



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

**Preparing for Lent**  
*Repentance, sacrifice  
and hope*  
Page 2, 8, 16

**King of instruments**  
*Organist celebrates  
60 years at keyboards*  
Page 4

**Holy fraternity**  
*Armor of God strengthens  
men for spiritual battle*  
Page 11

**Building the Church**  
*Diocese missionary helps  
build ice chapel at college*  
Page 7

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 8

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception welcomes Saint Mary's College choir



Photos by Joshua Schipper

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades invited the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir from South Bend to provide music for Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Feb. 20.**



## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)  
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend  
P.O. Box 11169  
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

## Editorial Department

PUBLICATION MANAGER:

ASSISTANT PUBLICATION MANAGER:

Jennifer Barton

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

## Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

260-456-2824

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

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

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

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

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

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or email:[editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org)

Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB](http://www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB)

Follow us on Twitter

@diocesefwsb

Follow us on Instagram

@diocesefwsb



## Fostering a love for Lent in youth

BY LISA EMRICK

A very special time in the Church calendar is approaching, as the beginning of Lent draws near, with Ash Wednesday on March 2. It is a time to prepare the heart for Easter as individuals and as a community. The colors that drape the altar will soon change to purple, fish fry signs will grace front yards, and rice boxes will be handed out; but how will the young faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend prepare their minds, bodies and spirits for this most important celebration?

The second-grade class at Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne has been learning about this liturgical season since the beginning of the year, according to Michelle Meyer, the Catholic identity teacher. Alongside the second-grade teacher, Katlyn Brown, Meyer likens the Lenten preparations to preparing for a party. They compare giving birthday gifts with giving the heart as a gift to the Lord, who is the guest of honor.

One way that Meyer has tried to help her students experience the prayerful time of Lent is by giving them small stones or rocks that represent something in their lives that prevent them from giving their whole hearts to God. For some students, the stone may represent a specific sin or feeling. She instructs them to keep the rock close while praying; asking Jesus to remove whatever their "stone" or obstacle may be that is preventing Jesus' love from entering their hearts.

In class, they discuss the tomb that held Jesus and how only Jesus had the strength to roll away the stone. At the end of Lent, the students turn in their stone in exchange for flowers to offer thanks to God for His gift of our salvation.

For parents wondering how they can help their student bring



Lisa Emrick

**Katlyn Brown's second-grade class at Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne has been learning about Lenten sacrifices in preparation for the solemn season, which begins on March 2. They are eager to engage with their faith this season, as they have already received their first reconciliation.**

Christ's passion to life, Brown and Meyer suggest that since children are always watching to see how their parents act, Lenten sacrifice should be made a family event. Meyer made the following suggestions for families looking to grow closer to God this Lenten season: "Read from the Bible to your children and then

talk to them about what you read – you are beginning to help them pray with Scriptures. Give up family game night and make it family rosary night – you are helping them prioritize prayer – or attend Stations of the Cross at your parish on Fridays with your children – you are sharing

in Christ's own suffering alongside them. Go and celebrate the sacrament of penance at least twice during the season of Lent. Show your children the joy that we experience when we give the Lord our sins and are absolved and given to begin anew."

The Light is On for You will take place March 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with confession at

every parish here in the diocese. It is a great opportunity to receive the sacrament of penance as a family. Beginning in March during Lent, many parishes will begin to host fish fries on Fridays, making it easier for families to partake in the tradition of meatless Fridays. Parish bulletins and websites list Stations of the Cross dates and times. Meyer suggests making it a family evening after a fish fry.

The Catholic Company website highly recommends two books for parents who would like to increase their Lenten experience: "Stations of the Cross for Kids" by Regina Doman and "Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter" by Laura Alary.

Many students have already considered how they will prepare themselves and their families during this Lenten season. Some of the second-grade students at Queen of Angels have said they would like to give up candy or donate toys.

Sacrifice is not the only way to prepare during Lent. Queen of Angels siblings Makayla and Ares Arnold talked about how they enjoy going to the Stations of the Cross as a family to remind them of Christ's passion. Makayla suggested that she would like to add more time to her prayer life this coming season as well. Denny, a second

grader at the school, said he wanted to add more prayer as well, being intentional of the poor.

Roman Kimes, a first-grader at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, plans to donate toys and money to those in need and is looking forward to his family tradition of spending time at the Oratory of St. Mary Magdelene, the adoration chapel on school campus, with his rosary.

Mikey Paul, a second-grader at Our Lady School in Fort Wayne is thankful that he made his first reconciliation and gets to go to daily Mass at school. Mikey says he would like to try to fast every day. Fasting has many biblical ways of drawing one closer to God, and during Lent, it is a wonderful time to use this art for preparing oneself to celebrate the Savior. Parents can ask themselves: in what ways will the family prepare for Lent with the children?

Approaching Ash Wednesday, all of the faithful are reminded of their own mortality, but should not forget God's redeeming grace through Jesus' death and resurrection. This Lenten season, all can continue to help the Catholic youth grow in their faith and in turn grow from their examples as well.

## Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Feb. 27, 2 p.m., St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

March 6, 2 p.m., Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

# Franchisee gives helping hand to diocesan schools

BY DENNIS WIEGMANN

Forty years ago, Dan Fitzpatrick, chairman & CEO of Quality Dining Inc., had a vision to provide Catholic school children with opportunities for greater success. In 1982, Fitzpatrick founded the You Can Lend a Hand (YCLAH) program, which allowed students to sell coupon books to donors and bring profitable fundraising gains to Catholic schools. Although it started small, this initiative has come to have a profound impact on many students across the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese.

The program has always been about students making an effort to sell coupon books that have many different types of coupons in them. From sandwiches at Burger King to incentives for South Bend Cubs games, the purchasing of the books provided many different coupons for partners of Quality Dining. The coupon book was last sold in 2020, due to the immediate changes that were needed because of the pandemic. In 2021, YCLAH was forced to change the program to just selling one coupon, valid only at the Quality Dining restaurants. YCLAH also provided an online presence, where the coupons could be purchased or a flat donation could be made, and the purchaser would designate their school of choice. This eliminated the door-to-door approach of the past and patrons were able to designate which school they would like their donation to go. That year, the program raised \$61,538 and the money was given back to the local Catholic schools.

Kelli Stopczynski, director of marketing for Quality Dining, stated that there has never been any demands or requirements on how the money could be spent by the schools. "This was an opportunity to give schools that extra and let them decide how they wanted to spend the money fundraised." With that being said, many Catholic schools have chosen to utilize these funds in creative ways. Huntington Catholic, St. Michael in Plymouth, and Fort Wayne schools St. Joseph and Queen of Angels have all found different uses for these funds.

Huntington Catholic School principal Derek Boone stated that the money earned through the YCLAH program has been able to be infused into the school budget



Jennifer Barton

**The You Can Lend a Hand fundraising program, begun by Dan Fitzpatrick in 1982, gives Catholic schools additional funding to utilize in the classroom, for building maintenance and even morale-boosting activities. This money helps support Catholic education and promotes learning in the classrooms, particularly at smaller schools.**

to assist with budgetary needs. Boone stated that this money has been very beneficial, especially when trying to ensure that different items can be purchased that may not have had a good funding source.

Amy Weidner, Principal at St. Michael in Plymouth, stated that: "This money has been very beneficial in our ability to make technology purchases." When the pandemic hit, schools were forced to pivot, and technology became a major concern. Lessons went from paper-and-pencil to digital, and many schools, especially in 2021, had to plan for

some students to attend virtually. Having the opportunity to use the money raised through the coupon program, St. Michael was able to make the necessary technology purchases.

When asked about how they promote coupon sales, Weidner stated, "The coupons sell themselves; stakeholders receive information through the school newsletter and students are usually asked to sell five coupons. That amount is usually surpassed, and many times St. Michael is requesting additional coupons." Weidner went on to state that she is hoping to utilize some of this year's proceeds to assist in an all-school convocation during Catholic Schools Week next year.

Cristy Jordán, principal of St. Joseph School said, "We like to use the YCLAH funds towards anything that will help strengthen our St. Joseph community." In the past, Jordán has used the funds to purchase updated drinking

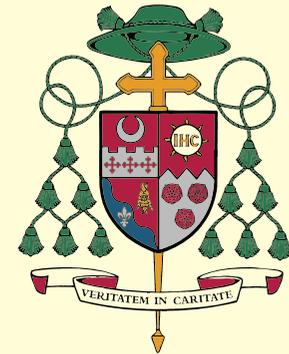
fountains or to assist in making equipment purchases for her CYO athletics teams. St. Joseph, as well as many other Catholic schools, relies heavily on fundraising to help get items that assist with the growth of their school.

Queen of Angels School has put their funds to good use by providing their "specials" teachers with supplies that they may not have had funds in the budget for, including supplies for art, music and Spanish, as well as gym equipment and some fun rewards. Christy Etter, the school administrative assistant, stated that: "The funds that we received from YCLAH in 2021 were used to celebrate a crazy and chaotic year of quarantining and virtual learning. Staff and students were treated with root beer floats from Antiquology in Huntington, as well as Kona Ice treats."

The staff at Queen of Angels has found many unique ways to encourage their students to raise money with the coupons. In 2019, the top five selling students were able to throw "pies" in the face of teachers who volunteered. The number one seller was able to assist in shaving principal Dennis Wiegmann's head. In 2020 and 2021, the pandemic halted any opportunities for this type of reward. Queen of Angels is currently working on ways to provide those incentives again, with the changing format of selling coupons.

Schools throughout the diocese have found many different ways to utilize these funds. These schools have found ways that fit their needs in their school environment.

This year, Quality Dining continued with the same program that they presented in 2021. The biggest difference is that the schools are able to sell coupons again. Students have been given individual coupons that are single-use and are purchased for a \$1 donation. This coupon is honored at Quality Dining res-



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, February 28, 12 p.m. – Luncheon meeting with Damascus Missionaries; Hoppy Gnome, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. – Priest Personnel Board meeting; Sacred Heart, Warsaw  
 Tuesday, March 1, 5:30 p.m. – Mass with Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana; St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend  
 Wednesday, March 2, 8:45 a.m. – Mass with Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration; Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Mishawaka  
 Friday, March 4, 10:30 a.m. – Presentation at Notre Dame Conference "Accountability, Healing, and Trust: Conversations in Theology, Psychology, and Law for the Life of the Church;" Notre Dame, South Bend  
 Saturday, March 5, 6:30 p.m. – Saints Alive!; Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne  
 Sunday, March 6, 10:45 a.m. – Mass; St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Fort Wayne  
 Sunday, March 6, 2 p.m. – Rite of Election; Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

taurants, including Burger King, Papa Vino's and Chili's. Each restaurant offers a different opportunity. For instance, at Burger King, the coupon can be used for a Free Croissan'wich or Original Chicken Sandwich; Chili's offers free chips and salsa; Papa Vino's offers a free bruschetta appetizer. These coupons will be available for purchase through the month of February. All coupons expire on September 30, 2022.

