to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to make their voices heard. The roughly 80 participants were then broken up into smaller groups of around 10 people along with a volunteer moderator and note-taker for an hour’s worth of discussion.

Stephens reported that the number of attendees had varied so far, with around 150 at St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend being the largest crowd she had witnessed. The diocese has provided a Spanish-language translator to host groups more comfortable speaking in that language and the listening session at St. Patrick in Ligonier on March 8 will be bilingual.

Understanding the purpose of the synod may be difficult, but Stephens said, “I think that Pope Francis wanted the people who don’t normally speak to speak.” With that being the case, including bilingual sessions makes certain groups feel more comfortable in participating.

Due to her job as an advocate in the Tribunal, Stephens was a good choice to coordinate the synod at the diocese level. She is comfortable reading testimonies and putting them into orderly documents. It will be her task to condense all of the notes from the listening sessions into a 10-page document to be sent to the Vatican by June. She received instruction on the process last fall. “After reading the documents, my intention was to try to bring as much truth into it and make it as holy as possible, and keeping the mission of the Church in mind,” she said.

SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington hosted the listening session for Vicariate F, which encompassed many of the smaller cities in the surrounding area. Father Tony Steinacker emceed the event and invited several other priests from parishes within the vicariate to attend. Discussions sometimes roused passionate feelings of joy and fervency for the Eucharist, and for the beauty of Catholicism, although no one seemed angry, merely ardent for growth within the Church.

Drew Stuart, one of the facilitators for the day, shared some of the things that he noticed from discussions with his group. “There was a desire to share and be heard,” he said, indicating that Father Dale Bauman brought a lot of good ideas to the forefront. “There was also a desire to help others understand the importance of the faith.”

Even beyond the synod, Stuart stated that the people in his group had “a desire to keep doing this; it was a great experience.” The big takeaway that he saw was for parishes to share ideas and work together more, rather than “reinventing the wheel.”

There are still two upcoming listening sessions for Vicariate A at St. Pius X in Granger and Vicariate C at St. Patrick in Ligonier. For more information on the listening sessions and the Synod on Synodality, visit diocesefwsb.org/synod.
Catholic Charities appoints new CEO

The Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Florin as Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Florin has been serving as interim CEO since July 2021.

“Dan has been outstanding in his service as Interim CEO,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said of the appointment. “I am most pleased that he will now continue as the permanent CEO. The service of the poor and needy is an essential part of the Church’s mission, and I have every confidence in Dan’s heart for the poor and his superb managerial skills to continue the growth of outreach of Catholic Charities in our diocese to the poor and needy.”

Florin comes to the position of CEO with extensive financial and business management experience. He served as chief financial officer of Biomet, Inc., from June 2007 until Zimmer’s acquisition of Biomet in June 2015, at which time Florin was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Zimmer Biomet Inc. until his announced retirement in July 2019. Florin earned an accounting degree from the University of Notre Dame, and holds an MBA and CPA.

Florin left the corporate world two years ago “to focus on faith, family and to give back to the Church,” he said. Florin “made sure we’re organized, prepared, raising awareness, making sure we’re all on the same page, uniting our community to stand with one voice together in our service of the poor and needy.”

For now, he hopes merely to see an influx of people seeking counseling services and plans to look at their staffing levels to possibly increase staff numbers to meet this need within the 14 counties that they serve. He also desires to see an increase in outreach services and to create partnerships with other agencies in the area to grow their outreach services and to serve more people.”

“I don’t need a hand-out, but a hand-up,” he stated. “We bring opportunities to serve as CEO of Catholic Charities for the diocese, as we commemorate 100 years of serving all those in need as Christ would have us do,” said Florin. “Over the past seven months, I have seen firsthand the dedication of our team, as they walk alongside and provide support to the most vulnerable in our community.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am honored to have Dan lead Catholic Charities as CEO,” says Paulette Davis, president of the Catholic Charities board of directors. “Dan’s servant leadership, combined with his vast business experience, will advance the mission of the agency well into the future.”

As interim CEO, Florin was already performing the full duties of the CEO, including providing this service. “It was an opportunity for me to serve as CEO of Catholic Charities being the only Catholic agency in northeast Indiana providing this service.”

Florin reports that Catholic Charities has also been seeing an increase in the number of people seeking help with Ukraine” before the conflict turns violent.

The response team has coordinated relief efforts for those who have been affected since Russia annexed Ukrainian territory in Crimea in 2014.

Auxiliary Bishop Donald F. Hanchon of Detroit told those gathered that the Latin-rite Catholic archdiocese stood in solidarity with the Ukrainian-American community.

“We unite as strong friends, brothers and sisters of those who are under pressure,” Bishop Hanchon said. “We pray our prayers, not just tonight but in the days to come, will be a consolation and an empowerment of those sisters and brothers so far away. I also like to follow the example of holy Mary, Mother of God, the Protectress of Peace, the Queen of Peace.”

Ukrainian Catholic churches in Michigan are part of the Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago. Basilian Father Daniel Schaciscki, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hamtramck, discussed his church’s connection with Ukraine with Detroit Catholic, the news outlet of the archdiocese. He

Detroit-area Ukrainian Americans pray for peace in homeland

BY DANIEL MELOY

SOUTHPFIELD, Mich. (CNS) – As Russian military forces continued to assemble along the Russia-Ukraine border, U.S. President Joe Biden and other world leaders looked for a potential diplomatic solution to defuse tensions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In the meantime, Detroit-area Catholic and Orthodox Ukrainian-Americans and their supporters called upon the most powerful weapon in their arsenal: prayer.

They gathered at St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, outside of Detroit, for an ecumenical service on Feb. 5.

It was an opportunity for the Ukrainian community to show a united front in supporting their homeland while calling on local leaders to stand in solidarity with Ukraine. About 40,500 Michigan residents are of Ukrainian descent.

“We represent our community’s efforts to be ready to step into action should the worst happen to our homeland in eastern Europe,” Mykola Murskyj, chairman of the Ukrainian-American Response Team in Detroit, which organized the vigil, told the congregation following an evening of prayer.

Murskyj urged people to “make sure we’re organized, prepared, raising awareness, making sure we’re all on the same page, uniting our community to stand with one voice together in our prayer to God, the Protectress of Peace, the Queen of Peace.”

A young girl at St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, Mich., holds a sign in support of her ancestral homeland Feb. 5, 2022, amid tensions along the Russia-Ukraine border.

CNS photo/Vaibraun Waller, Detroit Catholic
described the parish efforts to raise funds to support soldiers in eastern Ukraine, where a separatist movement emerged. Money has been used for medical supplies and winter clothing as well as to assist families of soldiers who have died.

Father Schairoski said the situation on the Russia-Ukraine border is another development in a series of Russian incursions into Ukraine’s affairs since the 2014 Maidan Revolution, which saw Russia-backed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych ousted from power.

The government under Zelensky has sought a more Eurocentric policy, steering the country away from Russian influence. In response, pro-Russia factions in Ukraine’s south and east – backed in part by Russia – launched separatist movements that have resulted in the Ukrainian government losing control of the Crimea and Donbas regions.

Following prayers during the Feb. 5 vigil, office holders and the Catholic faithful assembled including Father Schaicoski said, “Really, Russia has its feet wet in Ukraine, in the Crimea. Moscow actually is tied to Kiev well before it came to the presence of Western forces after the ousting of Yanukovych. While the potential for conflict in Ukraine still remains, Father Schaicoski called for prayers for peace, saying “no war is going to happen if they invade.”