Online donations will also remain a part of this year's fundraising program, which allows family members, alumni and

others who might live outside the geographic area to help support the work of Catholic schools within the diocese. Without this assistance, Catholic schools often have to "make do" with outdated technology or put on hold any improvements that the schools cannot regularly afford to make. The program remains true to its name – lending a hand to educate children in a safe, well-equipped and up-to-date Catholic environments. To buy YCLAH coupons or make a donation online, go to [youcanlendahand.com](http://youcanlendahand.com).

*"We like to use the YCLAH funds towards anything that will help and strengthen our St. Joseph community."*

CRISTY JORDÁN

*Thank you, Mari ...*



For always being there ...

For being steadfast in service ...

For having all the answers ...

*May you find joy and happiness in your well deserved retirement from the Office of the Vicar General.*

*The Diocesan Curia*

# Organist celebrates 60 years of sharing faith through music

BY KEVIN KILBANE

When Robert Heidenreich took the job in 1962 as organist at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne, he felt right at home. He still feels that way today.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, Heidenreich will be at the organ keyboard for the 9:15 a.m. Mass as he marks his 60th anniversary of playing the instrument at St. Peter. He also will play at the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday, Feb. 26.

"I've been very happy all these years," the Fort Wayne native said.

Heidenreich, 86, said he came from a musical family and always loved music. He enjoyed the organ music at Mass while growing up in the former St. Hyacinth Parish in Fort Wayne.

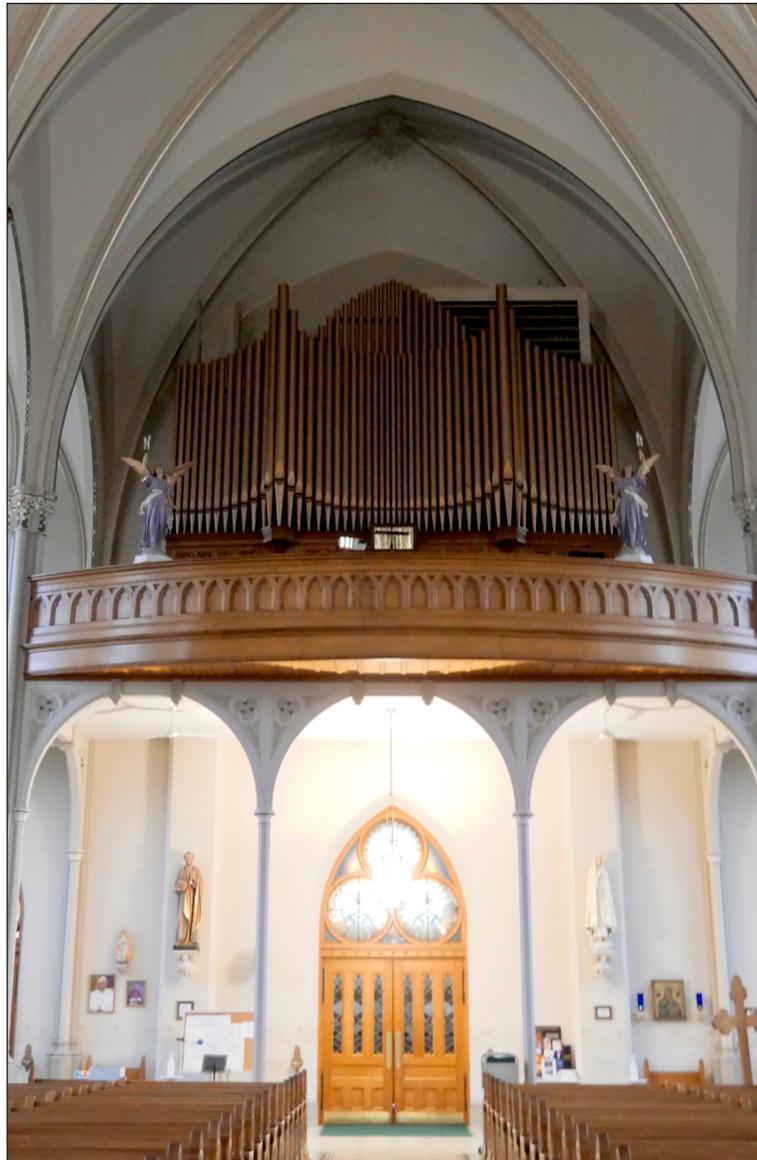
He didn't think about playing the organ until the day his fourth-grade teacher at St. Hyacinth School took her students up to the church choir loft to see the parish's small organ.

He waited until his high school years to pursue that interest, starting with piano lessons because they were less expensive than organ lessons. He didn't enjoy them and soon moved on to what he really wanted to learn.

"I took to organ right away," Heidenreich recalled.

At the time, a number of musicians taught organ in Fort Wayne. He studied with the late Louis Peil, who then was the organist at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne. He later took lessons from the late Neil Thompson, a longtime organist at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne.

In 1955, Heidenreich landed his first organ job playing at weekday Masses five days a week at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. At the time, the parish worshipped in the old church that later became the home of the parish Boy Scout troop's Haunted Castle at Halloween time, he said. He later



Kevin Kilbane

**On Sunday, Feb. 27, Robert Heidenreich marks 60 years of playing the organ at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne. Now organist emeritus, he plays at Masses one weekend a month and for funeral Masses at the church.**

added two Masses on Sundays at Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne to his schedule.

When the organist at St. Peter quit, the parish offered Heidenreich the full-time job. He started on Feb. 27, 1962. On his first day, 25 boys climbed the narrow, spiral staircase to the choir loft to sing as a choir at Mass. They were as surprised to see him as he was to see them, he said.

In the early years, Heidenreich played the organ for Masses at 6 a.m., 6:45 a.m. and 8 a.m. on weekdays and at three Masses on Sunday mornings. He also played for weddings and funerals and led the parish's choirs. He taught music to children at St. Peter's School until it closed in 1972.

Heidenreich also helped at other parishes and locations around town. From 1990 to

2004, for example, he played organ at the Latin Masses celebrated at Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. He also used to play at other parishes on a limited basis and for funerals held in the chapel at the St. Anne Communities senior living and care facility in Fort Wayne.

Though Heidenreich retired in 1992 after 30 years at St. Peter, he quickly decided he didn't want to give up playing the organ and returned to St. Peter part time, receiving the title organist emeritus.

The renovated Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ at St. Peter is one of the best organs in the city, he said.

Currently, his arrangement with St. Peter Music Director Allen Goebbert has Heidenreich playing one weekend a month for St. Peter's Masses at 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Heidenreich also plays organ during funeral Masses at the church.

He is great to work with, said Kathryn Imler, St. Peter's liturgical music coordinator and a cantor. Because Heidenreich plays by ear rather than by reading notes, he can find where a

cantor is if she or he gets off on a wrong note and can adjust the music accordingly.

"He will find where you are and fill in," said Imler, who has worked with Heidenreich for 30 years.

Heidenreich also adjusted easily to the musical preferences

of the various priests who have served at St. Peter during his time as organist, Imler said.

"That's a tribute to his talent and personality to go through so many cycles of priests," she said.

Heidenreich said his faith flows out in his music. He also attends Mass daily and serves as a sacristan to help prepare the church and altar area for Mass.

The parish has become like a family for him, Imler said.

Heidenreich knows he'll have to give up playing at St. Peter at some point. He no longer bounds up the 38 steps to the choir loft two at a time, but he still climbs them quickly. He hopes he can keep playing a while longer.

"It has been a big part of my life," he said, "and I will miss it when I stop."

*"I've been very happy  
all these years."*

ROBERT HEIDENREICH

*"My heart, O God, is steadfast.*

*I will sing and make music." Psalm 57*



Blessings to you, **Robert Heidenreich,**

On your *60th Anniversary*

**With love and gratitude for your music  
and service to the parish.**

The People of St. Peter Parish



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
**FOUNDATION**  
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

*February is a time that we celebrate St Valentine and the love that we hold for one another. To honor loved ones that have passed, consider a gift of establishing an endowment in their name...a life-long legacy.*

Contact the Foundation today for more information,  
[www.ccfnei.org](http://www.ccfnei.org) or 260-399-1436.

# Environmental advocates find unfavorable climate at Statehouse

After key legislation on climate change and solar energy failed to advance at the Indiana Statehouse, Catholics concerned about the environment are renewing their efforts to shine a light on these issues.

A bipartisan bill to create a statewide climate and environmental justice task force was among those backed by the Indiana Catholic Conference and a cross-section of environmental groups. Senate Bill 255, authored by Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette), would have established a 17-member committee to devise an action plan for Indiana to “systematically mitigate climate change.”

But that bill never received a committee hearing. Neither did proposed measures to protect Indiana’s waterways from coal ash, or to provide financial protections and incentives to individuals, companies and religious institutions seeking to transition to solar energy.

Supporters of the proposed legislation are experiencing a “sense of frustration as well as hope” amid these setbacks, according to Alexander Mingus, associate director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana.

In remarks during a Renewable Energy Day event at the Statehouse on Jan. 12, Mingus had pointed to the number of Catholic churches, schools and religious communities state-

wide that had already installed solar panels or were considering it as a means of moving toward renewable energy sources.

“Part of a growing movement in the Catholic Church recognizes that going solar can actually be part of our moral responsibility,” Mingus stated during the press conference held in conjunction with the event. “We know that if we don’t have the right political environment in Indiana for solar to be financially feasible, the parishes and schools that don’t have a lot of wiggle room in their budget won’t be able to take that next step.”

Mingus explained that the Catholic Church views these issues in light of “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” the groundbreaking 2015 encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. In this pivotal teaching document, Pope Francis calls for dialogue and swift action worldwide to protect the environment, curb irresponsible development, and respect God’s creation.

During his remarks at the Statehouse, Mingus spoke of the pope’s many references to the “throwaway culture” that permeates so much of society and the responsibility that all people have to combat it.

“When we look at issues of energy, if we’re using natural resources that are finite and not renewable, that is a participation in that throwaway culture,” Mingus said. “Part of our effort

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

is to encourage and awaken the moral imagination of Catholics in our state in seeing that care for creation and using renewable energy can be part of stepping away from a throwaway culture and into a culture of life that we try to promote.”

For Caroline Nellis of Evansville, a Catholic and long-time environmental advocate, climate change in particular is “a critical respect-for-life issue.”

“(Climate change has the) ability to totally impact the lives of every human being on this planet – not just in our time but in future generations,” said Nellis, founder of the interfaith organization Tri-State Creation Care, which operates in the greater Evansville metropolitan area.

Nellis, a member of St. Boniface Parish in Evansville, points not only to “Laudato Si’” but to more recent pleas from Pope Francis to act now on important environmental priorities.

In a May 2021 letter marking the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the pope called on all people “to become ever more responsible stewards of creation and to restore the nature that we

have been damaging and exploiting for too long.

“Otherwise, we risk destroying the very basis on which we depend,” Pope Francis continued. “We risk floods and hunger, and severe consequences for ourselves and for future generations. This is what many scientists tell us.”

“We need to take care of each other, and of the weakest among us. Continuing down this path of exploitation and destruction – of humans, and of nature – is unjust and unwise. This is what a responsible conscience would tell us.”

Nellis and others are heartened by what they deem a growing grassroots movement across the state to educate and advocate for environmental issues. For example, they point to a groundswell of support for Sen. Alting’s bill by high schoolers in his district, who gathered 20,000 signatures on a petition and secured backing from dozens of organizations.

At the same time, they are lamenting the fact that key environmental legislation has once again been blocked in the General Assembly.

“I am very sorry that these bills never even had a committee hearing,” said Joe Shierling, a member of the Creation Care Commission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. “Senate Bill 255, for example, by Sen. Alting would have established a climate and environmental justice task force. Young people in Sen. Alting’s area helped write this bill and were very supportive. This, I feel, shows the priority

that young people around the state give to climate-related concerns.”

But everyone has a role to play, added Shierling, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis for more than 30 years.

“I feel it is important for all Catholics and Indiana citizens to implement Pope Francis’ encyclical, ‘Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” he said.

Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, echoed those thoughts and said that she and Mingus would continue to make environmental issues a priority.

“By caring for creation, we are protecting the dignity of life,” Espada said. “In order for God’s people to thrive and to survive, they must have access to clean water to drink and fresh air to breathe.”

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

**TODAY'S CATHOLIC**  
YOUR NEWS. WHEREVER YOU ARE.

**GET THE FREE DIGITAL EDITION**  
[TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe](http://TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe)

*“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4”*

**DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

**March 12**  
**Bishop Dwenger High School**

[diocesefwsb.org/confirmation-retreat](http://diocesefwsb.org/confirmation-retreat)

Letter art courtesy of Carmen Stephanie Nunez, Saint Joseph High School

**Closet Concepts**  
YOUR STORAGE SPACE SPECIALISTS

*Master, Pantry, Kids Rooms, Craft Rooms, Garage Systems . . . the possibilities are endless!*

**Catholic Family Owned since 1988 • Jon & Shelley Ross – St. Joseph Roanoke Parishioners**

9402 Uptown Dr. Indianapolis 317-849-8444  
4905 Speedway Dr. Fort Wayne 260-483-6763  
[www.closetconceptsinc.com](http://www.closetconceptsinc.com)

## Celibacy not 'divine law' for priests, but promotes holiness, speakers say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The requirement that most priests in the Latin rite of the Catholic Church be celibate has theological and spiritual foundations and not only practical motivations, said speakers at an international conference on priesthood. Jesus' chastity, poverty and obedience were not "incidental or simply functional," but expressed His total union with God and dedication to the salvation of humanity, Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, a well-known canon lawyer, said on Feb. 19 at the Vatican conference. The Church has never claimed that celibacy is "intrinsic" to the priesthood, he said, and, in fact, the Eastern Catholic churches have maintained the discipline of having both celibate and married clergy, and the Latin Church has welcomed married priests coming from other denominations. The status of married Eastern Catholic priests was raised in several of the questions posed to both Father Ghirlanda and Father Emilio Justo, a professor of theology at the Pontifical University of Salamanca, who also spoke on Feb. 19. A married priesthood "is not a second-class priesthood," Father Ghirlanda said, because married priests also proclaim the Gospel, lead the Christian people and celebrate the sacraments. In his speech, Father Ghirlanda said that in the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church, celibacy is seen as a gift from God that enables priests "to adhere more easily to Christ with an undivided heart and dedicate themselves more easily to the service of God and His people."

## USCCB, OSV Institute co-sponsor religious liberty essay contest

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — March 11 is the entry deadline for a religious liberty essay contest for high school juniors and seniors co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education and Our Sunday Visitor Institute. The first-place essay will be published in Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newsweekly based in Huntington, Indiana, and the author will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Second place will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and third place will receive a \$500 scholarship. All three winning essays will be published on the USCCB website, usccb.org. The theme of the essay is "Witnesses to Freedom." Contest entrants should share the story of a witness to freedom, choosing one person — or group, such as an organization or community — important in the story of freedom. Questions the essay

## Oregon inventor, 90, turns his genius to sheltering homeless



CNS photo/Ed Langlois, Catholic Sentinel

Vern Stuewe, 90, of Corvallis, Ore., poses for a photo Jan. 21, 2022, next to his prototype of a mobile shelter for the homeless. He has spent a year designing the sturdy and inexpensive living quarters.

should address include whether there was a key moment in the person's life that bears witness to freedom — or was it the life as a whole — whether the person articulated important concepts for religious freedom, and if so, the arguments made by that person; why this person is a witness to religious freedom, and what lessons can be learned from this person's witness. Contest rules can be found at [usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay-contest-rules-2022](http://usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay-contest-rules-2022).

## Young Afghan mother, Catholic Charities volunteer killed by oncoming truck

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — A retired nurse who felt called to help Afghan refugees and the young Afghan mother who embraced her as a mentor were killed after being hit by a truck while out taking a walk on Feb. 15. Enequina "Dina" Fernandez, 75, had just finished giving an English lesson to 23-year-old Nabila Rasoul at Rasoul's new home in northeast Charlotte. They went out for a walk around 3 p.m. About the same time, a Honda Civic speeding along a busy highway about a block away from the house crashed into a Dodge Ram pickup truck and sent it off the roadway, according to Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Police. The impact caused the truck to overturn and jump the curb, careening onto the sidewalk where the two women were walking. Fernandez, a Catholic Charities volunteer, died at the scene. Rasoul, a recent evacuee from Afghanistan, was rushed to a hospital but died from her injuries. No others were seriously injured. A police detective involved with the investigation said the two women "were in the wrong place at the wrong time." The two women had become close after Rasoul, a mother of three young children, and her husband arrived in Charlotte in October. "We are heartbroken over the loss of Dina and Nabila, who were forming a special bond as Dina taught her English and shared stories about their families," said Gerard Carter, executive director and CEO of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte.

## Pope decries warmongering, prays for Eastern Catholics in danger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Humanity seems to be a "champion in making war," which should "make us all ashamed," Pope Francis said. Meeting leaders of the Eastern Catholic churches — many from countries at war, facing the

threat of war or dealing with the destruction left by war — the pope said human beings seem to be "attached to wars, and this is tragic." Pope Francis made his comments and offered his encouragement and condolences on Feb. 18 during a meeting with members of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, most of which are based in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. "Humanity still seems to be groping in the dark," the pope said. "We have witnessed the massacres of the conflicts in the Middle East, in Syria and Iraq; those in the Ethiopian region of Tigray; and threatening winds are still blowing in the steppes of Eastern Europe, lighting the fuses and blasts of weapons and leaving the hearts of the poor and the innocent freezing." At the same time, he said, "the drama of Lebanon continues, leaving many people without bread; young people and adults have lost hope and are leaving those lands."

## U.K. study shows correlation between suicides, assisted dying

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Violent suicides increase in countries where assisted suicide and euthanasia are legalized, a new

study shows. A 35-page study published in The Journal of Ethics in Mental Health on Feb. 7 said that not a single European country that has legalized doctor-assisted death has seen a subsequent reduction in its rates of violent suicides. The report, "Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide and Suicide Rates in Europe," found that the introduction of euthanasia and assisted suicide often "is followed by considerable increases in suicide (inclusive of assisted suicide) and in intentional self-initiated death." The study examined data on physician-assisted suicides and euthanasia and on violent suicides between 1990 and 2016 in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland — where "assisted dying" has been legal for a comparatively lengthy period — and compared them to trends in non-assisted suicides rates in bordering countries where assisted suicide or euthanasia was not legal. "Furthermore, the data from Europe and from the U.S. indicate that it is women who have most been placed at risk of avoidable premature death," said the peer-reviewed study carried out by David Jones, director of The Anscombe Centre for Bioethics, an Oxford-based institute serving the Catholic Church in the U.K. and the Irish Republic.

## Florida House approves measure to ban most abortions after 15 weeks

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — In a 78-39 vote, Florida's House of Representatives on Feb. 17 approved a ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. A companion measure faced a Senate vote the week of Feb. 21 and could be passed by both chambers by the end of the month. Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he supports the legislation and would sign it into law. But the law could face a state court challenge and ultimately end up before the Florida Supreme Court. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, has backed the abortion ban bill and urged Catholics in the state to contact their state representatives and state senators to approve it. Christie Arnold, associate for social concerns and respect life with Florida bishops' conference, testified before a House subcommittee on Jan. 19 in support of the bill. She said the state's bishops support its increased "protections for women and children, specifically unborn children. It is encouraging that the bill narrows the window of time in which a woman can obtain an abortion to 15 weeks' gestation. This is a good step in the right direction to limit the harm of abortion and further protect unborn children," she said. The Florida measure includes exceptions for the life of the mother and for "fatal fetal anomalies."



Catholic students at Michigan Technological University sculpt an ice chapel as part of the “all-nighter” division of the university’s ice sculpting building contest. While harvesting snow and ice begins in advance, the creation of the ice chapel occurs overnight (and in chilling temperatures.) This year, the ice chapel was based on St. Peter’s Basilica, complete with stained ice windows and a raised ambo.

## Students, missionaries build the Church at Michigan college

BY JENNIFER BARTON

In regions where massive amounts of snow are a part of life for months out of the year, people who reside in those climates simply learn to live with and make the best of it – quite literally, in some cases. At Michigan Technological University, the Catholic community uses the enormous yearly snowfall as an opportunity to evangelize others – by building an ice chapel. Matthew Henry, a FOCUS missionary from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participated in the building of the chapel this year.

Henry grew up in South Bend, attended St. Jude School and Marian High School in Mishawaka before feeling the call to missionary work during his third year as a student at Indiana University South Bend, when FOCUS missionaries came to the campus. “I was fortunate enough, through a weird set of circumstances, to be able to live with them that first year. And so, I got a lot of exposure to them,” Henry said. Witnessing the virtues and habits lived out by adults close to his own age proved to have a positive influence on his faith life.

“I think that’s kind of what’s particularly appealing to me about FOCUS,” he commented, “is someone that is a model for your faith that is someone who is not like your grandma or your priest ... someone that is just like me but is living their faith well.”

In addition to his degree from IUSB, Henry holds a master’s in theology from Ave Maria University, which he attended online while beginning his work with FOCUS. To become a FOCUS missionary requires a few steps, including in-person training, which for Henry took place at the University of Mary in Bismarck,



Photos by Brendan Flanagan

Masses were celebrated in the ice chapel beginning February 11 and throughout the weekend of February 12 and 13.

North Dakota, and fundraising one’s own salary. After all that, missionaries are sent to their assignments.

“When we apply, we’re saying yes to being open to wherever they place us, wherever that might be.” In Henry’s case, that was Michigan Technological University – a predominantly engineering college that he had never heard of in the “upper peninsula of the Upper Peninsula,” around a nine-hour drive from his hometown.