For now, the best thing is to pray for peace. Because we know every prayer is heard.”

Mehls is a staff writer for Detroit Catholic, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

“My dear Lord,” she said. “I’m asking Your love to flow over the Ukrainian people, to fight against the evil and cruelty of the Russian military. I pray that You would allow them to fight for their freedom. Grace and peace to the Ukrainian people.”

Mehls ended by asking for the intercession of Mother Mary for protection, healing and to be near the people of Ukraine still remains, Father Schaicoski called for prayers for peace, saying “no war is going to happen if they invade.”

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ICC opposes bill that would place limits on charitable bail funds

The Indiana Catholic Conference is challenging a bill recently passed by the Indiana Senate that would restrict the ability of charitable groups to cover bail costs for people awaiting trial who cannot afford to pay themselves.

Senate Bill 8 was introduced early in the 2022 legislative session as part of a package of bills aimed at fighting crime in Marion County and elsewhere in the state. The measure aims to regulate charitable bail organizations by requiring that they register with the state Department of Insurance, as bail bond companies do. Additionally, it would limit a charitable group to posting bond just twice in a 180-day period and for bail amounts of $2,000 or less.

Those restrictions, the ICC and other opponents argue, only widen the gap in a criminal justice system that already places the poor at a disadvantage. “This is not the way that the criminal justice system should work – that only those who have money have the advantage of being out of jail until their trial, particularly on a nonviolent offense,” said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “Remember that when people are arrested, they are presumed innocent and not guilty until their day in court, they could lose their house, and families could lose their job, they could go to jail until their day in court, they could be proven guilty. If they cannot make bail, there is no incentive for them to come to court. They can only have one bond posted by a national not-for-profit organization called The Bail Project.”

The ICC counters that supporters of the bill should consider the criteria used by these charitable organizations, including some faith-based organizations.

“Charities only provide bail on nonviolent offenses, and most nonviolent people don’t suddenly commit violent acts,” Espada said. “If the measure is in response to murder and other violent actions, why limit these charitable institutions?”

Freeman also questions the leverage that this and similar organizations have when it comes to the primary purpose of bail: ensuring that the accused shows up in court.

“I see a difference between a bail bondsman who has a financial interest in bringing that defendant back and making sure they appear in front of a judge ... and a charitable bail organization that may or may not be in Indiana and may or may not have any ties to the community,” said Freeman, a former Marion County deputy prosecutor, during a Senate hearing on his bill. “What incentive do they have to make sure that person appears in court?”

But Smith, who has served as the associate director of policy and advocacy for the nationally-based Vera Institute of Justice, said her testimony before the Senate committee was to “highlight that even though it is presented as a package for Marion County, it would have repercussions throughout the entire state.”

One thing that we know now is that rural counties spend 1.7 times more money on pre-trial detention than Marion County does,” Smith said. “If more people are held on unaffordable bail and if charitable bail organizations aren’t able to assist them, then naturally the pre-trial population is going to rise in those places.”

But the primary driving factors behind Senate Bill 8 and a similar measure, House Bill 1500, are some recent murders and other violent attacks in Marion County. Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis), the author of Senate Bill 8 and sponsor of the recently passed House Bill 1500, points to several individuals who went on to commit heinous crimes after having their bail posted by a national not-for-profit organization called The Bail Project.

The ICC believes that the restrictions on charitable bail funds in Senate Bill 8 would not further the protection of society and the just rehabilitation of the incarcerated, but merely prohibit nonviolent people from having an opportunity to get on with their lives.

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“Charities only provide bail on nonviolent offenses, and most nonviolent people don’t suddenly commit violent acts,” Espada said. “If the measure is in response to murder and other violent actions, why limit these charitable institutions?”

As the bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States remind us ... “We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law.” Espada said in her letter. “The ICC believes that the restrictions on charitable bail funds in Senate Bill 8 would not further the protection of society and the just rehabilitation of the incarcerated, but merely prohibit nonviolent people from performing more acts of mercy.”

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 officials.
Pope restructures the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** As part of ongoing moves to reform the Roman Curia, Pope Francis has approved restructuring the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the oldest of the congregations. Once comprised of a doctrinal office, a discipline office and a marriage office, the new structure will see the doctrinal and discipline offices become their own special sections led by their own secretaries; the marriage office will become part of the doctrinal office. The two secretaries will serve under the congregation’s prefect. Spanish Cardinal Luis Ladaria, who has been prefect of the congregation since 2017, will celebrate his 78th birthday April 19. The heads of Vatican offices are required to resign their resignations to the pope when they turn 75. In “Fidem servare” (Preserving the Faith), published “motu proprio,” (on his own initiative) Feb. 14, Pope Francis said the main task of the congregation has been to safeguard and “keep the faith.” The changes went into effect the same day. Over time, the congregation has seen modifications to its areas of responsibilities and how it is configured, and now, Pope Francis said, further change is needed “to give it an approach more suited to the fulfillment of its functions.”

Men must join fight against human trafficking, pope says

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Male-female relationships based on “discrimination and submission” lead to the exploitation and humiliation of the bodies of women and girls each year, Pope Francis said. “Human trafficking, through domestic or sexual exploitation, also would focus on women and girls to their supposed role of subordination in the provision of domestic or sexual services, and to their role as providers of care and dispensers of pleasure, which proposes yet again a model of relationships marked by the power of the male gender over the female.” Pope Francis said in a video message. Marking the Feb. 8 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a former slave, Pope Francis insisted, “The violence suffered by every woman and every girl is an open wound on the body of Christ, on the body of all humanity; it is a deep wound that affects every one of us, too.” A few thousand women and girls who are trafficked every year denounce the dramatic conditions of their exploitation, Pope Francis said, and it is not an exaggeration — there are thousands of them!” Praising the women and women organizations dedicated to fighting human trafficking, coerced prostitution, forced marriage and slave labor, Pope Francis said men must get involved as well, “opposing with all our might every form of exploitation in human trafficking.”

Retired pope has full support of Pope Francis, aide says

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Francis was among those showing their support for retired Pope Benedict XVI, sending his predecessor “a beautiful letter,” according to the former pope’s secretary. In the letter, Pope Francis “speaks as a shepherd, as a brother” and “expressed once again his complete trust, his full support and also his prayers,” said the secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein. The archbishop spoke to the Italian news program TG1 on Feb. 9 about the retired pope’s letter in response to a report on sexual abuse cases in the German Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, which the former pope headed as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger from 1977 to 1982. Pope Benedict, who has denied allegations of mishandling four cases of clerical sexual abuse put forth by the report, emphasized in a letter on Feb. 8 his feelings of great shame and sorrow for the abuse of minors and made a request for forgiveness to all victims of sexual abuse. Archbishop Gänswein was asked to respond to criticisms by some victims’ advocates and media in Germany that Pope Benedict’s apology was insufficient. “Whoever reads the letter in a sincere way, the way in which the letter was written, cannot agree with these criticisms or these accusations. He asks all victims of abuse for forgiveness,” he said.

Republicans introduce immigration bill, but GOP divided over it

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) —** Republicans are divided on an immigration bill introduced by members of their own party that would grant citizenship to millions who are in the country without legal permission. Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, of Florida, in a Feb. 9 news conference, talked about the Dignity Act. The bill would help those who were brought into the country as minors without legal permission and others who contribute to the U.S. economy, while it also would focus on reinforcing the border. “The United States has historically been a beacon of refuge for those fleeing violence and oppression or seeking a new life and opportunities,” Salazar said. “In recent decades, our broken immigration system has been exploited, leading to a situation that is unbecoming of our great nation. While the United States is a nation of laws, we are also a nation of second chances, she said. “Through dignity and a chance at redemption, this legacy can continue.” Some of the provisions in the proposal include having immigrants pay $1,000 annually for 10 years into a fund as restitution and that money would help train other workers.