The town of Houghton, Michigan has a small population, but a large tourism industry and is known for the Winter Carnival that Michigan Tech hosts yearly in February. 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of this celebration of snow – of which there

is plenty in the Upper Peninsula. The main attractions of the Winter Carnival are the snow sculptures. Some of these are month-long builds, resulting in large and elaborate structures.

St. Albert the Great University Parish ministers to the Catholic population on campus. They participate in the Winter Carnival, but not as competitors for the sculpture contest. Father Ben Hasse, director of campus ministry, came up with the idea of a snow church some years ago, Henry said, and “it’s a really good way to bring the students together.”

Henry reported that they have had 200 inches of snow so far this year, “so we have plenty to work with,” he said with a laugh.

Students that might not normally participate in church activities often take part in building the snow chapel. “There’s not often a time in your life that you can literally build a church,” Henry commented.

And the chapel isn’t just a cool sculpture. It fills the role of a church for however long it remains intact. Henry calls having Mass in the open-air snow church “a unique experience” that draws in people who might not have been to Mass in years.

While the end result is impressive, Henry and Father Hasse would say that the process is almost more meaningful. Henry said, “A lot of the more involved students are there as well, and we’re able to welcome them into the community that

way and have them really participate in literally building up the Church.

“I would say the people that we’re able to reach through building it – and we’re able to talk to them, to get to know them better through the building process as well.”

That is the purpose of missionary work – to reach out to others and bring them closer to Jesus. FOCUS especially tries to evangelize on a microscale level. By building up a few people into strong leaders with a solid faith life, the hope is for them go out and bring others to the light of Christ. And while Henry has enjoyed getting to know the students and helping them on their faith journey, he has also been amazed by his own personal growth.

“I think to a very large extent it’s about the personal transformation of the missionaries themselves, and very much forming them for whatever’s next in their life,” he said. “To be able to rely on God through that process has really been helpful.”

Henry has quite the discernment process ahead of him, as his road could lead in a few different directions. He is discerning whether he is being called to religious life or continued education, but he definitely wants to remain involved in FOCUS for a few more years.

“We do all of these fun activities and those are great, but at the end of the day, it doesn’t really matter if we don’t grow closer to Christ,” he stressed. “But I think you can really see that in a lot of the individual students and how they’re growing in their faith lives and pursuing vocations and that.”

The ice chapel is certainly a fun way to celebrate the snow that Yoopers live with, but Henry knows that it is just a means to an end – engaging young students and bolstering their faith life.

# Stations remind faithful of Christ's perfect example, depth of his love

BY KATIE PETERSON

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) – From partaking in the sacrament of reconciliation to fasting to choosing what to give up, Lent is full of traditions that Catholics around the world take part in as they prepare to celebrate Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

But there's another sacred tradition that dates back to the early days of the Crusades; one that allows them to "walk" the Via Dolorosa with Christ: the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross are a mini-pilgrimage, taking believers through the steps taken by Jesus on Good Friday, from his condemnation to his burial.

The stations are a "way of prayerfully uniting oneself to the sacrifice of the Lord and His love for us," said Father Eric Fowlkes, pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. "It's also an invitation for us to place ourselves within that journey."

The Stations of the Cross date



CNS composite; photos by Katie Peterson, Tennessee Register

back to the Middle Ages during the wars between Christians and Muslims known to history as the Crusades. "The Crusades awakened an interest in Europe in the

places associated with Christ in the Holy Land. For the first time, Europeans were traveling there regularly and wanted to see the holy places where the biblical events took place," said Father Bede Price, pastor of Church of the Assumption in Nashville.

"One of those was, of course, the Via Dolorosa, which is the path that Christ took to Calvary, and there were certain spots along that path where things were said to have happened," he told the Tennessee Register, the newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.

"The most famous one probably is Veronica" wiping the face of Christ, he continued. "That's not in the Bible. It's a legend, a story about a woman who had compassion (for) Christ and wiped His face with a veil.

"The word 'Veronica' simply means 'a true icon' and even that is tied to the Crusades because the legend of Veronica becomes part of the story of the Shroud of Turin. ... These things are all part of the traditions that have been handed down" throughout the history of the Church.

But trips to the Holy Land weren't easy ones to take for everyone in Europe, so "people started erecting these stations in churches in Europe so they can virtually go on a pilgrimage to

the Via Dolorosa," Father Price said. "That's where the devotion began."

The devotion was further popularized by St. Francis of Assisi, Father Price said. And his version is just one of many that can be used for meditation today.

Since its origins, several versions of the Stations of the Cross have been developed, and while in communal celebrations each church designates which version is used, believers have options for which version to use when praying them alone.

One of the most famous and widely known versions is the Stations of the Cross by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Another version follows the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mother Mary. Still other versions include those of St. John Henry Newman, the Way of the Cross for Children and the Stations of the Cross with St. John Paul II.

"It's a matter of preference and there are a variety of wonderful resources with different options for the Stations of the Cross," Father Fowlkes said. "It's about discovering the one that speaks to your heart."

Each, at their core, has the potential for deep reflection and lessons. From new forms of meditation to inspiration for everyday

The 14 Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, Tenn., are seen in this composite photo.

life to connecting personally with a particular station, the priests agreed there are many lessons to be learned from the stations.

They are similar "to the rosary in so far as you are saying the prayers, but you're also supposed to be meditating on the mysteries. In the same way, we also meditate on the mysteries of the Stations of the Cross, and each one of them has a lesson for us," Father Price said.

"St. Veronica for instance would be a lesson for us to meditate on compassion, to suffer with, which is what the word compassion means," he said. "Do we suffer with Christ when we encounter our own difficult things?"

Veronica also provides insight into how we interact with others, said Father John O'Neill, who is pastor of three Tennessee churches – Holy Trinity in Hohenwald, Christ the Redeemer in Centerville and St. Cecilia in Waynesboro.

"We must be kind, we must be responsive and ready to receive and to give," Father O'Neill said. It's also a reminder that "God will always send somebody in the middle of the crowd that you never saw before," he added.

The stations also are reminders of the perfect example of Christ and the depth of his love.

"Myself, I always wonder, 'Why did He fall three times?' That's a meditation because whenever numbers come up in the Catholic Church, they mean something," Father Price said. "Three is a number which means perfection, so I think what it's trying to say is Christ is the perfect penitent, the perfect model of penance in those three falls."

"I love that Jesus falls three times," Father O'Neill added. With each, "He falls for us."

Father Fowlkes said there is always something new to be revealed in our personal faith journey each time we participate in the stations.

"At different points in our lives, if we are spiritually attentive, we are going to connect to different parts of the message of the stations," he continued, pointing to the Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.

"There will be times in life when we are grateful that someone is helping us carry our crosses, and there are other times when we have the opportunity to help people bear the burdens of their cross in life," Father Fowlkes said. "In that, it becomes more than just about something in history, but it becomes something that is alive in our faith."

Peterson is on the staff of the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.



Make a **legacy gift** to the

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

FOUNDATION

You make an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more.



You receive payments for life based on your age; a portion of those payments are even tax free.



You receive a charitable deduction; you are building the future of the sisters through a gift to the Sisters of Providence.



ONE LIFE							
AGE	60	65	70	75	80	85	90+
RATE	3.9%	4.2%	4.7%	5.4%	6.5%	7.6%	8.6%

Rates Subject to change based on the ACCGA.

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, you will receive immediate tax savings and a guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream for life. Best of all, while you're doing something good for yourself, you'll be doing something wonderful for our sisters.

Your gift today will have an impact on the Sisters of Providence for years to come! Please call us for two-life or deferred gift annuity rates.

To request a free proposal, contact Connie Gualano, manager of planned giving, at 812-535-2811  
PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org



Parishioners:  
St. Patrick Parish, Arcola  
St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City

**Free Consultation**

**Medicare Supplements Plans**

**Medicare Advantage Plans**

**Prescription Drug Plans**

**Life Insurance**

**Long Term Care Insurance**

**Dental, Vision & Hearing Plans**

**Cindy Trahin**  
cktrahin@gmail.com

**Lisa Petrovas**  
lisa.petrovas@gmail.com

**Office**  
260-459-9004

**Fax**  
260-459-3412

www.TrahinInsuranceServices.com

7127 Homestead Rd., Ste. B., Fort Wayne, IN 46814

# Jewish community stands with Catholic Charities to support Afghan immigrants

BY JENNIFER BARTON

In their long history, the Jewish people have spent many years living as outsiders in foreign lands, so they understand offering hospitality to displaced persons, even if they have not personally experienced this difficult transition. Showing love to strangers as God commanded prompted the Jewish community within Fort Wayne to help refugees fleeing from their home in Afghanistan. The Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation presented Catholic Charities with a check for \$21,868 on Feb. 15 to support their resettlement efforts.

Rabbi Meir Bergeron represented Congregation Achduth Vesholom and stated that his community stood in solidarity with the Afghan refugees as they begin their new life in Northeast Indiana. "In Jewish life, it is a holy obligation to love the stranger as ourselves, and we understand this as the central principle of the Torah, our holy scriptures," he said.

Dan Florin, the new CEO of Catholic Charities, graciously accepted the donation and expressed his gratitude toward the Jewish community. "I'm blown away by the heart of the Fort Wayne community," Florin commented. He stated that the money would go toward basic necessities for the refugees, including housing, food and English-language lessons. Catholic Charities is working hard to ensure that the refugees become self-sufficient in their new home.

Initially, only 75 people were expected to come to the Fort Wayne area, but with the overwhelming number of evacuees from Afghanistan, that number has increased to more than 100, and could potentially grow even larger. Catholic Charities has also begun a resettlement project in



Jennifer Barton

**Pictured from left, Congregation Achduth Vesholom Rabbi Meir Bergeron; Jewish Federation Executive Director Jaki Schreier; Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend CEO Dan Florin; Congregation Achduth Vesholom Social Action Committee Chair Rena Black; and Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend Director of Refugee Resettlement Nyein Chan.**

South Bend for Afghan families. At least two of the refugees who came to the Northeast Indiana region served in the Afghan army, working closely with the U.S. military. These newcomers "can't survive without a network of community," said Florin. The joining of the Jewish Federation demonstrates that desire to help others in need.

When asked if other organizations have been involved in welcoming the men, women and children from Afghanistan, Florin said that he has seen many organizations come together to aid the newly resettled refugees.

It was in December that the Jewish community decided to begin a month-long fundraiser to help with the resettlement efforts after Catholic Charities represen-

tatives spoke at the temple. The initial goal was to raise \$5,000, which the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne agreed to match. The early generosity of the congregation stunned organizers, who raised the goal to \$10,000. Their website states that: "We more

than tripled the initial congregation goal of \$5,000, collecting \$16,868 from our Temple family."

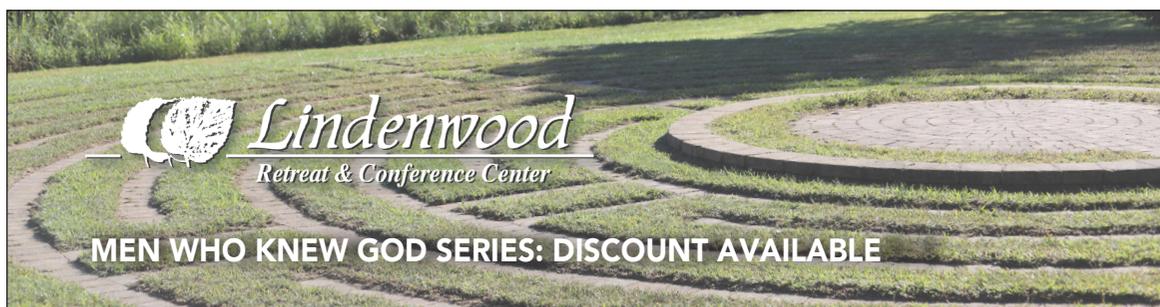
Nyein Chan is the director of Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement program. He knows how it feels to be a stranger

in a foreign land because he has lived it himself as a refugee from Myanmar (formerly Burma) decades ago. He has been involved in helping those like himself, most recently those from Afghanistan. He was one of the presenters at the Jewish community gathering, speaking about his experiences as a refugee and the need for continued assistance in this area. After the check presentation, he thanked the Jewish community for their contribution to advance this necessary work.

Representing the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne was executive director Jaki Schreier. Rena Black, chairwoman of Congregation Achduth Vesholom's social action committee and the one who led the donation campaign also attended the conference.

Though unable to attend the event, Dr. Scott Salon, vice president of the federation board executive committee, provided a statement that read: "As a people dedicated to living our Jewish values, we are committed and obligated to help the stranger in our midst and to 'Tikkun Olam,' which in Hebrew means, 'to repair the world.' The size of the Fort Wayne Jewish community is small numerically, but our compassion is not."

He added that he was very proud of the Jewish community's generosity that far surpassed their fundraising goals.



Sign-up for all three events and receive a \$50 discount. Registration cutoff to receive this offer is March 4th.

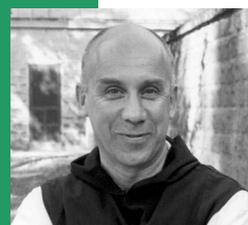
Visit [www.lindenwood.org](http://www.lindenwood.org) to register for events either as a series or individually.

9601 Union Rd., Plymouth, Indiana 46563  
(574) 935-1780 | [www.lindenwood.org](http://www.lindenwood.org)  
**NEED TUITION ASSISTANCE?**  
Apply for The Gift of the Spirit scholarship at [Lindenwood.org](http://Lindenwood.org)



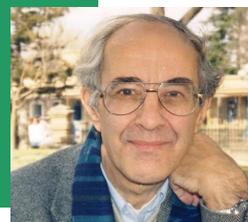
**MEN WHO KNEW GOD:**  
**PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN**

March 11, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. EST  
COST: \$55



**MEN WHO KNEW GOD:**  
**THOMAS MERTON**

April 29, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. EST  
COST: \$55



**MEN WHO KNEW GOD:**  
**HENRI NOUWEN**

May 20, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. EST  
COST: \$55

Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons | & more!

**Mary Green**  
Owner

574.232.3354  
800.994.2687  
[www.wygants.com](http://www.wygants.com)



## ‘Out of the Darkness’ retreat prepares women for Lent

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Approximately 35 women from across the diocese went on an overnight retreat sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart’s Daughters of Isabella Circle 434 at the St. Felix Center in Huntington on Feb. 5-6.

The women, representing 12 parishes, came to listen to five talks given by Elkhart’s own Mary Kloska. Kloska is a consecrated hermit and has spent almost 20 years serving in missions. The weekend included adoration, confession and Liturgy of the Hours.

Father Patrick Hake, Father Tony Steinacker and Father Dennis Di Benedetto were present for adoration and confessions. Father Hake celebrated Sunday Mass for participants.

### Out of the Darkness

The theme for the retreat was based on one of Kloska’s books titled “Out of the Darkness,” which she wrote partly while on a mission in East Siberia and partly while living in a cave as a hermit in southern Spain. The book reflects on Jesus’ suffering on the cross. She shared that living among persecuted Christians “brought me to the brink of what it means to be a Christian every day. Am I willing to stand with Jesus in the darkness?”

She said that in Hebrew, the word wisdom means ‘a listening heart.’ “The cross helps us understand wisdom, which seems foolish in human ways, but the ways of God are beyond human ways. Guided through

love, the cross is our lamp.”

She encouraged the women present to embrace darkness, stillness and silence. “There are certain gifts we can only receive from God in darkness,” she said. The world doesn’t like stillness, it likes productivity, but one meets God in stillness, and it is only when one creates silence that one can hear God.

Susan Curtis, an attendee from Blessed Sacrament in Albion, was astounded by Kloska’s words: “Are we willing to die to our own thoughts and ideas to be open to give God attention and a resting place on earth?”

Kloska asked the women to consider how they can create silence in their lives and how they could decrease so God can increase. “Don’t fear the cross — suffering is part of being re-created. When we are weak, God becomes strong,” she said. Participant Anna King of St. Matthew in South Bend said that this was the area of Kloska’s talk that spoke most deeply to her.

The second talk was about the

Eucharist and confession. She told the women, “Adoration is like a window into heaven, consecration suspended in time.”

Confession, she said, was an actual meeting with Jesus. “Miracles take place in confession — Jesus hears what you say and what you don’t say.”

Sunday’s presentations began with the idea of littleness. Kloska talked about how God chose to come to us as a little child. “God could’ve come to us on a white horse with a legion of angels — He chose to come as a humble child to a humble woman and He had to obey humans. He came defenseless and we can hardly relate because our hearts have calluses,” she said. She pointed toward the virtues of children — littleness, purity, docility, wonder and the simplicity of children’s thinking.

The fourth talk was about spousal love and the cross. “Human marriage is a sign of what divine love is, but divine love is the perfection of it,” she said.

She asked them to think of

the women in their lives and how easy it is to sacrifice for them and suggested that’s why Christ was able to sacrifice Himself. “Christ wants to fix our relationships with God and with each other,” she said. “Every time we receive Him in the Eucharist, He re-creates us.”

In her final talk, her focus was on John’s Gospel where it states, “In the place where Christ was crucified there was a garden.” She said that is a passage of great hope. “Even in the midst of Calvary there were flowers. Mary never wavered in her hope that the Father was in charge. She suffered but she didn’t waver. The greatest flower in that garden was Mary.”

She asked, “Where was the Holy Spirit in the crucifixion? Bearing fruit for the kingdom of heaven, converting those who killed Him.”

Kloska told the women, “We have to remember in our crosses that Calvary is not the end of the story. Find where it is that Jesus gives us snippets of hope and light.”

### Participant reactions

Several members of the Daughters of Isabella attended the retreat. One of those, Judy Kelly from St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, gifted the retreat to her sister and fellow parishioner, Kathy Hillman, for Christmas. Hillman said her husband passed away in June and she’s always wanted to come to the St. Felix Center. She said she liked the structure of the schedule and the ambiance of the center.

Kelly said, “We all need reflection time and it’s good to do it in a group. Mary tries to bring us to Christ on the cross and I like how she tied it all together — confession and Mass.”

Sue Granzotto is a new member of the ministry at St. Thomas the Apostle. She wanted to go on the retreat to become stronger in her faith.

Other participants came from various parishes. Anna Royal of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, said she wanted to attend to focus on her faith and to dig deeper. She specifically wanted to come to the St. Felix Center because of Blessed Father Solanus Casey; to be where he once lived.

“I enjoyed the talk on littleness,” she said. “And it’s so peaceful here — a good time to rejuvenate.”

Sara Burns of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne echoed that she wanted to have “uninterrupted time to focus on my faith and really connect with God and Jesus.” She said the main message she was taking away from the retreat was to “keep the focus on Jesus and our relationship with Him and His love will magnify through you to others.”

**The Daughters of Isabella de Paul Circle No. 434** is made up of female parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart, St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol and members of other Catholic Churches in the surrounding areas of Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan.

For information about Mary Kloska’s vocation, ministry, books, podcasts, music, art and more, visit her website at [www.marykloskafiat.com](http://www.marykloskafiat.com). Donations can be made through [www.patreon.com/marykloskafiat](http://www.patreon.com/marykloskafiat). Visit her artist shop for icons at [www.marykloskafiat.threadless.com](http://www.marykloskafiat.threadless.com).

# Armor of God retreat challenges men to discern 'why'

BY ERIC PEAT

**“F**inally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” – Ephesians 6:10-11

Nearly 60 men from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend answered this battle cry Feb. 11-13, united by the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. The Armor of God Winter 2022 Retreat, held at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, called men of God to change the world by making an impact. It also challenged its attendees to address the “why” behind this call by reflecting on the importance of their mission.

Armor of God is a men's apostolate that was formed by lay parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. Its mission is to “arm men to be the spiritual leaders that God designed them to be in their homes, workplace, and churches.” The group hosts monthly spiritual briefings at St. Vincent de Paul, but its events are open to men of any parish and at any stage in their spiritual journey. Armor of God also holds a retreat every six months, and while this was its fourth retreat since the group's inception in 2020, it took on a distinctly new shape.

“Every one of our retreats is going to be different,” said Rob Gregory, Armor of God chairman of the board. “This time, we had more dedicated time for the men to be on their own and with their battalions, as well as we force them to discern a core mission and laminate it and walk out there with contact information for a group of men that they can continue to group with thereafter. I am very proud of what we did on this retreat.”

A total of 13 different parishes were represented at the



Provided by Tommy Lapsley

**Men from around the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together to discern their calling as fathers and spiritual leaders at the Armor of God retreat at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington Feb. 11-13.**

retreat, including ones in Angola, Granger, Warsaw and even Indianapolis. Father Jay Horning, who serves as the Armor of God spiritual advisor, made it clear in his opening comments that he was touched by the commitment of the attendees.

“Thank you for wanting to grow,” he said to the men present. “I am proud of you and I love you.”

This set the tone for a series of speakers who shared powerful and personal testimonies over the course of the weekend. Each talk was focused on a different “why” that men were challenged to contemplate, such as why holy fraternity is necessary, why the Mass is essential, why they are Catholic and why the Church needs these men now. After each message, men would break off into their small groups, or battalions, to discuss the topic further before reporting their deliberations back to the main group.

Shawn Dundon, who serves as Armor of God battalion committee chair, said he was struck by the theme of fatherhood in particular.

“I think there's been a lot

of people who have presented who've talked about the importance of a fatherly role,” said Dundon. “If we don't live up to that, the effect that it can have, from a positive standpoint or a negative standpoint, depends on how we treat that. I think that's one thing I always challenge myself with.”

The retreat was also deeply rooted in the sacraments. Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne, spent his entire weekend at St. Felix, celebrating Mass with the men on Saturday afternoon. That evening, Father Whelan and Father Horning led the group in eucharistic adoration and Benediction, while also being available for reconciliation. Both priests finished the

night with a healing service. The retreat concluded with Sunday Mass, celebrated by Father Daniel Scheidt of St. Vincent de Paul.