Priest, 79, braves cold to make pilgrimage of prayer for Ukraine by bike

**WARREN, R.I. (CNS) —** As Ukraine faces a fierce challenge to its young democracy from more than 120,000 Russian forces stacked on its borders, pope headed as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger from 1977 to 1982. Pope Benedict, who has denied allegations of mishandling four cases of clerical sexual abuse put forth by the report, emphasized in a letter on Feb. 8 his feelings of great shame and sorrow for the abuse of minors and made a request for forgiveness to all victims of sexual abuse. Archbishop Gänswein was asked to respond to criticisms by some victims’ advocates and media in Germany that Pope Benedict’s apology was insufficient. “Whoever reads the letter in a sincere way, the way in which the letter was written, cannot agree with these criticisms or these accusations. He asks all victims of abuse for forgiveness,” he said.

Ukraine troops prepare for potential Russian invasion

A veteran of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion conducts military exercises for civilians in Kyiv, Ukraine, Jan. 30, 2022, amid threat of Russian invasion.

St. Patrick Church in Providence in late January. He stopped at churches along the way to offer prayers for peace in the region. A well-read student of history, who spent 20 years of his ministry serving outside the United States, Father O’Neill fears what will happen to the Ukrainian people if Russian President Vladimir Putin directs the vast array of forces he has amassed on three of Europe’s second largest nation by area to invade Ukraine. During a stop at St. Mary of the Bay Church in Warren, Father O’Neill recounted how, during the era of Soviet leader Josef Stalin, millions of Ukrainians starved to death. The brutal dictator caused a famine by ordering Ukraine’s small farms to operate as a collective, usurping their harvests to feed those living in Russia. Stalin’s goal also was to punish Ukrainians whose dreams for independence would threaten his total authority.

Since COVID’s first storm, octogenarian hospital chaplain still ministering

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Italian Capuchin Father Aquilino Apasisti lived through air raid bombings as a boy during World War II, worked as a nurse for 18 years, spent 25 years as a missionary in the Amazon facing regular outbreaks of malaria and leprosy and survived pancreatic cancer. But nothing was more shocking than seeing the lines of ambulances outside the hospital he worked at and the rows of coffins he blessed piling up in the morgue in early 2020 in Bergamo – the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis in Italy, registering the highest number of known cases and deaths related to the coronavirus. “I never saw anything like this in my life, not even in the leper colonies where I worked in Brazil,” he told Avvenire, the daily newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference. “But I never lost hope. People came from all over the world to help out,” he said in an interview published Feb. 11, World Day of the Sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The 85-year-old Capuchin is still serving his chapter as a chaplain in Bergamo, where he had allowed its four chaplains to spend 20 years of his ministry serving outside the United States, Pope Francis fears what will happen to the Ukrainian people if Russian President Vladimir Putin directs the vast array of forces he has amassed on three of Europe’s second largest nation by area to invade Ukraine. During a stop at St. Mary of the Bay Church in Warren, Father O’Neill recounted how, during the era of Soviet leader Josef Stalin, millions of Ukrainians starved to death. The brutal dictator caused a famine by ordering Ukraine’s small farms to operate as a collective, usurping their harvests to feed those living in Russia. Stalin’s goal also was to punish Ukrainians whose dreams for independence would threaten his total authority.

Vatican confirms pope to visit Malta in April

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Francis will visit Malta on April 2-3, a Vatican spokesman said. Accepting the invitation of the president, civil authorities and bishops of the Mediterranean country, the pope will visit the cities of Valletta, Rabat and Floriana and the island of Gozo, Matteo Bruni, the spokesman, said in a written statement on Feb. 10.
**The Anatomy of a Heart** parish mission

SOUTH BEND – St. Thérèse Little Flower Parish in South Bend will host a four-night Lenten parish mission about the heart from March 21-24, at 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. each evening. What happens when the heart of the Father meets our own heart? Titled “The Anatomy of a Heart,” four presenters will speak on the following topics: the heart of the Father, the anatomy of a wounded heart and community, friendship and soft love. The adult track will take place in the gym and a track for children. One of the infant through 12 will be available in the Upper Room in the parish center. Children ages 13 and older are encouraged to participate in the adult track. Event website is littleflowerchurch.org/lent-2022.

**Holy Cross College Mind and Heart lecture series**

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College presents “The Ministry of Exorcism,” a talk by Father Vincent P. Lampert, exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He received his training in Rome and is a member of the International Association of Exorcists. The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. in Driscoll Auditorium on campus. This talk is free and open to the public. All visitors to campus are required to wear a mask. Father Vincent Lampert was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on June 1, 1991. He currently serves as the pastor of St. Michael and St. Peter Parishes in Brookville, Indiana. In 2005, he was appointed the exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. 

**Around the Diocese**

"One student who chose Notre Dame Cathedral in Montreal was inspired by its stained glass and talked about how she constructed the stained glass rose window, a tower, and even attached a crocodile to the side of the tower. The third graders built and that she loved learning about the history of the church and what it took to build these beautiful churches." Father Ben Muhlenkamp, the pastor and interim principal of St. Anthony de Padua, said of the project. "The third graders are so impressed! It is amazing the way they use their imagination and creativity to try and depict the beauty they see in these cathedrals. What an amazing way for children to learn."

When Duncan Stroik, a professor of architecture at the University of Notre Dame and an expert in sacred architecture, heard about the project, he remarked, "Where do people learn about their faith by seeing, touching and hearing the divine?" Students in Abby Stopczynski's third-grade class at St. Anthony de Padua School in South Bend recreated smaller versions of Catholic churches throughout the world and presented them to classmates and parishioners on Feb. 11. One student's creation, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, is seen here on display in the St. Anthony de Padua Church vestibule. The public can register for programs or obtain additional information by visiting www.moonstretudios.org or calling 574-935-1712.

*More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org*

**MoonTree offers art experiences for older adults**

DONALDSON – MoonTree Studios located at the Center at Donaldson is partnering with Jennifer Weinkert to offer art experiences for adults ages 65 and older. The series of experiences titled, "Form Your Story" offers older adults the opportunity to learn about multimedia collage, bookbinding techniques and relief printing. Scheduled at MoonTree Studios in the spring, summer and fall, the first one begins March and continues for six consecutive weeks. Participants will inform the development of their works of art by exploring personal stories, themes and hopes for the future, all while learning the creative art process and aspects of visual art techniques they can apply to their artistic endeavors. Artists will have the opportunity to share their completed works of art at a culminating event. MoonTree is offering space and scholarships. The Marshall County Council on Aging is working with the artists to provide transportation to those with a need. The public can register for the programs or obtain additional information by visiting www.moonstretudios.org or calling 574-935-1712.