By the end of the weekend, many of the men in attendance had experienced firsthand the impact of holy fraternity.

“I think it's everything,” said Nick Miles, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne. “Without it, I don't think I'd be able to talk out a lot of what I struggle with, and there's just something about that fraternity with each other that helps us as men grow together.”

Pat McLaughlin, a parishioner at St. Mary in Huntington, recognized both the importance of men willing to share their hearts with each other and the lack

thereof in today's society.

“We're a minority, I think, and it needs to become that we're more of a majority,” said McLaughlin. “To have other men that you can invite in, trust in, with your faith and your spirituality makes it easier, in my opinion.”

The challenge of any retreat is taking the mountaintop experience and living it out at home, in the workplace and in the community. Miles, for one, said he is ready for the challenge.

“I'm going to try to make an invigorated effort at sustaining my holiness, through fraternity. Just understanding that I need to lean on my brothers a little bit more to remain close to God.”

It's a divine pursuit that Father Horning said he can already see at work in these men.

“I think the biggest impact that I've had is the result I see afterward, which has been men who authentically are embracing not just their masculine role, but also are embracing their role as leaders of their families, leaders of the Church,” said Father Horning. “So, I left with a great confidence and a great joy that I have warriors. I have comrades. I have people with me to go into battle for the future of the Church and for souls.”

Armor of God's next spiritual briefing will be held on March 16 at St. Vincent de Paul's Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center, while the fall 2022 retreat is set for the weekend of Oct. 21 at St. Felix Catholic Center.

## HOLY WEEK GUIDED RETREAT LINDENWOOD RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

This retreat will focus on walking with Jesus through the events of his passion, death and eventual resurrection. Participants will have the opportunity to join a morning group meditation and discussion, pray the liturgies of Holy Week, as well as prayerful sharing in the evening. Spiritual direction will also be available.

April 10th 4 pm - April 15th 4 PM  
Cost: \$525

Contact Sue Wilhelm [swilhelm@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:swilhelm@poorhandmaids.org) 574-935-1760

 **Lindenwood**  
Retreat & Conference Center

9601 Union Road, Plymouth IN  
Lindenwood.com  
574.935.1780

Need Tuition assistance? Apply for The Gift of the Spirit scholarship at [Lindenwood.org](http://Lindenwood.org)



**PODLASKI LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**BUSINESS. LITIGATION. PERSONAL.**

Podlaski LLP is a full-service law firm in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne, specializing in personal law, business, and Litigation with a focus on estate planning, and real estate. Podlaski LLP is proud to serve the people of Northeastern Indiana and local and national businesses.

**Call us for a free consultation  
and mention this add for a special rate.**

**260-782-1712**

# The deeper implications of Lenten conversion

Christian baptism involves a whole new way of looking at things, a whole new way of feeling about things, a whole new way of doing things. And this precisely means unlearning other ways of thinking, feeling and doing. The Christian gospel is perceived as paradoxical – almost unrealistic at times – because it proposes a way of life which is not governed by the virtues so highly prized by our technocratic society: success, efficiency, immediate gratification and control. The Christian gospel is not about success – gaze briefly at a crucifix for verification – but rather, it is highly inefficient, frequently delays gratification and encourages us to relinquish our obsession with control to One whom we cannot see.

Unlearning ingrained habits of thinking, feeling and doing and replacing them with new ways of thinking, feeling and doing – this is what Christian spiritual writers call conversion. Conversion includes even our very imagination. If this conversion, in fact, is constitutive of (meaning there won't be a time when we won't need conversion in this life) our faith journey (to use a time-worn, if not altogether empty phrase), my purpose is to point out three pitfalls of modern Christian living, three traps into which people of good faith often stumble, three ingrained ways of thinking about things which, in my brief and limited experience, can have very debilitating effects.

The first unconverted way

of thinking is the tendency to think that we earn our salvation. I think that this finds its roots in our American consumerism and workaholicism, as though our salvation is a commodity we can, with the right effort, self-discipline and hard work, acquire and possess by right. It is as though we can somehow impress or “wow” God by our behavior. Unfortunately, this is really not a new idea. It's also a bad one: it's called Pelagianism and it was condemned at the councils of Carthage and Orange in the fifth (411) and sixth (529) centuries, respectively. Salvation is not something we can earn, achieve or acquire. Salvation is a grace, and grace means gift. Our task is simply to receive it as a gift.

I am not suggesting, however, that we simply sit back and say, “I accept Jesus as my Savior,” and think our work is done. Obviously, this gift of salvation, offered by God in Christ, requires an active response of faith, itself mysteriously graced; a response that demands our assimilation to Him who gave Himself for us.

How we live, how we behave and the choices we make are crucial indicators of our response in faith. But it is imperative to remember when thinking about our salvation that the initiative is always on God's side. That's another way of saying that God has to do most of the work: in fact, in Christ, He has already done so. Our task is to respond to and, more importantly, to rely upon His grace, His help, as we muddle toward His kingdom for



## THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

which we pray and in which, by our baptism, we have implicated.

You see, when we put the emphasis on our abilities, our strengths, our energy, we are bound to fall into one of two dead ends. If we are successful in growing spiritually and in “being good,” we tend to think of it as our personal accomplishment and end up like the Pharisees caricatured in the Gospel: self-righteous and judgmental. Alternately, if we put all the pressure on ourselves, forgetting that it is only with His help that we can grow, we are bound for failure, and failure leads to one of the most challenging aspects, in fact the real bane, of the spiritual life: discouragement. Discouragement itself creates a vicious cycle of failed attempts and further dejection which can lead ultimately to despair. We cannot, and must not try, to earn our salvation. Christ did that once and for all. We must learn humbly to rely more and more upon God's help and we grow and are transformed by grace – slowly but surely – into the image of Christ,

HEINTZ, page 13

# Jesus and a Peloton bike

“You are brave. Thank you for showing up!”  
I am brave, I thought. I did show up!  
“You are here for a reason. What's that reason?”

I am here for a reason ... oh gosh, what is my reason?

I found myself muttering these motivational phrases to myself as the instructor on the screen effortlessly pedaled her Peloton bike. Meanwhile, I was heavily panting, sweat dripping down my forehead, my legs screaming in pain.

But I was brave. And I had shown up. For a reason. So, I wasn't going to quit.

In 20 short minutes, Jess King, a popular Peloton instructor with signature catchphrases and a long braid, had convinced me that climbing onto a stationary bike and riding with all my might made me a brave woman unafraid to push myself to the limit.

And she'd encouraged me, and every other person who's ever taken this particular class, more than 60,000 at last count, to come up with three reasons why we would pedal our way to nowhere that particular day.

The three reasons came to



## WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

mind quickly: my kids, my health, my future.

I bought an exercise bike because I want to get in shape, mainly so I can run around the backyard with my kids and not get winded. And I was taking the class because long-term health goals can't just be met by eating a few more salads each week. I needed to exercise.

My third reason: my future. Honestly, that just sounded good at the time, and I needed a third reason because Jess told me I needed one. In reality, I don't really know

what it means to be riding an exercise bike for my future. It's not like the bike is ever going to move.

PREJEAN, page 13

*I had reasons for doing this –*

*for putting on absurd looking*

*shoes and sitting on a too small*

*bike seat and pedaling as hard as*

*I could to raise my heart rate and*

*burn some calories and earn*

*a spot on the leaderboard.*

# Lent is a time to examine our vision of faith



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 6:39-45

This weekend observes the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The first reading is from the ancient Book of Sirach.

The passage mentions guilt and tribulation. Bad things come upon good people, and everyone knows it, and most people, even the devout and well-intentioned, have experienced the meaning of this saying.

Sirach goes farther. People may be the victims of forces beyond their control: storms, diseases, violence and the wickedness of others. Or they may bring

distress upon themselves.

Whether the case is foolish or deliberate creation of trouble in our lives or the consequences of helplessness, humans must cope. Sirach reminds us of potters. We mold the vessels of our souls.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the next reading. The reading speaks of death, a fact inevitable for every living creature, but always avoided and feared.

Try as we may, as human minds have attempted since time began, death may be delayed, but it never ceases to be the eventual termination of every earthly life.

Instead of admitting death in despondency or fatalism, St. Paul directs our minds to the overall, basic reality. Life is changed by death, but not ended. Life endures in eternity. Persons may prepare for it, and assure that it be a blessing for themselves, if they are steadfast, fully devoted to the work of the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. As is the custom of this Gospel, the message

is straightforward and clear, in part because its vocabulary is so apparent in its lesson and to the point.

The examples employed by the evangelist leave no room for confusion or mixed message. No one wonders what blindness means. Pure, simple and always, it means the loss of vision.

No one discounts the presence of a splinter or any foreign object in an eye. In this day of very efficient ophthalmology, the intrusion of a foreign object into an eye is not dismissed as nothing of concern.

The passage's basic assertion is that, to an extent, all humans are blind, but not doomed to struggling in everlasting darkness to find a way forward.

Obviously, Luke was implying that the Lord is our guide in all of blindness, narrow vision, blurred vision and shortsightedness.

The Gospel hits another nail on the head. Before we can follow the Lord, we must admit to ourselves that we need the guidance of Jesus. This admission is

not always quick and easy.

Some may have not just splinters, but wooden beams in their eyes, distorting their vision.

## Reflection

In only a few days, Lent will begin. Ash Wednesday is just ahead of us.

In providing these readings on this last Sunday of Ordinary Time before Lent begins, the Church calls us to fundamental facts.

At some time in the future, without exception, every person will die. During life, most people will have to deal with problems, doubts, heartaches, weaknesses, rejection and everything in the long catalog of human misery.

This is simply the way it is. In these readings, the Church is not telling us that we are helpless before whatever may assail us, even death, but that we can open our eyes and see what matters.

The sight of what truly is important has strengthened and brightened human hearts forever. Conviction, and submission to the Lord, are the keys.

Give faith a try. This process begins with realizing that we are blind, that we too often wander onto detours and that we make our own beds.

We need Jesus. Period.

Lent will be the opportunity, time-tested through the many long centuries, to face these facts, to perfect our vision, to remove the wooden beams from our eyes and to look to the Lord, the light of the world.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7 Ps 92:2-3, 13-16  
1 Cor 15:54-58 Lk 6:39-45

**Monday:** 1 Pt 1:3-9 Ps 111:1-2, 5-6,  
9, 10c Mk 10:17-27

**Tuesday:** 1 Pt 1:10-16 Ps 98:1-4  
Mk 10:28-31

**Wednesday:** J1 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6b,  
12-14, 17 2 Cor 5:20—6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4, 6  
Lk 9:22-25

**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6b, 18-19  
Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9-14 Ps 86:1-6  
Lk 5:27-32

# On the lost art of “pairing ‘em up” and its effects on marriage today

One of the more common concerns that young adults express to me is the difficulty in meeting and dating. Once adulthood is reached, of course, the purpose of dating is to look for a spouse. Hence, their problem is a problem for all of us because marriage and family are central to the life of the Church as well as the foundation of our culture and nation.

When I was a young priest, more than 30 years ago, I had numerous weddings to celebrate, and most of the couples were in their early 20s. Today, I have far fewer weddings, and the average age seems to be early 30s. In 1990, there were 326,079 weddings in Catholic parishes. In the last year before the plague (i.e. 2019) there were 137,885 – a 58% drop.

While there are many practical reasons for the delay of marriage (college debt, longer time spent in college, the rise of the virtual world, etc.), we must consider that we who are older aren't doing much to help them “pair up.”

In a Hobby Lobby commercial, an older couple notices that a young man and woman live next to each other but are seemingly

lost in their own worlds. Through a series of mysterious mailings, they get them to meet. The old expression calls this “pairing them up.”

Adults used to take a more active role in getting their children to meet potential spouses. My parents' families knew each other before my parents married and had helped make the introduction. In our parish, we often sponsored dances and other youth and young adult activities. Far fewer colleges were co-ed in those days, and so the faculty was much more intentional about sponsoring activities between the women's and men's colleges. Frankly, there was an expectation that young people should get married soon after high school or college was completed. It was “time to settle down.”

Every now and then, as a priest, I try to make introductions between young adults. At other times, I try to coach them into introducing themselves. I also advise many of them to work through other friends to meet someone. I tell them that when I was young I remember asking a friend if he thought his sister might go to the junior prom with



COMMUNITY  
IN  
MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

me. He laid the groundwork, found out that she had some interest, and set up the occasion for me to ask her. I met my college sweetheart when a friend told me, “She likes you and wants you to ask her out!” I was surprised because she was so pretty; I would never have had the nerve to ask her out on my own. I gladly took the hint and asked her out that very evening.

At any rate, we older folks need to do a better job of pairing ‘em up. Elders, families, Church leaders, friends — they all have a role to play; we used to do it more frequently.

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

desperately need one another; for support, for example and for a shared sense of what is true and good. In fact, Christian hope envisions an eternal life with God that is intrinsically social – it will not be me gazing at Jesus, but all of those who love God in communion with one another in Christ. Heaven is innately social. Perhaps an apt metaphor for hell is precisely the opposite: if original sin is fundamentally self-love, in hell we get exactly what we've always wanted – ourselves, and only ourselves, for all eternity. A grim prospect.

The third pitfall is to want to be perfect right now. Rooted in our desire for immediacy (we are, after all, the culture of the internet and the smartphone), and our hatred of ambiguity, we want to be perfect right away and, even more, feel perfect right away. This is an occupational hazard especially for recent converts and persons returning from a retreat experience. They have seen the mountaintop, and they want to stay there. Unfortunately, life almost never works that way. And at the first symptoms of spiritual aridity, they begin to “feel” less religious, less “spiritual.” After an attempt to become Mother Teresa or St. John Paul II overnight, they become disillusioned and discouraged.

It is best, I will suggest, to look at our spiritual life more as a continuum than through “freeze-dried” moments of grace or sin. The spiritual life is about growth – most often very slow

growth – and so baby steps are more reliable than blind leaps. St. Thomas Aquinas observed that it is better to limp along the right road than to run headlong down the wrong road. And he was wise.

Realistic expectations about ourselves – and others – are essential as we seek to live in this world of ambiguity, complexity and imperfection. In fact, we need to redefine the spiritual life from being the search for immediate perfection to a learning to be imperfect well. That is why the image of the Church as a pilgrim is so apposite: we may not yet have arrived, but we are certainly on our way.

These are but three significant challenges which face us as we await the fullness of God's kingdom, begun in Christ, but as yet unfulfilled. As we learn to live here and now as members of His Kingdom, sharing in the truth He has revealed to us about ourselves, rather than accommodating the Gospel to our own limited and fallen imagination, we will, even if unawares, be engaging in evangelization. I am not talking about the in-your-face techniques of overly argumentative people who are more annoying than effective. By evangelization I mean the calm, steady and stable behavior of a people who know they have found the Truth – and they love Him.

Msgr. Michael Heintz is on the faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 27, 2022

Luke 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: What does your heart produce? The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PARABLE	BLIND	A PIT
DISCIPLE	TEACHER	FULLY
BROTHER'S EYE	HYPOCRITE	SEE CLEARLY
GOOD TREE	FRUIT	GOOD
FIGS	THORNS	GRAPES
BRAMBLES	HEART	PRODUCES
EVIL	THE MOUTH	SPEAKS

### AVOID PIT'S

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

© 2022 TRI-C-A Publications; tri-c-a-publications.com

### HEINTZ, from page 12

His Son.

The second pitfall is the tendency to think that religion is a private affair between “me and Jesus.” This ingrained tendency of thought undoubtedly has its remote origins in the rugged individualism that is part of American culture. While religious faith is and should be quite personal, it is never private. That is, our experience of Christian faith is mediated through a particular community of faith. This is why there is RCIA, which involves the whole parish or university community, not simply Father Smith instructing Mr. or Ms. Jackson. That is why very frequently, Catholic children's first penance is experienced as a communal celebration. There are, in a certain sense, no “private” sins.

While perhaps unknown to anyone else in the community, my sins nonetheless have an impact on the community – if I am less a person because of my sins, the whole community (or better, body) suffers because I am an integral part of that body. Understanding our Christian faith as a corporate or social, even organic, phenomenon is crucial. Our experience of Jesus is, in fact, mediated through sacraments – public and discrete rituals of the Church which bring us into contact with Jesus Christ Himself. And that meeting place with Jesus is always within community; grace requires a human or created agent.

On a very practical level, we

### PREJEAN, from page 12

But I couldn't get her motivating words out of my mind, even hours after the class was done.

I had reasons for doing this – for putting on absurd-looking shoes and sitting on a too-small bike seat and pedaling as hard as I could to raise my heart rate and burn some calories and earn a spot on the leaderboard.

We have reasons for everything, don't we?

There's a reason I drink coffee each morning: it wakes me up. There's a reason I call my mom after I drop off my kids at school: it's the easiest time of the day for us to talk. There's a reason I answer emails on Wednesday: it's the one day of the week I can concentrate on menial tasks.

We're driven by reasons – some obvious, some perhaps deeply personal, but each relevant.

And there's a reason why we hopefully long to grow in our understanding of the faith, and ownership of a life lived for Christ. We're motivated because of Him.

The same way I show up to a spin class with an instructor I will never meet in person, because I want to be healthier, I show up to Mass every Sunday because I know it will make me

holy. And, this time, I know it will be Jesus I meet someday.

I don't speculate, wish or imagine it will make me holy. I know it will make me holy.

Just like I know riding a stationary bike every day for a month will build muscle in my body. There's verifiable proof doing that will work. There are lives of the saints that show me that if I pray, if I live a sacramental life, if I serve others, if I look to live not for this world, but for Him alone, then I will become holy and know Jesus more.

And why would I do that? What's my reason? Well, for my kids. I want them to do it, too. And, for my health. Because I'm a better person overall when I know and love Jesus. And, for my future. And this time, I really do mean for my future because it's a future with Him in heaven that I am pursuing.

I don't necessarily need a Peloton instructor in spandex on a bike to motivate me to do that. I just need Jesus.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

# Holy Cross student completes mural of Our Lady

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Family inspired 20-year-old Stephanie Nuñez to begin drawing at a young age. “I really looked up to my sisters – my older sister specifically – just because I saw something she drew and I was just like, ‘How could you draw things so perfectly?’”

Although she considers herself to have not been perfect at art in her early years, the resources that local schools gave her helped Nuñez improve her craft.

The Holy Cross College sophomore recently completed a mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the South Bend-area school.

“I was never the neat student, like when somebody turns in a perfect coloring page. So it’s something I kind of wanted to get better at.”

Nuñez says the idea for the mural of Our Lady came to her during an art class in her freshman year at Holy Cross when students were asked to paint a “portrait of love.”

“I had already painted a portrait of her, but smaller, for Painting I,” she recalled. Even before that, Nuñez remembered, she had taken an interest in this particular style of painting.

“Before coming into Holy Cross College, I had told my professor that I was kind of thinking about going into muralism. Or just like, having the goal of doing a few murals at some point in my life, even though I didn’t know if that would be nec-

essarily the focus.”

Her professor offered her the opportunity to paint a mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

“That one was just to start off,” Nuñez explained. “And he also has plans for me to do a bigger one.”

While Nuñez was supposed to complete the mural last summer, she had to wait for a review board to approve the idea. After approval, the painting process took her 13 days, which was about 74 total working hours.

“So I didn’t get to it until winter break. And I just decided to do it then because I had time. And I wasn’t really planning to go anywhere, so I thought I should take advantage of that.”

Nuñez says that the decision to depict Our Lady of Guadalupe in the mural at Holy Cross College came not only from her experience in painting smaller portrayals of Our Lady, but also her familial background. She explained that her parents’ origin in Mexico influenced her, notably because her family has a “big tradition” of celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe every December.

Last semester, Nuñez was taking a class on evangelization taught by Dr. Louis Albarran, an associate theology professor at Holy Cross College. That class, she says, was largely focused around Our Lady of Guadalupe.

“In that class, we learned how she was like a union of two cultures.”

She compared this union to the mestizos in Mexico, the joining of the indigenous population



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski  
Stephanie Nuñez stands next to her recently completed mural at Holy Cross College.

and Spaniards into a mixed ethnicity.

“It’s kind of like the intertwining of faith and culture. My goal is to pursue that in my body of work that I develop here and forward for, possibly, an MFA degree.”

Before enrolling at Holy Cross, Nuñez studied at St. Joseph High School in South Bend. It was there that her talent was allowed to bloom into a potential future career. “I really didn’t consider it as a career path until my junior year of high school because I started really enjoying my art classes.”

St. Joseph High School, she said, gave her the tools that she needed to be successful in the field of visual arts. “It was kind of cool to see how I had access to a lot of resources in high school. We didn’t have to buy anything personally. The resources were all there. And there were different mediums that we could experiment with.”

These refined skills led to larger art projects for Nuñez and her classmates during high school. She and a handful of other art students were offered the opportunity to help paint murals for the theology hallway. “And so, I thought that was something really cool to do right before school was going to start in my senior year.”

In fact, a mural that Nuñez painted at St. Joseph High School is featured on the diocesan confirmation retreat website online.

It seems that Nuñez’s artistic prowess will continue to spread through the diocese as she completes projects at Holy Cross College, and her finished artwork will continue to stand as inspiration for many years to come. Nuñez is on track to graduate in 2024 with a degree in visual arts.

## 2022 REKINDLE THE FIRE

ON SALE NOW @ [rekindlethefire.net](http://rekindlethefire.net)



FR. WADE MENEZES



NATHAN CRANKFIELD



JASON SHANKS



TIM STAPLES

## FEBRUARY 26, 2022

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM  
FT. WAYNE, IN

[www.rekindlethefire.net](http://www.rekindlethefire.net)



### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. John the Baptist School, located in South Bend, is seeking a dynamic, faith-filled leader, and a Catholic active in living his/her faith to serve as its next principal. The principal would assume leadership beginning with the 2022/2023 school year.