**St. Anthony de Padua students learn about sacred architecture**

BY ERIN LYNCH

When Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Anthony de Padua school in South Bend for his pastoral visit, he was amazed to hear about the third-grade class building replicas of church buildings from across the world for a class project. He said he had never heard of a project like it in all his years as a bishop. The third-grade students were thrilled to be able to tell him about the churches they were building, letting him know whether the churches were classified as Gothic or Romanesque. Abby Stopczynski, the third-grade teacher, came up with the project idea last year, and this is her second year presenting the class project. When asked what inspired it, she said, “We talk so much about how the Catholic faith is the good, the true and the beautiful. As the Catholic Church in general, we’ve always been so much about how the Catholic faith is true and why it’s good. However, we don’t talk much about the beauty, time, talent and effort that went into it. Where do people learn about their faith by seeing, touching and hearing the divine? So I thought this to Jesus being born poor and a carpenter but is really more like the main church and worth so much more. Connections and thinking like this are why I love to do this project. I get to learn so much from my students. It’s truly been such a fruitful project.” When asked about the impact of the project, Stopczynski said, “One student who chose Notre Dame Cathedral in Montreal commented that the main church is rich and expensive-looking, while its chapel is made all of wood. He likened this to Jesus being born poor and a carpenter. But is really more like the main church and worth so much more. Connections and thinking like this are why I love to do this project. I get to learn so much from my students. It’s truly been such a fruitful project.” When Duncan Stroik, a professor of architecture at the University of Notre Dame and an expert in sacred architecture, heard about the project, he remarked, “Where do people learn about their faith by seeing, touching and hearing the divine? In the house of God. So wonderful for young people to explore what it means to have a sacred place through making models of churches, which are all of our spiritual homes.”
Bishop upholds importance of Eucharist to young adults

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

“May this great mystery of love be the center of our lives, and may we bear witness to it as true disciples of our eucharistic Lord!”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

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Renewing wedding vows as a family ‘only strengthens the bond,’ says son

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) – David and Gwen Bormann met in a creamery in 1971. Like aged cheese, the flavor of their love has gotten better over time.

To mark their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12, the couple and all 12 of their children, who are also married, renewed their vows simultaneously at St. Columbkillle Church in Dubuque during a Mass.

“None of this could have been possible without God in our lives,” reflected Gwen, now 69. “I can’t tell you how many times I’ve prayed to the Virgin Mary to intercede and ask Jesus to help us with our family and honestly, it works. And it will for anybody.”

At age 19, Gwen was a self-described “hippy” from Texas, who had lived in multiple states growing up due to her father’s job. She came rolling into the small town of Preston, Iowa, on a motorcycle with her friend.

The outspoken teenager was living in Dixon, Illinois, at the time, and traveled the distance of more than 60 miles because her associate was dating someone in Preston and wanted company. That’s where she first encountered David, 23, a quiet young man who had grown up on a nearby farm.

“It was early in the morning,” recalled Gwen. “I had to use the restroom. The only place open was the creamery where my husband worked. I asked him if I could come in and use the bathroom. When I came out, he asked me out.”

David remembers being drawn immediately to his future bride, who he thought was a bit of a ‘rebel’.

“Girls didn’t ride motorcycles back then,” he reflected. “She said, ‘Would you stand guard outside the bathroom?’ She was the most honest, sincere person I ever met. As a matter of fact, she was the most honest, sincere person I ever met. As a matter of fact, she was the most honest, sincere person I ever met. As a matter of fact, she was the most honest, sincere person I ever met. As a matter of fact, she was the most honest, sincere person I ever met.”

Gwen was attracted to David’s solid nature and his deep Catholic faith. Raised Baptist, she decided to join the Catholic Church to give “more stability” to her future family. Over time, however, she came to appreciate the teachings of the Church on her own terms and became an active member.

“I believed in God (when we got married), but I didn’t believe in everything that I heard,” she said. “After we started having children, that’s when you realize the love of God. That’s when you can touch it and hold it and just know it with the kids. They really are miracles.”

After marrying at the church in Dixon, the couple moved to Preston. Their 12 children – five girls and seven boys – were baptized at St. Joseph’s Church in Preston. Work at the creamery was a big part of the Bormanns’ life together.

“She worked the night shift,” said David, who became a plant manager. “I worked the day shift. I made cheese for 40 years.”

The family later moved to Fredericksburg, Iowa, more than 100 miles away, when the cheese-making company’s owners moved the production facility.

The Bormanns worked hard but didn’t worry about the finances of having many children.

“I wanted 10 kids and (David) wanted two kids, so we compromised and had 12,” joked Gwen. “We accepted that they were gifts from God and they really are. On Sunday, we went to church and on Wednesday, we went to religion class because that was the glue that held us together.”

She added, “It does take money to raise a family and we had our church community and we had our community in Preston and Fredericksburg.”

The Bormann children have a variety of careers. Some went into education, others into health care or business. They range in age from 32 to 49. Combined, the family was marking 216 years of marriage.

“Our parents always modeled for us what it means to pray, love and laugh your way through life,” said son Phillip Bormann, chief administrator of Holy Family Catholic Schools in Dubuque.

“We have been blessed to witness what a relationship founded in Christ looks and feels like and never questioned the love shared between them or that was shared with others,” he said.

Gwen and David moved to Dubuque in retirement to be closer to some of their children. They also enjoy spending time with their 28 grandchildren.

“Renewing our vows as a family only strengthens the bond between us and most importantly, it demonstrates for our children what we hope for their future,” said Phillip Bormann. “It is our turn to show them what love is all about, just as our parents did for us.”

CNS photo/courtesy Bormann family via Archdiocese of Dubuque

David and Gwen Bormann are seen in this undated photo. They renewed their vows after 50 years of marriage on Feb. 12, 2022, in Dubuque, Iowa, with all 12 of their children and their spouses renewing their vows simultaneously.

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Angellic Warfare Confraternity prays for purity

BY DEB WAGNER

As the world becomes more sexualized, easy access to the internet and various social media platforms through cell phones and computers make it easy for youths and adults to become plagued by sexual temptation and pornography, which attacks the virtue of purity and the beauty and dignity of each person. Software programs such as Covenant Eyes are used by many people to shield their loved ones from sensitive and corruptive information. However, programmers simply find ways to get around the software to tempt those who struggle with this addiction once again. But those who fall prey to temptations of the flesh are not alone in their battles.

The Angelic Warfare Confraternity is an official apostolate of the Dominican Order and a fellowship of men and women of all ages who are bound to one another in mission and action. Members of the confraternity are dedicated to pursuing chastity and purity together with the youth ministry. She said that “once people are exposed to pornography, they could struggle with temptations.” This is especially true of young adults, whose brains are still developing.

Pornography is so prevalent that once a college student came to him from heaven and bound a cord around his waist, saying, “On God’s behalf, we gird you with the cord of chastity, a girdle which no attack will ever destroy.” Many witnesses told of his evidently high degree of purity and chastity. The angels’ gift preserved St. Thomas from the aid of a prostitute, St. Thomas Aquinas fell into a mystical sleep and had a vision. Two angels came to him from heaven and bound a cord around his waist, according to the records of his canonization, after his brothers’ failure attempt to lure him from his chosen vocation with the aid of a prostitute. St. Thomas Aquinas fell into a mystical sleep and had a vision. Two angels came to him from heaven and bound a cord around his waist, saying, “On God’s behalf, we gird you with the cord of chastity, a girdle which no attack will ever destroy.”

According to the records of his canonization, after his brothers’ failure attempt to lure him from his chosen vocation with the aid of a prostitute, St. Thomas Aquinas fell into a mystical sleep and had a vision. Two angels came to him from heaven and bound a cord around his waist, saying, “On God’s behalf, we gird you with the cord of chastity, a girdle which no attack will ever destroy.” Many witnesses told of his evidently high degree of purity and chastity. The angels’ gift preserved St. Thomas from sexual temptation and bestowed upon him an enduring purity that elevated all his thoughts and actions.

Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar of the parish, about starting an Angellic Warfare Confraternity at the parish. To become a member, a person must be inducted into the Confraternity by a Dominican priest or a priest who has received the faculties of the Dominican order. Father Whelan recognized the great value of the Confraternity and received the faculties needed to induct individuals into the Confraternity. The prayers that a member commits to pray daily include two short prayers and 15 Hail Marys. Each Hail Mary has a particular petition or intention that coincides with the values of the Confraternity.

The 15 intentions that the Angellic Warfare Confraternity pray for themselves and other members are as follows: for the current social and cultural climate, relationships, modesty in all things, the five senses, sensuality, the imagination, the memory, the power of estimation, affection, the intellect, the will, the conscience, the heart, for self-surrender and for love.

This set of prayers takes only a few minutes and may be included in a daily rosary. Those who struggle against impurity, as well as those who want to assist those who do, have declared that the prayers give great protection and fortitude in living out the virtue of purity. All who belong to the Confraternity pray for all other members. What a blessing and gift it is to have more than a half a million people praying for each other every day.

Members of the Confraternity also agree to wear a sign of their belonging, such as a thin cord with 15 knots like a rosary, or a medal with St. Thomas Aquinas on one side and Our Lady on the other.

Various saints and blesseds, such as St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Blessed Columba Kieti, and Blessed Stephana Quinzan have belonged to the Confraternity. Anyone can join the Confraternity and these saints in praying for purity.

It is a simple way to do so much good; to become inducted, receive prayers, wear a cord or medal to remind one to pray and to change the values of today’s society. Parents and their families as well as individuals are invited to join in prayer through the Angellic Warfare Confraternity. Father Whelan will be setting future dates for induction into the Confraternity. For questions about the induction ceremony, contact Jackie Oberhausen at jackieo@olghfw.com.

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Having faith to meet challenges of growing older

BY VINCE LABARBERA

As people grow older, many are faced with numerous physical, psychological and social role changes that challenge a sense of self and the capacity to live happily. Depression and loneliness are considered to be the major problems leading to impaired quality of life among the elderly.

In addition, despite advances in health care, many elderly people have chronic, incurable progressive diseases and need assistance with the activities of daily living. The greatest challenge facing many people as they age is the prevention of physical disability and the extension of “active life expectancy.”

Common conditions in older age include hearing loss, catastrophic and refractive errors, back and neck pain and osteoarthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, depression and dementia. As many age, they are more likely to experience several conditions at the same time.

In addition, with the COVID-19 pandemic completely upturning many aspects of “normal” life, an increased level of anxiety is to be expected, which also can be debilitating. How do people walk the line between being cautious and being unduly worried or obsessing over worst-case scenarios all the time?

The notion of positive spirituality can decrease some of the feelings of helplessness and loss of control that people experience with illness, as well as reduce stress and bring about increased feelings of purpose in life.

Mel Vachon

Mel Vachon thinks all the football he played at St. Andrew Elementary and Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne along with high and low hurdles competition probably contributed to the replacement of his knees later in life. At age 62, in anticipation of retiring from SuperValu Inc. Food Marketing Division the next year, he had a double knee replacement. Five years later, one of those knees again had to be replaced. Now at age 79, he suffers pain and immobility in both knees. It slows him down but it doesn’t stop him from participating in daily Mass.

“I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Catholic schools and I’m grateful to the Lord that I can still do some things,” he remarked. Those “some things” include a variety of religious activities. In addition to attending the 12:05 p.m. daily Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne, he assists with leading the rosary and other prayers before Mass.

He’s a proclaimer of the Word on Thursdays and serves at Mass on Fridays. If someone fails to show for either of those ministries, Vachon fills in. In fact, he has served Mass at the Cathedral since his grade school days. He also serves as a sacristan Monday through Friday and helps set up the proclaimer’s schedule.

On the first Tuesday of the month, he assists with the Little Flower Holy Hour at 7 p.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel from September through June. And on First Fridays, Vachon can be found at St. Vincent de Paul Church where he lectures at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. He also assists Christine Bonahoom-Nix, assistant priest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s Vocation Office, with scheduling priests for the Mass celebrated for the intention of vocations to the religious life.

There is pain in standing and walking for the activities in which he’s involved despite working out three times a week for two-and-a-half hours at Planet Fitness. “I’m also thankful I can still do some things” include a variety of religious activities. In addition to

Lyle and Dorothy Freimuth

Lyle and Dorothy Freimuth will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 22. At age 88 and 85, respectively, they are beginning to experience the aches and pains of growing older. “We just can’t do what we used to,” they both indicated.

Lyle had to give up golf and Dorothy can’t work in her large garden like she used to. She has pain in both knees and even though the doctors say she’s not ready for knee-replacement surgery quite yet, she’s fallen a couple of times when a knee gave out. Lyle has had cataract surgery but still has trouble seeing at night from a deteriorating retina condition in his right eye. Both Lyle and Dorothy are diabetic.

The couple agree that, “Going to church is an important part of our lives.” They watched the Mass on television during the pandemic, but returned to attending in person at St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne, as soon as live Mass was made available again. However, the couple has had to give up ministries at St. Therese recently because, admittedly, it was just too much anymore. Both served in the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank at the parish for about 23 years. Dorothy also ran and assisted in preparing funeral luncheons for more than 20 years. Lyle served on the parish council for four years as both a member and as president, and ministered as an usher for six years.

“We sit somewhat apart from each other when at Mass because we can’t use the same kneeler,” Lyle said. “As Christians, as God’s people, we ought to be able to say: ‘Come as you are. There is room for everyone,’” Father Clementich concludes.

Meet some elderly Catholics, many with infirmities, from throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who try to participate in Mass in the Sacred Liturgy despite some limitations.

DOROTHY AND LYLE FREIMUTH

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Conversion a matter of the heart

The Sunday Gospel

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The First Book of Samuel is the source of this week-end’s initial reading in the Liturgy of the Word. Ancient in origin, scholars trace its beginnings to six centuries before Christ. This reading focuses on David, whom the Hebrews regarded as the divinely commissioned, and divinely protected, leader, without peer, of the people. Also revealed is the development of the people, and of the kingdom of Israel. It was not all a story of sweetness and life. Plentiful are accounts of struggle, intrigue, and perplexity. Though it all, basically, God guided the people. Relying upon this guidance, the people would survive and flourish, and God’s representative, namely David, would survive.

For the second reading, the Church presents St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians. This passage also is a story of development, not of a nation, such as the kingdom of Israel, but of human hearts. Tarry not with the earthly but aspire to spiritual good.

The Apostle Paul is remembered, justifiedly, as the great evangelizer of Early Christianity, who took the message of Jesus far and wide. Many heard him, and followed him, such as Titus, Timothy and Phoebe, for example, and they in turn became legends in the Church.

Conversion is a matter of the heart, and there are many remedies, among them civic and political. Conversion also must run against the current, pursuing the spiritual treasure of the Gospel rather than the presumptions of earthly life.

Reflection

In less than two weeks, the Church will observe Ash Wednesday, calling us to Lent. Lent is much more than “giving up candy.” It is about achieving an absolute transformation in life, in assessing reality, making judgments and behavior.

Such transformation was not easy or quick for the Hebrews of Samuel’s time, or for the Corinthians to whom St. Paul wrote, or the Christians who first read the Gospel of Luke.

Simply stated, honest discipleship is hard. It calls for a “revolution” of heart, mind, and action, revolving from selfishness and earthly assumptions, instead even including uniting with the Lord in every respect, in every thought, every sword, and every deed.

The Church offers Lent as a process to accomplish this transformation, this “revolution” in heart and soul.

How does idealism and perfectionism negatively affect marriage?

The Church chose the week leading up to Valentine’s Day to focus on and honor marriage. I hope to produce a series of articles on that topic. We begin with some problematic features of culture that make marriage difficult.

 Those who seek to strengthen Holy Matrimony and stem the tide of failed marriages propose many remedies, among them better catechesis, improved marriage preparation, and greater emphasis on the sacrament in sermons. All of these are fine ideas and necessary steps, but let’s also ponder a deep but uncomfortable truth: trouble with marriage today: idealism or unrealistic expectations.

Although we live in cynical times, many people hold a highly idealistic view of marriage: that it should be romantic, joyful, loving and happy all the time. It is an ideal rooted in the dreamy wishes of romantic longing, but an ideal nonetheless. Amor omnia vincit! (Love conquers all!) Surely, we will live happily ever after the way every story says!

Here’s the problem: Many want their marriage to be ideal, and if there is any ordeal, they want a new deal. Yes, many are wandering about thinking, “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.” to borrow from a U2 song.

POPE, page 13

Strange Rites’ and the promise of natural religion

Along with many other cultural commentaries, I have been writing for the past many years the phenomenon of religious disaffiliation, the sobering fact that armies of people, especially the young, are leaving institutional religion behind. It is simply no good denying the statistics, which have been borne out by study after study, and the truth of massive disaffiliation is evident to any priest, minister or rabbi who looks out, week after week, to see ever dwindling congregations. However, I wonder whether the insistence upon the existence of so many “nones,” the stranger, more variegated, and oddly religious they seem?

My thoughts on this matter have been prompted by a remarkable book I just read called “Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World,” written by Tara Isabella Burton. She is a millennial and in possession of a doctorate in theology and having made her own journey through this world on her way to becoming a Christian, Burton is particularly qualified to explore the rather dense jungle of religions and spiritualities proliferating especially among those under 40. She notes that actually very few of the religiously disaffiliated would identify as atheists or strict materialists. In fact, a large number of them would fit neatly into the category of “spiritual but not religious.” Most SBNRs, though they disdain traditional churches, remain hungry for four elements that religion has classically offered: meaning, purpose, community and ritual. And they have found these values in some odd places.

For instance, there is, Burton shows, a community that has grown up around their common love for the Harry Potter stories, which they treat as practical sacred texts and/or gender equity. Among some of these will be readers of the Harry Potter stories, which they treat as practically sacred texts and/or gender equity. Among some

WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

radical feminists, witchcraft has taken on a tremendous spiritual significance: “Combining progressive feminist politics with a fervent opposition to Institutional Christianity . . . modern witchcraft embraces its power to transgress.”

In the course of her well-written and fascinating study, Burton gives many more examples of the sometimes-wacky contemporary quasi-religions that have supplanted the traditional institutional faiths. Though it might surprise my readers a bit, this Catholic bishop would like to say something positive about all of this. The secularization hypothesis, first proposed by atheists and skeptics in the 19th century and reiteraded ad nauseam by elite commentators today, holds that, as secularist science, technology and education advance, there will be a corresponding disaffiliation from religion will inevitably decline. Not only has this hypothesis been proven wrong in many parts of America, Africa, and Latin America, where various forms of traditional religion are booming.

BARRON, page 13

February 20, 2022

COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

There is no such thing as an ideal marriage, only real marriage. Two sinners have been married. A man and a woman with fallen natures, living in a fallen world that is governed by a fallen angel, have entered into the sacrament of holy matrimony. Like the graces of any sacrament, those of holy matrimony are necessary not because things are wonderful, but because they are oftentimes difficult. Marriage is meant to sanctify. Like baptism, it offers graces that unfold in time. It is an ideal rooted in the degree that, and at the speed with which, the couple cooperates with God’s work.

It takes a lifetime of joy and challenge, tenderness and tension, difficulty and growth, in order for a husband and wife to summon each other to the holiness that God gives. Some of God’s gifts come in strange packages. Struggles and irritations are often opportunities to grow in holiness.

READINGS

POPE, from page 12

and to learn what forgive-
ness, patience and suffering are all about. These are precious
things to learn and to grow in.

Frankly, if we don’t learn to for-
give we are going to go to hell
(see Mt 6:14-15). Even the best
marriages have tension; without
tension there is no growth.

This may not describe the
ideal, happily-ever-after mar-
rriage, but it describes the real
one: full of joy, love, hope and
tenderness, but also sorrow,
anger, stress and disappoint-
ment.

The real problem does not
necessarily come from our ideals
about marriage, which are good
and pleasing. Even some devout
Christians have ideals that we
conceive of these ideals
as transcendent. We can blithely
claim it and engage it with the word
of God. In the face of obstacles
it has also been proven wrong
and realistic expectations are premedi-
ately destructive. Our ideals are
not the problem per se; we
must become more sober about
things to learn and to grow in.

BARRON, from page 12

it has also been proven wrong
in the West, where religion,
although the thousand predictions
of its disappearance, continues
to reassure itself. What we see
in Harry Potter religion, New
Age spirituality, Wicca and
witchcraft, etc., are attempts to
find community and purpose
precisely in a ritualized rela-
tionship to some power appreciated
as transcendent. We can mostly condemn all of this, or we
can see it as expressive of what
the Catholic tradition calls “natural
religion,” which is the instinct,
deeply rooted in each of us, to
search for meaning in the ultimate
sense. Despite the claims of the
ideological secularists, it is just not that easy to stamp out
religion. In the face of obstacles
both exterior and interior, it
finds a way.

Now, this does not mean for
a moment that Christians should be
satisfied with the “blooming,
buzzing confusion” of natural
religion, especially the kinds on
offer today, but we should, as St.
Paul, St. Irenaeus, St. Augustine,
St. Thomas Aquinas, G.K.
Cherston and Pope Benedict
XVI did in their own day, meet
it and engage it with the word
of God. In the face of obstacles
it is that the seekers are always
in control of the conversation:
they set out to find ultimate
meaning – on their own terms.
Burton in fact argues that this
tendency is especially prevalent
today, when seekers claim the
right to rewrite sacred texts and
reconfigure sacred rituals to suit
their personal preferences. But

As a revealed religion, like Catholic
Christianity, holds that God
has answered it – on His terms.
Again, it would be easy
to write off the frankly weird forms of religiosity that
Burton describes, but this would
be seeing the glass as half-emp
thy. Rather, we Catholics should
reject that the religiosity of the
people remains vibrantly alive in
the SBNRs. And then we should
eagerly engage that instinct with
the liberating challenge of the
Gospel.

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

SCROLL SEARCH®

Gospel for February 20, 2022

Following is a word search based on the Gospel
reading for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Cycle C: “Turn the other cheek.” The words can be
found in all directions in the puzzle.

ENEMIES
PRAY FOR
OFFER
LOVE YOU
MERCIFUL
FORGIVE

CURSE
STRIKES
TAKE
CREDIT
GIVING
SELFISH
SHAKEN

REWARDS

S
SB
BLES
S
TE
JO
PRA
Y
FOR
RL
I
LO
VE
YOUN
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IF
Y
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K
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E
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Y
L
C
C
R
E
D
I
T
M

February 20 and 27, 2022

February 20, 22

Lump of dirt
Genetic acid (abbr.)
Type of partnership
Give impression of

STEM
1 Stein
2 Environmental agency
3 Neither’s partner
4 As they did with the
raised Lazarus
5 Turf
6 City in Nebraska
7 Thanksgiving veggie
8 Spot
9 Jesus is “... of all
things”
10 Devotion
12 Boat worker
19 Craft paper for
pams
20 “... Twelve”
21 Compass point
22 Type of worm
24 “...roots stretch
to this”
25 Eve’s beginning
26 Church part (dinned)
29 Visionary
32 “I am with you ___”
34 TV annoyances
36 Insert
37 Unemotional people
40 Religious garb
42 Fishermen do to nets
43 He shall rule with a
rod of
44 “Stand in a...”
46 “Even sinners...”
48 Night bird
50 Spanish sports cheer
51 Opposite of
54 “...Black and White”
56 Genetic acid (abbr.)
57 Type of partnership
58 Give impression of

CROSSWORD

The

ACROSS

1. Fiestaurant listing
2. Chinese sauce
3. Extremely high
frequency (abbr.)
11. This rock*
12. Bodily of an organism
13. “... of Galilee”
14. Attire
15. The first man
16. The fiery
17. St. Patrick was
18. And Sidon
20. Of the backbone
21. Wednesday
22. Corn (2 wds.)
27. Combos of dried

leaves
30. Escape key
31. Religious man
32. Pod vegetable
35. Native of Thailand
37. “Those who trust in
God”
39. Dir’s partner
41. Beside where a tree
is planted
42. “Neck and ...”
43. “Remember the...”
47. Time period
48. Follow Commandments
49. Hawkeye State
53. All Souls month
54. Triumphs

Readings: 1Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/ 1Cor 15:45-49 /
Lk 6:27-38 & Sir 27-4:7/ 1Cor 15:54-58/ Lk 6:39-45

Answer key can be found on page 15

ANGELA OF THE CROSS

(ANGELA DE LA CRUZ)

1846-1932

FEAST MARCH 2

Maria de los Angeles Guerrero Gonzalez, called Angelita, grew
up in Seville, Spain. With little formal education, she was placed
in a cobbler’s workshop making shoes. But she was drawn to
religious life and tried the Discalced Carmelites and Sisters of
Charity before illness forced her return to home and the shoe
factory. After patiently discerning a call to be poor among the
poor, Angelita and three like-minded women moved into a
small rented house in 1875, forming the Company of the Cross.
They prayed and meditated, but were also available to serve
the poor and dying. By the time of her death, Madre Angelita’s
Company had spread from Spain to Italy and Argentina. She
was canonized in 2003.
Golden retriever, her owner share joy with students

By John Shaughnessy

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The golden retriever named Millie slowly crossed the classroom, heading straight for the high school student who sat alone, looking stressed and anxious. When she reached the youth, Millie raised her eyes toward him before sitting at the student’s feet. A moment later, the youth reached down to the golden retriever’s smooth, silky fur and began petting Millie in a rhythmic motion. With each caress, the stress and anxiety on the boy’s face melted away.

That moment of calm transformation is a scene that Katherine Eckart has witnessed repeatedly in the three years she has brought Millie — a certified therapy dog — into the schools where she teaches art classes.

For the first two years, Millie and Eckart were a team at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis. This year, they have been combining their talents at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

And Millie’s impact is the same whether she’s connecting with children in grade school, teenagers in high school or teachers in both settings.

“A therapy dog is there to comfort, to ease anxiety and stress,” Eckart told The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. “There are studies that show when humans and dogs are together, it boosts the endorphins of people. All the studies on therapy dogs and schools show it helps attendance, it gives kids a purpose to come to school, and it helps their interactions.

“If a child isn’t comfortable around humans, maybe they’re comfortable around the dog,” she added.

During her two years at St. Joan of Arc School, Millie could often be found in the library where children would lie on the floor with her and read books to her. As a school librarian, Aly Schroeder saw firsthand the impact Millie had on the children — and the adults in the school.

“You didn’t even need to be having a bad day for her to make it better,” Schroeder said. “A few minutes with her would do wonders for someone who was grumpy, having a bad day or needing respite temporarily. All the kids would even start talking about what was bothering them.

“She helped the kids who didn’t have a loving start to their day for whatever reason. It’s hard to quantify, but it’s powerful.”

Millie continues to melt hearts at Bishop Chatard. Students drop by Eckart’s art classroom at different times of their school day to see Millie and pet her.

And when eighth-grade students spend a day at Bishop Chatard to see what the school is like, their student hosts often make a visit with Millie a part of the day.

“We all love Millie,” said Kylie Nagel, a senior at Bishop Chatard. “She’s the best dog to have around. She’s so calm. When she comes up to you, it’s almost like she’s saying, ‘Pet me!’ For me, it’s, ‘Oh course, Millie!’

Still, no one appreciates Millie more than Eckart, who has been teaching for 10 years.

“I get to bring her to work every day. That’s changed my whole outlook on teaching,” she said. “It’s amazing to watch how she affects the kids. She helps kids want to be in school. If a kid needs a second away from class, she calms them. When they see her in the hall, there are immediate smiles on their faces.”

The same is true for teachers. Millie sometimes wanders away from Eckart’s art room and roams into other classrooms, drawing smiles from teachers who tell Eckart, “I needed this little moment to relax.”

Eckart first had the idea of using Millie in the classroom about four years ago when she saw how her dog, now 8, interacted with her nieces and nephews.

“When she was 4 or 5, she calmed down energy-wise,” Eckart said. “I saw her grow up with my nieces and nephews — and saw her temperament around them. I thought it would be cool to bring her to school, and the kids would love her.”

Eckart approached St. Joan’s principal, Janet Andrieo, about the possibility. Andrieo was enthused, but also concerned about the liability. Eckart enrolled Millie in a six-week training course run by a nonprofit organization called “Paws and Think.” Certified and insured, Millie started school and has been receiving high marks ever since.

As the other half of the team, Eckart doesn’t mind that Millie gets most of the attention. She’s just glad to share the experience with Millie.

“I grew up with dogs, always had goldens growing up,” said Eckart, who is 33 and the mother of an infant daughter. “She was my first dog as an adult. I got her when I was 25, before I was married. She has taken me from young adulthood to being a parent. I wanted to have babies before she moved on. That’s why we got another dog — to keep her young. I get to spend all my days with Millie.

All of her own education took place in Catholic schools — St. Pius X School in Indianapolis, Bishop Chatard High School and the former St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

Loving her art classes as a 2007 graduate of Bishop Chatard, Eckart envisioned her dream job — to return to the school to teach art and immerse herself in that Catholic community.

“I knew I loved the sense of community I had in Catholic schools growing up,” she said. “I knew I wanted to be in that same environment teaching. I think it helps me stay strong in my faith. We get to go to Mass. We get to pray before class and at the beginning of the day. … It’s all around you. It keeps my own faith in check.”

Shaughnessy is assistant editor at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
**What’s Happening?**

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

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

**FORT WAYNE** — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will be Tuesday, March 1, 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The March holy hour will be led by Father Stephen Felicichia. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611 for information.

**Online NFP support group**

Are you looking for some support and fellowship in using natural family planning? Join a monthly online support group for NFP users in the diocese. Meet over Zoom on the 4th Wednesday evening of the month from 8-9:30 p.m. February’s gathering will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 23. Email Caty at cburke@dioceセフレwsb.org for the Zoom meeting link and passcode.

**40 Days for Life spring campaign**

**FORT WAYNE** — Beginning March 2, join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 2930 Lake Ave. and help spread the word about this important community outreach. Welcome Pastor Chad Clark on Wednesday, March 2 of Bluffton Wesleyan Church, who will be offering an opening day prayer beginning at 10 a.m. at the site. Rain or shine. Contact Annemarie DeVille at 260-797-3144 or annemariedeville@gmail.com for more information.

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**

**ANGOLA** — The Knights of Columbus will have a Lenten fish fry Friday, Feb. 25 from 5-7 p.m. at the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Volunteer Fire Department. For more information, call 260-745-9941.

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**Seeking a principal at St. Adalbert School**

**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend**

St. Adalbert School was founded more than 110 years ago by Polish immigrants and today serves a predominantly lower socio-economic Latino student body.

In the Holy Cross tradition, St. Adalbert School strives to cultivate a community spirit and faith life, while nurturing individuals’ academic excellence. The principal serves three essential roles at St. Adalbert: the spiritual leader, the instructional leader and the executive manager. As the principal, the principal supports and models the Catholic identity of the school, leading prayer, developing programs instilled with Gospel values and coaching teachers and students in their own unique personal spirituality. As the instructional leader, the principal creates a collaborative environment that enables teachers to utilize research-based best practices and data to drive student learning. As the executive manager, the principal works with the pastor to manage a budget, increase enrollment to capacity and ensure the facilities and technology meet the needs of the school community.

The preferred candidate:

- Has computer skills and familiarity with the Google Suite (Google Docs, Google Sheets, etc.)
- Has strong written, verbal, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Has experience utilizing progress monitoring assessments such as NWEA MAP and/or using data to drive instruction and student learning
- Has experience working with federal funding programs such as Title I, II, III, & IV
- Has a conversational fluency in the Spanish language
- Has an ENL license or knowledge of ENL academic programing

**Requirements:**

- Holds a Bachelors or Masters college degree and holds (or is eligible for) an Indiana elementary supervision and administration license
- Has knowledge of the Catholic faith and is a practicing/participating Catholic in good standing with the Church
- Has at least 5 years of experience in Catholic schools as either a teacher or administrator

If you are interested in applying, please contact Father Ryan Pietrocarlo, Csx, 574-288-5706 or rpietrocarlo@stadalberts.org

**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON Catholic School**

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is seeking a full-time school nurse immediately!

Those interested in this position should send a resume to

Principal Lois Widner at lwidner@seascswfw.org.

**Today’s Catholic**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend seeks a full-time Publications Manager for the Today’s Catholic newspaper

This position plays a key role within the diocesan communication department. In a collaborative spirit of teamwork, this position will advance the mission of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

For more information visit

www.diocesefwsw.org/careers
MARIAN, from page 1

In Ryan Dainty’s senior class, the boys were reading The Confessions by St. Augustine. Bishop Rhoades told them that St. Augustine was searching for truth and the meaning of life and kept coming up empty.

He advised the young men: “Think of your own journey – we all go through conversions — they may not be as dramatic as Augustine’s. As young men, how are you going to live your manhood? Where are you going to find real happiness and joy and peace? Augustine shows the way.”

“Take that with you as you leave here — keep Augustine in mind — go forth with that counter-cultural perspective.”

In Mary Ann Hinora’s freshman class, the students were learning more about Jesus in the four Gospels. One student asked the bishop what the best and worst parts of his job were. He replied that teaching and celebrating the sacraments — especially the Eucharist — was the best; the challenges are governing the diocese and all the important decisions he has to make. He was also asked his confirmation name and he shared that it was John the Apostle and Evangelist.

He pointed out that some stories are only found in John’s Gospel — like the Bread of Life discourse and the wedding feast at Cana. In Thomas Dlugosz and Joel Beck’s sophomore classes, the students were studying ecclesiology, including the four marks of the Church and the Acts of the Apostles, which he said some call the Gospels of the Apostles.

Bishop Rhoades told students, “The mission that began then continues today with us to spread the gospel by words and deeds. (Through the sacraments) You receive the same gifts as the Apostles did on Pentecost and the same grace to live and defend the faith.”

The bishop shared lunch with student leaders and in the afternoon met with faculty members.

Academic achievements

Marian High School has 685 students enrolled and its motto is “Learn, Serve, Lead.” The school offers 35 dual credit classes, and 89% of last year’s graduating class received some college credit.

Principal Mark Kirzeder explained that Marian has partnered with several local colleges including Holy Cross, Indiana University South Bend and Ivy Tech Community College to certify teachers and curriculum so they are at the “same standard as those college professors” to enable students to get college credits.

Marian High School also has a program for students with special educational needs, known as the Bernadette Scholars, now in its third year with seven students enrolled.

The program is led by a team headed by Annie Garser and is an extension of the learning strategies center that creates individualized educational plans for each student. The Bernadette Scholars are mainstreamed for at least one class a day. They also participate in school events and activities, liturgical services, sports and clubs to gain social and emotional benefits of being an active part of the Marian family. After four years in the program, they will receive a certificate of completion and be included in commencement.

During the bishop’s visit, Kirzeder announced this year’s top students. There were co-salutatorians and co-valedictorians, as the four students had identical grade point averages. The co-salutatorians are Victoria Tellez, daughter of Victor and Carolyn Tellez of St. Jude Parish, and Elizabeth Rhee, daughter of Dr. Thomas Rhee and Jennifer Tam. The co-valedictorians are Rose Kavanagh, daughter of Dr. Sandra Cho Kavanagh and Phil Kavanagh and Grace Weaver, daughter of Dr. Leroy Weaver and Lorrie Weaver, all members of St. Pius X.

“We’re always looking at all areas of our curriculum to ensure we’re offering the best opportunities to prepare students for college and career,” Kirzeder said.

He recently received the results from the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards and Marian students received 239 awards, up from 114 last year. He commented, “To reach 100 awards was amazing. To get over 200 is astounding.”

Marian also has a strong athletic department with several sectional and regional wins in different sports this year. The girls soccer team was state runner up, football was regional champs and one female golfer and one cross country athlete went to state. “Those are pretty impressive accomplishments across a range of sports,” Kirzeder said.

Service

Marian continues to encourage community service with its Knight Service Day in October. The Knight Service Day began in 2014 as part of Marian’s 50th anniversary. Students are asked to reflect on their service and college credits into lessons. Kirzeder explained that they’ve had to be flexible with the service aspect, allowing students to perform service within their families.

He pointed out that the goal is to push students “outside their family, school and church community into a larger community so they can find an area of interest, develop a larger project and make connections. Our goal is to meet the requirements without sacrificing our Catholic identity and high academic rigor. That’s what differentiates us from public schools.”

Living the mission

“Marian has been able to hire staff whose Catholic identity is the witness they convey to students,” Kirzeder remarked. “The number one way we evangelize to our students is the way we interact with them, through the examples we show in the classroom, the athletic fields or courts or the lunchroom. We show the love of Christ through our interactions.”

Students pray together three times a day: a reading in the morning, the Angelus and meal blessing at lunchtime and at the end of the day, they say a prayer tied to the theme of the month.

The new grotto was dedicated this fall and a few events have been hosted there, including a football Mass on one Friday. “I’m looking forward to spring and better weather where the kids can be outside and really use the space. I’m excited to see how the space will evolve and become part of our culture,” Kirzeder said.

Another example of living the mission for Marian is that five graduates are in formation to become either a priest or religious and there is a special wall for students to pray for them.