The primary function of the school principal is to provide leadership and instructional support that provides students, teachers, staff and all the members of the school community the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus and reach their God-given academic and personal potential.

Qualified applicants should have an Indiana Administrator’s License or be eligible to obtain one.

View the job description and apply online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://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](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**Melchizedek Project**

**FORT WAYNE** — Father Michael Ammer and Father Daniel Koehl will be hosting a group to assist men in discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Awesome food will be provided. This group will host men ages 16-25 every other Thursday. The first meeting was held Feb. 24 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 4916 Trier Rd., from 6:30-8 p.m. Sign up either by calling the St. Jude or St. Charles Parish offices or by visiting the St. Jude website, [stjudefw.org](http://stjudefw.org). Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or [kchurch@stjudefw.org](mailto:kchurch@stjudefw.org) for details.

**St. John the Baptist to host fish fry**

**FORT WAYNE** — Celebrate the first Friday of Lent with Dan's Fish Fry at St. John the Baptist from 4-7:30 p.m. Carryout is available off Arlington Ave., or bring the whole family for all-you-can-eat-fish in the school gym. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 13 and younger, and children two and younger eat free. Menu includes Dan's Fish Fry, Hall's macaroni and cheese, Hall's scalloped potatoes, Hall's green beans and homemade dessert. Contact Karen Eckrich at 260-744-4393 or [parishsecretary@saintjohnfortwayne.com](mailto:parishsecretary@saintjohnfortwayne.com).

**Queen of Angels' Lenten fish fry (drive-thru only)**

**FORT WAYNE** — Queen of Angels Parish will host a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 4, from 4-7 p.m. (or until fish runs out). This will be drive-thru only located in the parking lot, 1600 W. State Blvd., off of Irene Ave. The price per box will be \$12.50. Menu will include a generous portion of fish, tartar sauce, coleslaw, applesauce and cookie. Contact Laverne Gladieux at 260-482-9411 or [parishsecretary@queenofangelsfw.org](mailto:parishsecretary@queenofangelsfw.org).

**Dine-in/carry-out fish fry in Walkerton**

**WALKERTON** — St. Patrick Church, 811 Tyler St., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 4, at 4 p.m. Fish prepared by Tyner IOOF Lodge 821. Tickets are \$12 per adult dinner, \$8 per child 6-10 years old and under 6 eat free. Kids are dine-in only. No all-fish carryouts. Dinner includes fish, two sides, drink and dessert. Dinners served until fish runs out. Contact Nancy Kochanowski at 574-586-7152 or [info@saintpatricks.church](mailto:info@saintpatricks.church).

**Ava's Grace support group for those**

**grieving the loss of a baby**  
**MISHAWAKA** — Anyone who

has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss may consider attending a daylong retreat on Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center to help face your grief in the context of fellowship and faith. Lunch will be provided. While this retreat is geared for couples, individuals are welcome as well. Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry, the retreat is free of charge. To register, contact Lisa Everett at [leverett@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:leverett@diocesefwsb.org) or 574-234-0687. For more information about ava's grace, the diocesan ministry to support families grieving the loss of a baby before or after birth, visit [diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace](http://diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace).

**Revive!**

**FORT WAYNE** — Join a city-wide night of transformation on Wednesday, March 9, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Bishop Dwenger High School, 1300 E Washington Center Rd. Featuring the Damascus Worship Collective and inspirational preaching from international revivalists, you and your family will encounter a God who is living and active. Damascus brings life-changing experiences to tens of thousands of people annually. Visit [damascus.net/reviveftwayne](http://damascus.net/reviveftwayne) or contact Emily Knuth [emily@damascus.net](mailto:emily@damascus.net) for details.

## 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 spiritual leader, the principal supports and models the Catholic identity of the school by leading prayer, developing programs instilled with Gospel values and coaching teachers and students alike in their own 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, CSC,  
**574-288-5708 or [rpietrocarlo@stadalbertschool.org](mailto:rpietrocarlo@stadalbertschool.org)**

## REST IN PEACE

**Bristol**

Brian C. Daub, 57, St. Mary of the Annunciation

**Fort Wayne**

Marcia Widdifield, 75 Our Lady of Good Hope

Leonard Polek, 88, St. Charles Borromeo

Joann M. Skowronski, 66, St. Henry

Rene F. Dilag, 42, St. Vincent de Paul

Andrew Pawson, 52, St. Vincent de Paul

**Granger**

John D. Adams, 82, St. Pius X

Paul Carrico, 90, St. Pius X

Francis Eder, 94, St. Pius X

Dolores McCarty, 82, St. Pius X

Michael Sobbecki, 70, St. Pius X

**Mishawaka**  
Nancy K. Detert, 74, St. Monica

**South Bend**

Santiago Hernandez, 6, St. Adalbert

Ricko Perez, 20, St. Adalbert

Bob Waymouth, 96, St. Adalbert

Gregorio Chavez, 89, St. Casimir

Karyn A. Beach, 74, St. Thérèse Little Flower

**Warsaw**

William J. Young, Sr., 78, Sacred Heart

## FOREVER FLI LEARNING INSTITUTE

**Registration for Spring Classes now open**

*Providing lifelong learning to senior adults since 1974*

54191 Ironwood Road • South Bend, IN 46635

**574-282-1901** [ForeverLearningInstitute.org](http://ForeverLearningInstitute.org)

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS are ALIVE in ROME CITY!



*Our Lady* the IMMACULATE VIRGIN PATRONESS of AMERICA

awaits you at the Mother of Mercy Chapel  
2730 E Northport Rd, Rome City, IN

March 5 at 11 a.m. EDT

for Holy Mass and Devotions

Confessions beginning at 9:30 am

More info @ [www.patronessofamerica.org](http://www.patronessofamerica.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@seascsfw.org](mailto:lwidner@seascsfw.org).**

### Join our amazing Pioneer staff as a Substitute Teacher!

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

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

**Questions?**

Email Shelley Tourney at [stourney@seascsfw.org](mailto:stourney@seascsfw.org) or call 260-432-4001, ext. 303

## The Light is On For You

# Every parish open for confession on March 8

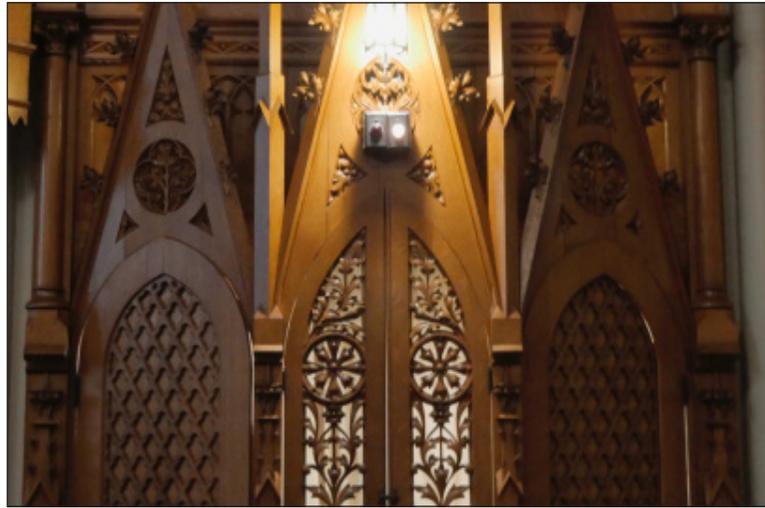
BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will have the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation at every parish on Tuesday, March 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event, "The Light is On For You," gives individuals the chance to experience the healing effects of God's mercy through the sacrament.

Father Thomas Zehr, pastor at St. Mary Parish in Huntington, expressed that the convenience of the sacrament during "The Light is On For You" should entice people to take advantage.

"The reason why it would be good to do that is that it's easy – and it's a time that everybody, all the priests, are going to be available at every parish, so there's really no excuse to not go at that time. Really, it's just another great opportunity to receive the Lord's mercy," he said.

He added that those who have been away from the sacrament and the Church should also take advantage that evening. "I think the reason why it's specifically beneficial is because maybe the people that have been far away from the



Jennifer Barton

Church might not know when their regularly scheduled confession times are at the parish."

"The Light is on for You" takes care of this problem, Father Zehr said. "You just need to show up at a Catholic Church at that time on that day, and it's an opportunity for someone who's been away; they can actually come back."

Father Zehr also offered some advice on how to prepare to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"Do an honest evaluation of where your heart is, and

what you've been doing, and what you've been prioritizing as important," he said, adding that there are a few versions of an examination of conscience that a penitent can complete before entering the confessional. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides several examinations of conscience on their website, including some in Spanish and one aimed toward children.

Regardless of how one chooses to examine his or her conscience before the sacrament, the USCCB says it should be

rooted in Scripture, particularly the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.

Father Zehr gives some simple direction on this. "If you can just sincerely and honestly look at yourself and say, 'What have I been placing above God?' Some of us can say it's a lot of things. Some of it's like, 'Well, there's been a couple things for sure. Maybe not a lot. But yeah, what have I been placing in front of the Lord?' And kind of ahead of time, say, 'Lord, I'm sorry for that. I want to turn away from it.'"

Even for those who regularly receive the sacrament of reconciliation, it can be daunting to humble yourself and confess your sins. Regardless of this feeling, Father Zehr says, it is worth walking into the confessional.

"Going to confession is tough. And it demands a lot of you. So it's not easy to go. But it's so worth it. Anything that's good and worth it is almost always hard."

Father Zehr shared that he often tells people that no one says that they love to go into the confessional, but they love leaving it because of the feeling of forgiveness and a "fresh start."

"Everybody hates going to

confession," he said. "Everybody hates humbling themselves, looking at their brokenness and their weaknesses, but everybody loves receiving forgiveness."

For those who have not sought the sacrament for a while, Father Zehr says that he warmly welcomes them. "I would say, personally, one of my favorite things to do is to meet with people in the confessional," he said. He especially enjoys meeting those who have not taken advantage of the sacrament in a long time, but have a desire to change, even while some realize that they will probably fail and need to return yet again.

Priests in the diocese, Father Zehr said, graciously await their parishioners in the confessional.

"I love being in a confessional, and I know I don't speak just for myself, but so many priests I know say that ... their favorite part of being a priest is seeing the conversion of hearts in confessions. So I'm excited to hear confessions almost every day."

Those who would like to learn more about confession, or to have an overview of each step of the sacrament, visit [diocesefwsb.org/light/](http://diocesefwsb.org/light/) for additional information.

## Experience a love that is more powerful than sin

"It is the sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation that prepares the way for each individual, even those weighed down with great faults. In this sacrament each person can experience mercy in a unique way, that is, the love which is more powerful than sin."

St. Pope John Paul II (*Rich in Mercy*, 13)

## CONFESSION

## EVERY PARISH

## MARCH 8, 6-8 P.M.

[diocesefwsb.org/light](http://diocesefwsb.org/light)



DIOCESE OF  
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

The Light is ON  for You  
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation