

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Revive event provides environment to encounter Jesus

BY ERIC PEAT



Eric Peat

People of all ages join in the March 9 Revive conference at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, hosted by Damascus Catholic Mission Campus out of Centerburg, Ohio. Part of the evening includes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the school gymnasium, accompanied by praise and worship music.

An encounter with the Lord. Nothing is more inspiring, life-changing and transformative – and nothing unites the faithful with a more profound sense of community.

This personal encounter with Jesus Christ was the goal and mission of Revive, a city-wide night of worship, adoration and prayer held at Bishop Dwenger High School on March 9. Hundreds of people from Fort Wayne and beyond poured into the school gymnasium for the event, which was presented by Damascus Catholic Mission Campus.

Located in Centerburg, Ohio, Damascus formed more than 20 years ago as "a place of encounter where a generation is awakened, empowered and equipped to live the adventure of the Catholic faith." What began as a youth summer camp soon grew into a year-round retreat center serving thousands of Catholic youths every year, and it is now forming adult missionaries who are bringing this message of renewal near and far.

While the Revive event at Bishop Dwenger was the first ever of its kind, it was the first of many for Damascus. The idea of a Revive tour was born out of a

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'I feel like I'm home:' candidate professes joy at conversion

SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

Born in Valparaiso but now living in North Manchester, Julie Potter from St. Bernard Parish in Wabash will enter into the fullness of the Catholic Church this Easter season. Potter and her family grew up as full-Gospel Christians, but it wasn't until much later in life that she felt a call to something different.

"I have a cleaning company of 29 years," Potter explained. She spent a year at St. Bernard cleaning the rectory for Father Sextus Don. But when Father Don unexpectedly passed away in the summer of 2018, Father Levi Nkwocha took over as pastor.

The next four years became very special for Potter as she not only continued to clean the rectory, but also entertained the possibility of becoming Catholic.

The parish's rectory was a place that Potter quickly got used to. "I just watched and listened," she said. "I've noticed every time I'd go in there it was very calm. It was so peaceful. I loved going in there." She especially loved the way she could so easily converse with Father Nkwocha and Ann Unger, the parish secretary. She largely attributes her decision to join the faith to them both – their openness was formative in Potter's faith journey.

Then came the pandemic. As it was for most people, COVID-19

was unforeseen and hit hard – but in a different way for Potter. "Everything shut down," she recalled, "and Father Levi went ahead and paid me. I have never had that in 29 years." This single act set her on a new course. "He said, 'You know, it wasn't your fault.' And right there, I thought, 'Wow.'"

This kindness reminded Potter of her home life as she was raised on a farm. There, she was surrounded by "loving people," she said. But a new sense of family and of home was soon forming around her.

"I've never been around a priest," she explained. "There would be things that would come up, and I've noticed that Father

Levi's responses were very different than what I've ever heard." This difference resonated in his vast knowledge, she explains, and was another trait that sparked her interest in the Church.

Unger's knowledge, words and positivity intrigued Potter, too – so much so that Unger became her sponsor as she transitions into the faith. In a way, the two women are similar; always viewing the world as a "glass half full." It was Unger's optimistic nature in part that helped convince Potter to become Catholic.

Having gone to many churches in the past, Potter stated that: "This was the first church that

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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

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**REVIVE, from page 1**

desire to bring the experience of their youth camps to surrounding communities with a hunger for the Lord, according to Damascus Outreach Associate Conall Hughes.

"What if everyone in the city was partaking together and it was uniting for a diocese?" said Hughes, describing the vision of the Revive tour. "Then people encounter Jesus, and they can bring that refreshed zeal, that newfound passion and that experience back to their parish and their schools and their communities."

Father Thomas Zehr of St. Mary in Huntington and Father Jay Horning of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne were among those instrumental in bringing Revive to Bishop Dwenger. Both have been involved with Damascus summer camps in the past and were drawn to the group's passion for the Lord. When he heard that Damascus was interested in bringing Revive to Fort Wayne, Father Zehr began coordinating with Bishop Dwenger, which he knew had the facilities and the staff to accommodate the event.

"They [Damascus] came with an initial dream of just pouring into Fort Wayne because they saw there was just so much potential," said Father Zehr. "And because it was new, we were all just open to how the Lord was going to work." Zehr said the Lord's work was apparent through six months of planning between Damascus and a team from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The event began with a welcome and worship music, which was led throughout the night by the Damascus Worship Collective. Dan DeMatte, Damascus Executive Director of Missions and Advancement, then delivered the first of two messages of the night. DeMatte beckoned those in attendance to allow Jesus to free them of whatever is weighing them down. Jesus' victory over death, he said, was also a victory over everything that death brings about, such as shame, anxiety or fear. Once we have laid claim to this freedom that Christ has won for us, we can truly encounter the Lord and allow Him to transform our lives.

This encounter is never more real than in the Blessed Sacrament – the very body of Christ. DeMatte introduced a period of Eucharistic Adoration by articulating a striking reality to the crowd.

"The God of heaven is in this gymnasium tonight in Fort Wayne, Indiana," DeMatte said. "That's what it means to say, 'The kingdom of God is at hand.'"

Father Zehr processed to the front of the gym with the monstrance as the Damascus worship team encouraged anyone who felt called to move closer to adore Jesus. Dozens of attendees, many of them youths and young



Photos by Eric Peat

Hundreds of attendees listen as different Revive speakers discuss the beauty of the Catholic faith. Dan DeMatte, Damascus Executive Director, asks those present to let go of the burdens they carry.



Brad Pierron, Damascus Missionary Program Director, expresses how the mission of Jesus has been passed down to all Christians.

adults, walked forward and knelt or laid in front of the Blessed Sacrament, drawn to the presence of their Lord and Savior. For half an hour, the gymnasium was transformed into a sea of love and praise, before Father Zehr concluded Eucharistic Adoration.

Brad Pierron, Damascus Missionary Program Director, next shared a message on mission. He explained that the mission of Jesus – to seek and to save what was lost – is now our mission. If we want to carry this out and do something great with our lives, Pierron said, we must stop doing what everyone else is doing. By becoming more of Jesus every day, we will in turn become more of ourselves and be able to offer our individual gifts to the Lord.

"When the Father looks at you tonight, He looks into your chair and He sees a unique, spe-



Two Revive volunteers pray over a Bishop Dwenger student who attended the event.

cific, and unrepeatable image of His Son," Pierron said. "That's what He sees. And He loves it when that comes to life. There's that gift that I only put in you, there's that aspect of my Son that I only put in you. And why do I love nights like tonight? I get to see that in you."

Pierron wasn't the only one who recognized the fruitfulness of the night of encounter. As the event concluded with a prayer ministry, in which Damascus missionaries and volunteers prayed over attendees young and old, an air of hope was evident throughout the crowd.

"The people here – they gave me hope, they gave me energy," explained David Go, 15. "I grew up at a Catholic private school, and it's like reliving my childhood, but better. I just love it here. I feel like I belong here."

Karen Ewing, whose child was among those who moved to be closer to Jesus during adoration, expressed the same senti-

ments.

"I have so much more hope in the youth. To see all the youth walk up there during adoration, it was such a gift. That just brought tears to me," said Ewing. "It was a very humbling moment as a parent just to witness that."

Father Zehr said he envisions this experience of encounter will breathe life into the Church in Fort Wayne.

"There are so many people who are involved in a lot of things and love the Church and love our Lord," said Father Zehr. "But if we took all those people that are on level two or level three and bring them to level nine, and we could really light them on fire with a real renewed passion and zeal for the Lord... then we can just go deeper. The Lord's already set them on fire and kind of primed their hearts. Now's the time to run. Let's actually pour new life into this city."

All-star lineup: Why a canonization in 1622 still draws attention

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican has hosted many massive and moving canonization ceremonies over the centuries, but a rite held in 1622 continues to be commemorated by devotees and studied by scholars.

At a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on March 12, 1622, Pope Gregory XV formally recognized the holiness of Sts. Teresa of Avila, Ignatius of Loyola, Isidore of Madrid (also known as Isidore the Farmer), Francis Xavier and Philip Neri.

Pope Francis marked the 400th anniversary of the canonizations with a Mass at the Jesuit's Church of the Gesù in Rome, and the Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office is reproducing a 17th-century painting of the five saints for its 2022 aerogram.

The canonizations were a boon to what were then new religious orders: the Discalced Carmelites founded by St. Teresa; the Jesuits founded by St. Ignatius with St. Francis Xavier as one of his first companions; and the Oratorians founded by St. Philip Neri.

But the four religious were late additions to the ceremony, which was prepared for the canonization of St. Isidore, who would be the patron saint of Spain's new capital, Madrid.

King Philip IV of Spain had paid for the canonization "teatro" – a structure erected in St. Peter's Basilica and decorated with scenes from the life of St. Isidore and illustrations of miracles attributed to his intercession – "so the others were, technically, piggy-backed onto this ceremony" with a banner for each hanging in the transept, Simon Ditchfield, Professor of History at the University of York, England, who has written extensively on the 1622 ceremony, told Catholic News Service.

For historians, art historians and theologians, the 1622 canonizations are a case study in the "modern" sainthood process, the consolidation of papal power, the missionary expansion of the Catholic Church and the use of art to support that outreach.

"This was the most explicit and theatrical example of papal power and universal papal relevance," Ditchfield said.

While previous popes had attempted to regulate the recognition of saints, he said, it was a slow process with many holy men and women being proclaimed and venerated simply as a result of the devotion of the local Catholic faithful.

On the heels of the Protestant Reformation and to bring order and investigative rigor to the Catholic Church's process for declaring saints, Pope Sixtus V



CNS photos

Pope Francis celebrated the 400th anniversary of the canonization of five saints in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV: Sts. Teresa of Avila, Ignatius of Loyola, Isidore of Madrid (Isidore the Farmer), Francis Xavier and Philip Neri. Three of these saints founded religious orders and one (St. Teresa of Avila) has been declared a Doctor of the Church.

in 1588 set up the office that would become the Congregation for Saints' Causes. Over the next three decades, though, only nine people were canonized and none of them at the same ceremony.

The 1622 five, Ditchfield said, were the first saints to be beatified before being canonized, an intermediate step that is now standard.

The ceremony also "was groundbreaking in being the first-ever canonization of multiple holy people on the same day. That meant that there were more decorations in St. Peter's, five canonization bulls rather than just one, and an unprecedentedly large body of documentation," Pamela M. Jones, Professor Emerita of Art History at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, told CNS.

The bulls, or decrees of canonization, and the banners and other art used to decorate St. Peter's, she said, "underscored their distinctive contributions and similar virtues. The saints' celebrations also show that they were perceived useful to the Roman Catholic Church as defenders of the faith against 'heretics' and 'infidels' and as disseminators of the Catholic faith in a turbulent era of world expansion."

The consolidation of the sainthood process also served to underscore in a very practical

way the authority of the pope affirmed by the Council of Trent, Jones wrote in "A Companion to Early Modern Rome, 1492-1692," a book she co-edited with Ditchfield and Barbara Wisch.

"Because saints' cults were universal, the pope, whose jurisdiction was universal, had the exclusive right to canonize," Jones wrote.

But the festivities marking the canonizations, even those of 1622, were global, she said. After the canonization rite, Rome was the site of processions, fireworks, concerts and plays. Similar events took place around the world: in Madrid to celebrate St. Isidore's canonization, but even further afield to honor the new religious-order saints across Europe, in Asia and in the Americas where Discalced Carmelites or Jesuits ministered.

Ditchfield said the whole process, first completed for the five saints in the 17th century, was a mechanism that emphasized the church as both local and universal: then and now it begins with an investigation in the diocese where the sainthood candidate lived and died, then it is verified at the Vatican, beatification and canonization are proclaimed by the pope and his decision is celebrated again on a local level.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, March 21, 11:15 a.m. – "You Can Lend a Hand Luncheon," Century Center, South Bend
- Monday, March 21, 5:15 p.m. – Mass at Windmoor Study Center, South Bend
- Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla
- Wednesday, March 23, 3 p.m. – OSV Institute Meeting, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, March 24, 8 a.m. – Meeting of the Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, March 24, 12 p.m. – Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Friday, March 25, 3 p.m. – Pueri Cantores, St. Pius X, Granger
- Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, March 27, 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart



Provided by Julie Potter

Julie Potter stands with Bishop Rhoades following Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, in Fort Wayne on March 6.

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was really friendly, loving, caring." The unity she felt recently at church was truly inspiring. "They have grace. They're loving like they're supposed to."

Another aspect of Catholicism that Potter appreciates is how much of the faith is rooted in Scripture. As she spoke with those in her parish and as she read her church's bulletin, she was shocked to see that "whatever's written, whatever's said, there's always a Scripture behind it."

But it doesn't stop there – she also loves the way the Church not only cites Scripture but also explains it. This new way of understanding the world around her only continued to grow. She has since taken up reading many books that draw on Scripture. "There's a lot to learn," Potter added, laughing.

She knew the Catholic Church was where she was supposed to be. "I listen to the Lord," Potter said. "And it just feels right – in my stomach, it's just the right thing – and I feel like I'm home."

She recalled that her father used to say: "Until you find a family home base, your life will

never be right."

So many years later, this rang especially true. "This is my family. This is my family church," she said. "I've never felt this way about a church ever."

At the Call to Continuing Conversion on March 6 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Potter professed her plans for entering the Church and was drawn to the bishop's words. "The way he spoke was so simple; I understood everything," she says. Potter's thirst for knowledge continues to grow as she looks forward to learning even more about Catholicism. "I like the education behind it. I'm learning as I go."

Offering advice to those on the same journey of discernment as she once was, Potter encourages prospective Catholics to join the Church, describing it as "family-oriented and united," and said that the faithful are "very strong in their beliefs." She also recommends speaking to a priest or to a trusted friend.

Potter is one of 329 catechumens and candidates who will enter into the Church this Easter from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Last synod discussion prompts self-reflection, recommitment

BY JODI MARLIN

Parishioners of St. Patrick, Ligonier, spoke sincerely about their own practices of the Catholic faith, as well as that of others, when they gathered on March 8 in the lower level of the parish to discuss the questions posed by the Synod on Synodality. Together with members of other parishes of the Elkhart vicariate, they considered at length how they might better walk with others toward Christ. They concluded that it begins with deepening their own love of the Lord and respect for His commandments.

Following a bilingual Mass celebrated by pastor Father Wilson Corzo and assisted by Deacon Stan LeMieux, the Thursday-evening worshippers settled in at tables separated by the language that the participants felt most comfortable speaking. Father Corzo's homily had emphasized the compositional themes of forgiveness, love and humility found in the Our Father – the way Jesus taught His followers to pray – and the three qualities informed the ensuing conversations in both English and Spanish.

Lety Lopez felt that Journeying Together, the theme of the Synod on Synodality and the topic of the first question of the night, required a deeper commitment on the part of every Catholic to first be faithful to the Gospel, so that they could spread it and invite others to know Christ.

"We don't listen to the Lord. We focus on ourselves and what we want, how we want things. We need to learn to listen and listen with humility so we can then meet people where they are and announce the Gospel," she said. "Usually, we do what's most convenient for us, instead of listening to the Holy Spirit."

Everyone has a tendency to ask for what they want in prayer instead of asking what God's will is for them and for those around them, agreed Brenda Segovia. "But we pray, 'May Your will be done.' We should want to be done whatever God wants done." Marisol Alba then recalled the



Jodi Marlin

Members of Vicariate C meet at St. Patrick Parish in Ligonier to discuss the questions put forth for the Synod on Synodality in which Pope Francis called for input from people at all levels of Church life. This was the last of the synod listening sessions scheduled for the diocese and many participants came from parishes in the surrounding area to bring their unique perspectives to the table.

Greatest Commandment: to love one another. "That's what we lack – love for one another. We have to have that to walk with our neighbor. We have to walk even with that person that we can't stand, with our enemies. We have to ask ourselves, how are we helping our faith community grow closer to Christ? Because of our baptism, it's our obligation to go out and take the Word of God to others."

By calling the Synod on Synodality, to whom else is Pope Francis asking Catholics to reach out and care for? "A muchos," said Lopez, including unborn children, drug addicts and teens. "And to those who are imprisoned, whether justly or unjustly," added Margarita Casteñeda.

One person at each table took notes on the responses of the others to the seven questions put before them as part of the synodal process. Those notes will be presented to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and their themes carried by him to the Vatican when the bishops meet with Pope Francis next year at the Synod of

Bishops.

Question four provoked perhaps the greatest personal reflection of the night: "How are the baptized called to participate in the mission of the Church, and what areas of that mission are we not fulfilling?"

There are many areas where we fall short, answered Lopez, and these became more numerous during the pandemic. "Sadly, we don't get together like we did before, even. The times that 10 or 12 people would have gotten together for something, maybe a Bible study, now there are two or three."

Segovia said she has observed that it's a habit of many families to piecemeal the practice of the faith: Mom takes the children to church but Dad won't come with them, or one parent takes a child to religious education classes but the other parent or the other children don't come. Lopez concurred.

"I look at other denominations and see how they all come together and participate in church – children and adults,

young people, everyone – and I wonder, why not us?"

The fault lies with selfishness within marriage, several participants agreed. Segovia added solemnly that young people are losing their faith because "we sometimes fall down on the job of catechizing them, as well as modeling the faith. A marriage has to be united in Christ for the spiritual wellbeing of the children."

The need for themselves and all Catholics to practice the faith publicly and without shame resonated across several discussion questions, including those about interdenominational relations and the holiness of the Eucharist.

One of the most effective ways to share the faith with others is to do so not with words

but with actions, said Lopez. She cited several reasons, among them the preparedness of some non-Catholic Christians to challenge Catholic beliefs and practices.

"They argue with you," said Lopez. "It's difficult to have a relationship with them because they're always challenging your beliefs."

As an example of the kind of shamelessness with which Catholics should demonstrate their beliefs, Alba mentioned the practices of faithful Muslims. "The hour of prayer comes around and they're rolling out their mats, taking off their shoes and getting on their knees. They don't care who sees them, they're more concerned about being faithful to their beliefs. Why are we ashamed to even do the Sign of the Cross in public? It says in the Bible to love your God before all else. It's not our will, but His that should be done. We're not supposed to be ashamed of Him. So, when our faith is tested, we fail. We don't testify to what we are and to whom we belong."

"We love Him, but we love ourselves more," added Janet Martinez. "We think we have so much faith, but we don't have a complete faith, whether because of fear, laziness or self-centeredness."

Several parishes of Vicariate C were represented at the March 8 synodal gathering, including St. Martin de Porres in Syracuse, St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol and St. John the Evangelist in Goshen. The friendly conversations about faith and reflections on areas of spiritual laxity functioned as both fellowship and a call to renew participants' desire to more consistently and publicly practice their faith.

"It's making me feel like I want to do things better myself, and improve how I evangelize – with love, not with any criticism or judgment," said Lopez.

The first annual

Catholic Teacher Award



The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana is currently taking nominations for the first annual Catholic Teacher Award. Nominations are due April 15, with award presentation on May 5.

For more information, contact the school principal or Sarah Shively at sshively@ccfnei.org.

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Legislative session saw progress in protecting most vulnerable

From backing a pro-life bill that passed the General Assembly to helping to halt a measure that would have taken financial advantage of the poor, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is counting successes in the 2022 legislative session while looking ahead to the future.

Among the bills awaiting Gov. Eric Holcomb's signature at press time was House Bill 1217, which would make it a felony in Indiana to coerce a woman into having an abortion.

The bill, authored by Rep. Joanna King (R-Middlebury), requires medical personnel to ask a pregnant woman seeking an abortion whether she has been forced by someone to do so. If she indicates that she has, the provider would be required to offer her information on services available, the use of a telephone and an alternative exit from the health care facility. The bill also mandates reporting of a coerced abortion to law enforcement.

With the governor's signature, Indiana would become the 19th state to offer protections to women from coerced abortion.

"Protecting the most vulnerable in our society remains our most important objective," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "This bill was one important step forward, but there are so many other pro-life priorities that demand our attention – from opposing the death penalty and assisted suicide, to offering better accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace, to upholding the sanctity of life at every stage."

Pro-life efforts were on the minds of many at the Statehouse last week in the final days of the 2022 legislative session.

As lawmakers concluded this year's short legislative session even earlier than expected – after midnight on March 9 – there was already talk of reconvening this summer in a special session following the anticipated ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that could potentially overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide.

The current case before the high court, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, involves a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. Among the possible outcomes of the Supreme Court ruling, expected in June, is returning the regulation of abortion to the states.

One hundred of the 110 Republican members of the General Assembly signed and sent a letter to Gov. Holcomb on March 8 calling for a special session "should the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling expand Indiana's ability to protect unborn children."

"As a state that recognizes that life is a precious gift that should never be neglected, it is our desire that you, as the Governor of Indiana, ensure that those values are upheld without delay," the letter stated. "We have a responsibility to Hoosiers to ensure that our state laws are aligned with the Supreme Court's decision if Roe v. Wade is wholly, or partially, overturned."

In their latest podcast, Espada and Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, vowed to keep the Catholic faithful informed of developments on this and other issues important to the Church. They also expressed gratitude to those who contacted their lawmakers to either support or oppose legislation in keeping with Catholic social teaching, which forms the basis for the ICC's position on matters in the public arena.

"We thank you, because some of these successes wouldn't have been possible without your support," Espada said, pointing to the defeat of a predatory lending bill as a prime example.

Senate Bill 352 had proposed a new subprime loan product to people in need of emergency cash but lacking credit. In reality, Espada said, the proposal amounted to "usury in another form by another name."

While the bill capped the interest rate for subprime loans at 36 percent, it included maintenance fees and other fees that could exceed 75 to 100 percent of the principal of the loan – particularly for loans of more

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

than \$1,500. An amendment added later to the bill specifically allowed lenders to evade the 72 percent cap under the state's criminal loansharking statute.

Senate Bill 352 narrowly passed the Senate but did not advance in the House amid staunch opposition from the ICC and other advocates for the poor.

Another victory for these advocates was the passage of Senate Bill 1361, which the governor signed into law on March 10. This measure strengthens protections for those who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – a federal program that provides grants to the states to administer cash payments to families in deep poverty.

The primary author of the bipartisan measure, Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville), had sought to eliminate barriers that many families faced in receiving that federal help because of outdated state guidelines. That included an asset limit of \$1,000 for families qualifying for TANF to continue receiving those temporary benefits, which have a lifetime cap of 24 months for adults.

Under the new state law, that asset limit has been increased

to \$10,000. Additionally, the measure exempts \$20,000 of total equity value of the family's motor vehicles from eligibility guidelines.

"We are grateful for these positive steps, although we still hope to see more far-reaching change to the state's administration of the TANF program in the future," Mingus said. "With inflation rates soaring, families in poverty are truly suffering."

The ICC and its allies have been pushing for years for what they consider a long-overdue update to TANF in Indiana. That includes a meaningful increase to the \$288 maximum monthly cash payment for a family of three in deep poverty – which has not been adjusted for inflation since 1988. But a complete overhaul to TANF in Indiana was once again passed over in the legislature.

Another disappointment for the ICC was the advancement of so-called "lawful carry" or "Constitutional carry" legislation. Originally proposed in House Bill 1077, the measure would repeal the law requiring a license to carry a handgun in Indiana.

After a contentious path through the Statehouse, which eventually saw the bill stripped and then amended into an entirely unrelated measure – House Bill 1296 – the legislation was awaiting Gov. Holcomb's signature at press time. As with any legislation that passes both chambers of the General Assembly, if the governor does not sign or veto the bill within seven days of its arrival on his

desk, it will become law without his signature.

Espada said that the Catholic Church views this as a pro-life issue and urged the faithful to reach out to the governor to oppose the measure.

Reflecting on this short, non-budget-year legislative session that generated much controversy, Espada said she appreciated the civility she witnessed at the Statehouse even during the most intense committee hearings.

"There were many bills that people felt strongly about on both sides of the issue," Espada said. "After seeing other states where there was rancor and a lack of civility amid division, I was uplifted by the show of respect that opponents demonstrated. We may not win every battle, but if we can continue to be civil, perhaps we can continue to talk to reach common ground."

Mingus, who just completed his second legislative session in his new role, said that the ICC's work cannot be measured only by wins and losses at the Statehouse.

"It's about bringing the Church's voice into the discussion and transforming the way people think," he said. "It's about walking with people and helping them to see the truth, beauty and goodness of what the Church has to offer and what the Church says about our world."

For more information and ways to get involved with the ICC and its mission, visit www.indianacc.org.

THE 2022 AQUINAS SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

THOMAS AQUINAS AND THE DEMONS OF WORK

Jonathan Malesic, PhD
Essayist, Journalist, and Scholar

In this presentation, St. Thomas Aquinas, himself a relentless worker and arguably someone who suffered from burnout, will guide us through the ways we can confront our demons: the work ethic, acedia, and burnout.

Malesic's latest book, *The End of Burnout: Why Work Drains Us and How to Build Better Lives*, traces his own history as someone who burned out of a tenured job to frame this rigorous investigation of how and why so many of us feel worn out, alienated, and useless in our work.

Book signing and reception to follow lecture.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Russian Catholic: Current 'situation very like the atheist Soviet Union'

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – A Catholic professor said Russia's clergy fear arrest if they question the war against Ukraine and warned that the Church now faced a "new era of silence. Prayers for an immediate cease-fire are being said in parishes – but priests can no longer speak publicly," said the lay Catholic, who asked not to be named. "We are back in a situation very like the atheist Soviet Union, when a priest must turn up the radio or TV so as not to be overheard by the special services. They're explaining they don't want to say anything that could harm the Catholic community, or see them thrown in jail with their churches closed." The Catholic spoke to Catholic News Service on March 10 as Russia's war against Ukraine entered its third week and the Russian government clamped down on all unofficial news and information. Criminal Code amendments, passed on March 4 by the Russian Duma, allowed for heavy fines and jail terms up to 15 years for "public dissemination of falsehoods about the use of Russia's armed forces," while high-profile media outlets, including the religious Credo Press website, have now been closed. The professor said many Catholics had friends and family members in Ukraine and remained well-informed about events, but added that priests could face prison if they used the wrong words in homilies. "Though Catholics are divided over this war, with some supporting it, most have a good enough grasp of the Church's social teaching to differentiate between a just and an aggressive war," the Catholic told CNS.

Cardinals arrive in Ukraine, Hungary on mission of hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Two cardinals arrived at separate destinations on one mission entrusted to them by Pope Francis: to bring relief, hope and encouragement to suffering Ukrainians. Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, arrived in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv on March 8 and met with Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, head of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Lviv. Father Andriy Soletskyy, a spokesman for Archbishop Shevchuk, told Catholic News Service on March 9 that Archbishop Shevchuk traveled from Kyiv to Lviv the day before specifically to meet with Cardinal Krajewski and help him fulfill the mission Pope Francis had entrusted to him. That may include helping the cardinal get to Kyiv "if possible," Father Soletskyy said. However,

Neighbor countries provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees



CNS photo/Junno Arocho Esteves

Volunteers from Caritas Hungary give food to people at the Keleti train station in Budapest, Hungary on March 12, 2022. The Knights of Malta and the Red Cross also were participating in efforts to distribute food, supplies, clothing and toys to Ukrainian refugees as well as local homeless and Roma people in Budapest.

he said, for the security of both the cardinal and Archbishop Shevchuk, the Church will not share details of how or when either is traveling. Lviv has not been shelled, "thanks be to God," Father Soletskyy said, but the city in Western Ukraine is being overwhelmed with displaced people gathering there to try to find rides, trains or buses to Poland, Hungary or Romania. People are sleeping in line at the train station and every church has opened as a shelter.

Senate passes omnibus spending bill with Hyde, other pro-life provisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The chairmen of several U.S. bishops' committees and the head of March for Life on March 11 praised the U.S. senators who voted to pass the government's omnibus bill with the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life provisions included in it. The bishops also commended lawmakers for including "critical humanitarian assistance for the victims of Russia's invasion of Ukraine." In a 68-31 vote late on March 10, the Senate OK'd a \$1.5 trillion government funding

bill that includes \$13.6 billion in aid to Ukraine. The House passed the measure a day earlier. It will now be sent to President Joe Biden for his signature. To avoid a government shutdown, both chambers also passed a four-day stopgap measure to extending current funding levels through March 15 in case the massive bill was not passed. The 2,741-page text was released around noon on March 9, leaving many lawmakers complaining they had little time to review the measure before having to vote. The measure was "the product of months of negotiations," as CNN reported. "We applaud Congress for including provisions in the omnibus appropriations package that uphold the sacred dignity of human life and will support and assist many vulnerable people here and abroad," said the chairmen of five U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees in a joint statement.

Thirteen priests in Arkansas face uncertainty over their immigration status

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) – Thirteen priests from outside the United States ministering in the

Diocese of Little Rock have had to stop working, and in some cases have had to return home, because of federal delays in processing immigration paperwork. Work at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has slowed, leading to uncertainty about the priests' future in Arkansas as well as clergy and religious workers elsewhere. "It's not just our diocese, and in fact, several months ago we had a Zoom meeting with attorneys, civil attorneys throughout the country who work on religious immigration stuff to kind of brainstorm," said Deacon Matt Glover, Diocesan Chancellor for Canonical Affairs. "It's not anything that any of our priests are doing wrong, or not doing quickly enough. It's a problem completely across the board," he told the Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Little Rock Diocese. "So you might have someone who's able to be here legally, who has legal status, but their employment authorization document has expired, even though we have timely filed to renew it," Deacon Glover said. There are "multiple ways in which someone might fall out of (legal) status and have to return (home) or even if they're here, they wouldn't necessarily be authorized to work and it puts them in a real limbo," he said.

Knights' councils in Ukraine, Poland help those fleeing Russian assault

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The Knights of Columbus established a small presence in both Ukraine and Poland a few years ago, but now Knights councils in both countries have sprung into coordinated action with help for refugees since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24. In Ukraine, there are fewer than 1,900 Knights, with the first councils established in 2012. In Poland, where the first councils were established in 2006, there are 8,400. The Ukraine Solidarity Fund, established by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, was launched on Feb. 25. Intended to help with shelter, food, clothing and medical supplies, it has received more than \$4.5 million to date in donations, with the first truckload of aid arriving on March 1 in Lviv, a city of more than 700,000 near the Polish border. "It's really providential," said Szymon Czeszek, a lawyer in Krakow, Poland, who heads the Knights' relief efforts there. "We want to overcome evil with good," he said in a March 8 Zoom call with news media. So far, at least 1.2 million refugees have crossed into Poland, with the main crossing at the town of Medyka and more arriving at the train station at Przemysl.

Meta, Twitter, Netflix on 'Dirty Dozen' list for enabling exploitation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Some familiar brand names were put on the newest "Dirty Dozen" list of companies by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation for enabling exploitation. Those names include Google Search, Netflix, Twitter, Meta and Visa. Netflix and Twitter are repeats from 2021, as are Reddit and OnlyFans. Others making the list, released on March 8, are Etsy, Kik, Verisign and Kanakuk Kamps. "We oppose all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation," said Lina Nealon, Director of Corporate and Strategic Initiatives for the center, during a video call announcing the 2022 version of the Dirty Dozen. "Last year, the majority of the list were tech companies," Nealon said, as they "reap soaring revenue without making substantive changes" to deter exploitation. "We thought 2020 was bad," she added. "The Internet Watch Foundation called 2021 the worst year on record for exploiting children online." Despite Google and parent firm Alphabet making improvements over the past year – such as, NCOSE noted, Google activating age-appropriate controls on school-bound Chromebooks last year – Google Search was named for 2022.



Photos provided by Sarah Ealey

The Ealey family; Clay, Sarah, Elaine, Earl and Gavin; are members of St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder, where the three siblings attended grade school before moving on to Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. Gavin is currently in his second year at the University of Notre Dame and was recently honored with a scholarship for first-generation college students.

Catholic schools influential in Notre Dame student's 'dream'

BY JENNIFER BARTON

From an early age, Gavin Ealey has been blessed with a friendly disposition and a natural intellect, usually resting somewhere near the top of his class in school. Being the best and the brightest, however, is not what has pushed him to succeed first in elementary and high school, and now at the University of Notre Dame. His life's goals and desire to improve himself gave him this drive. He was recently named as one of 30 students to receive a 2021-22 Realizing the Dream scholarship for first-generation students, offered through the Independent Colleges of Indiana.

The scholarship is open to students whose parents and grandparents do not have college educations. Along with his brother Clay, two years older than him to the day, Gavin will be among the first generation in his family to earn a bachelor's degree. He recalled that even though his father, Earl, did not earn a degree, he always urged his three children to pursue higher education. "He's pushing us to be the best versions of ourselves. He's very pro-education," Gavin stated.

Gavin is a product of St. Aloysius School in Yoder, then Bishop Luers High School. It was at both places that he found the encouragement to grow as a student and a person. Teachers at both schools gave him the tools and the freedom to push himself academically, and he discovered

"I feel like here, I'm on a team with my classmates, and my professor is on that team and the only thing that we're facing is the material."

— Gavin Ealey

a love for subjects such as chemistry, math and French at Bishop Luers. "Luers was very, very good to me," he attested. His sister Elaine, five years his junior, is currently a student there and sometimes calls him for help with her studies.

When the time came for him to look at colleges, Gavin's choices came down to a handful of schools, including the University of Notre Dame, the school from which his math teacher, Joe Crouch, graduated. Eventually, he whittled away all other options and the Catholic university rose above the others, partly for its small size, partly for its faith. Gavin said that, "having gone to a Catholic school my entire life, continuing my Catholic education was something I very much put a value on."

The community at Notre Dame has been a blessing for him. Like St. Aloysius and Bishop Luers, the student population is relatively small, and some of his classes have a similar student-teacher ratio as Bishop Luers. It is refreshing for him to walk the campus paths and encounter many people that he knows. Some of the friends he has made come from vastly different cultures and locales, such as Los Angeles in the U.S. and the Republic of Lebanon.



GAVIN EALEY

And he doesn't feel a fiercely competitive spirit among the students, as he did at other colleges. "I feel like here, I'm on a team with my classmates, and my professor is on that team and the only thing that we're facing is the material," Gavin declared.

"I know that I won't be the top one person in my class, but that doesn't stop me from striving toward it and that doesn't stop even the top guy from pushing me to be better."

His faith has also been bolstered by the community spirit on campus. As a sophomore,

Gavin stays active on campus at the university, participating in dorm activities, study groups and "a fulfilling faith life" which the university supports. He has attended Mass at many locations on campus – and experienced the celebration in many languages: French, Italian and even Chinese. "I will say I have grown in my faith life, but I wish I could be involved in more because there's so much to do here. ... I feel like there's only so much I can capitalize on, but I'm grateful for the things I do capitalize on."

Currently, he is pursuing a degree in chemistry, the subject he most connected with at Bishop Luers, with a minor in French. Future plans include either attending medical school and possibly working with an organization such as Doctors Without Borders or teaching chemistry at the college level.

His mother Sarah reminisced on Gavin's formative years, recalling his early curiosity, eagerness to learn and willingness to put his new skills into practice. "He's always been a really smart kid, but on top of that, he's always had such a big heart," she said. She related that he is the sort of person who is always willing to help and take care of others. "He loves a project; he's that kid that wants

to make everyone homemade Christmas gifts."

She is proud of her three children and grateful for the Catholic education that they have benefited from over the years, particularly the teachers and coaches that helped form their faith and character. "The kids grew so much in the Catholic faith as kids, going through the Catholic school system also. I felt like they had a good foundation.

"Clay is going to be graduating this spring and Gavin is not far behind. So, they'll be the first in our family to accomplish a 4-year degree and get that college experience. So, we're really proud."

As a youth, Gavin participated in Pueri Cantores, which performed at the University of Notre Dame during his time in the choir. Sarah commented that it had an influence on him, stating, "He kind of always remembered that and he's kind of in awe of the campus, so when it came time to apply, it was at the top of his list."

With two sons in college, she admitted that it is "scary" for a parent to watch a child go out into the world, away from the faith and values in which they were raised. She was pleased that Gavin chose to go to Notre Dame. She remarked, "I felt like he would have all the opportunities there to pursue his faith."

His determination helps him succeed in his life pursuits. "He does not see obstacles at all, he's the kind of kid who says, 'this is how it's going to be, and I'll do what I have to do,'" Sarah said.

Catholic students prepare for confirmation

BY DEB WAGNER

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted a confirmation retreat at Bishop Dwenger High School on Saturday, March 12. More than 200 students registered for the retreat. The theme for the day was "Sealed by the Spirit." Presentations were interspersed with Mass and reconciliation, adoration, recreation, arts and crafts and music.

Hannah Schaeffer, a singer from Columbia City, led those gathered in music and offered some inspiration. She encouraged the students to keep believing that there is a bigger plan for their lives and more to life than what can be seen in the present. She said that God wants everyone to open themselves and not be afraid of what God has planned for each person.

Marybeth Conway, a Damascus missionary, said that the Holy Spirit works in those who are open. She shared, "If you're open to what God has planned for you, your life will forever change."

Conway then talked about choices. She said, "The majority of choices bring us closer to God or farther away." When one is close to God, one can hear His soft, gentle voice and when choices take one farther away from God, the gift of confession bridges the gap to God again. In fact, all of the sacraments are about having a relationship with the unchanging, ever-present



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Eighth-graders participating in the Fort Wayne confirmation retreat on March 12 at Bishop Dwenger High School had the opportunity to sing along to praise music during the afternoon.

God. Conway told participants that: "Baptism establishes our relationship with God. The Eucharist nourishes our relationship with God. Reconciliation heals our relationship with God. Confirmation strengthens our relationship with God." She asked the retreatants to prayerfully consider one thing that is holding them back and then to give that one thing to God before breaking into small groups.

Small groups were designed to answer questions and allow students to share with peers about the retreat and their journey to confirmation. Several students from St. John the Baptist in New Haven shared that their saint report inspired them. Caleb Linker said confirmation inspires him to go to Mass "forever and ever," while Gunner McCarthy said, "As an adult in the Church, it's my choice to go or not go to Mass" regardless of difficulty or obstacle. Gunner plans to be at Mass regularly.

Group leaders from Our Lady of Good Hope Parish encouraged participants to use their confirmation saint as their intercessor in prayer. They also explained the connection between baptism and confirmation using the analogy that baptism is the wax poured out and confirmation is the stamp that seals belief.

Students were also encouraged to pray for an increase in virtue during this time of preparation. They were asked to think about ways they can carry their faith into high school, such as choosing groups of friends who

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The eighth-graders had time for art and recreation during the confirmation retreat. Two eighth-graders paint peg dolls during this time.



Joshua Schipper

Students preparing for confirmation enjoy a moment of levity at the retreat.

have the same values.

Mass in the All Saints Chapel preceded lunch. Father Nathan Maskal celebrated and encouraged participants to “do small things with great love,” per St. Teresa of Kolkata; and to live according to Jesus’ words of “Be reconciled, receive my love.” Father Maskal explained that confession is like a car wash. Baptism is like gaining a spot on a sports team, but confirmation allows the players to run the plays during the game. Confirmation is a continuation of that spiritual growth that began with baptism.

Daniel Rodriguez, another Damascus missionary, told retreat participants after lunch that he is originally from Columbia, South America, but moved to Ohio and played a professional sport. When the

audience became excited by his professional career, he reminded them that professional sports are short-term opportunities, whereas God’s commitment is unwavering and everlasting.

Rodriguez told a story of when he was asked by his mother to visit a little boy named Max who had sustained life-threatening injuries and was expected to die. Rodriguez reluctantly went to the hospital with his mom. He heard a voice deep in his heart that said if he prayed, Jesus would let the little boy live. He prayed next to the little boy, but the boy did not awaken, and Rodriguez left. Max woke up on Easter Sunday many weeks later. Rodriguez proclaimed, “Today is the day God wants to give you strength to carry out His mission.”

Rodriguez further challenged

participants by asking if they would be willing to stand up for the faith; to do something with their lives that is significant. The Holy Spirit makes actual what Jesus made possible. He told the youths that if they want to be great, they need to open up their hearts to what Jesus has designed for each individual and spread His good news in peace and love.

John Pratt, Director of Youth Ministry, had this to say about the day: “We hope that our students, as they prepare for confirmation, were able to encounter Christ on a retreat experience both through the talks as well as the sacrament opportunities of Mass and confession, and then also the witness of so many other young people their age preparing for the sacrament of confirmation.”

Create in me a clean heart



Jennifer Barton

“The Light is on for You” offered Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend an opportunity to prepare for Easter through the sacrament of confession, no matter how long a person has been away from the Church. People line up for confession at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne on March 8.

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Love of drawing leads to national recognition for Utah Catholic

BY LINDA PETERSON

SPRINGVILLE, Utah (CNS) – A love of drawing and an affinity for the art of doodling has led Gabby Gauchay to an unexpected vocation as well as recognition in *The Catholic Woman*, the quarterly magazine of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Gauchay, 28, began doodling images of the saints after she and her husband, Jon, began a daily study of the saints as part of their prayer life.

She is hesitant to describe the “faceless, cartoons of saints” as art. “I call them ‘Saintly Doodles,’” she said.

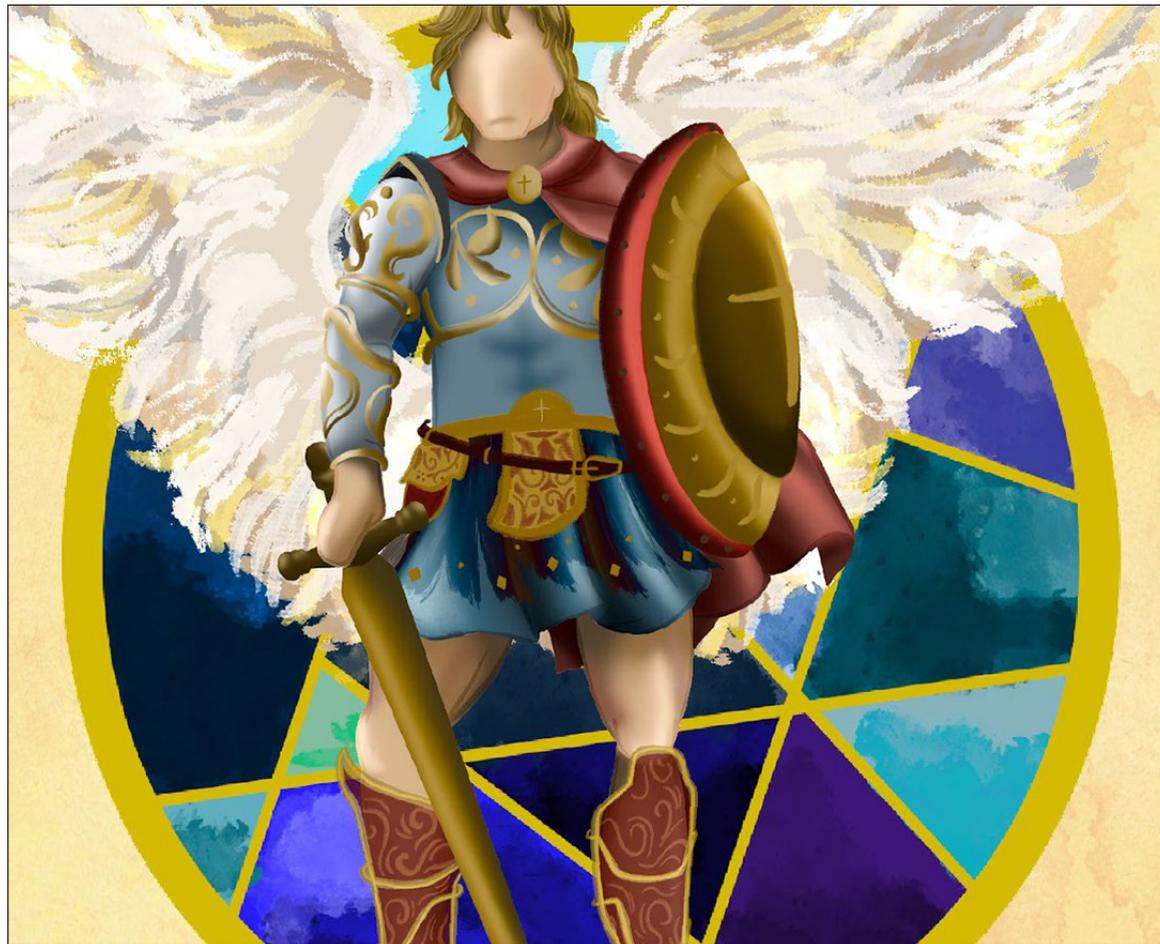
However, those doodles are now featured in the 2022 calendar produced by the Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women in the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

Proceeds from the calendar help fund affiliate dues for parish women’s groups in the deanery that struggle to come up with the funds. The calendar came about after the council’s president, Nancy Reading, asked Gauchay if they could use her images of the saints for the fundraiser.

That calendar led to Gauchay, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and her work being featured as the cover story for the March issue of *The Catholic Woman*. This came about after the calendars caught the eye of the president of the National Council of Catholic Women, Pat Voorhes, while at the Salt Lake Diocesan Council of Catholic Women convention last September. Voorhes decided she wanted Gauchay to be featured in the magazine.

“For the last little while, we have been trying to encourage younger women to join NCCW,” Voorhes told the Intermountain Catholic, Salt Lake City’s diocesan newspaper.

“When I saw Gabby’s calendar, and I spoke with her



CNS photos/courtesy Intermountain Catholic

This image of St. Michael the Archangel was created by Gabby Gauchay of Springville, Utah, whose artwork graces a fundraising calendar for the Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women. Gauchay also posts her “saintly doodles,” as she calls them, on Instagram. Her work is featured in the cover story of the March 2022 issue of *The Catholic Woman*, the quarterly magazine of the National Council of Catholic Women.

and realized that she was the president of the St. Francis of Assisi (women’s group) and very involved in CCW, I immediately thought she should definitely be one of our cover girls. She is quite the artist,” Voorhes said.

One of the first drawings Gauchay did was of Our Lady of Fatima; she since has expanded that to numerous others, including the patron saint of her parish.

For each image, she sketches the doodle on paper, then scans it into the computer and colors it digitally. She posts the images



Gabby Gauchay is seen Feb. 14, 2022, in front of the statue of St. Francis of Assisi at his namesake church in Orem, Utah, where she is a parishioner.

on Instagram, where she has been surprised by the size of her following, and also makes them into prayer cards, which she hands out at church and in the confirmation classes she teaches.

“I love to print them out. That’s my favorite thing, to see them come alive,” she said.

A cradle Catholic, Gauchay moved with her family to Orem, Utah, from Northern California when she was in the fifth grade. Used to being surrounded by other Catholics, she was surprised by some of the experiences she had in her new community, where the predominant religion is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One of her earliest memories in Utah was proudly wearing a beautiful pair of dangling cross earrings to school, only to have a boy scornfully ask why she was wearing crosses on her ears.

“That was a pivotal point in my life where I asked myself, ‘Why do I wear the crosses; why does my faith recognize that; what can I say, how can I teach someone who is not open to being taught?’” she said.

Now Gauchay is president of her parish’s Council of Catholic Women, the Women of St. Francis. She is thrilled with this new role. In her early years in Orem, she wanted to attend a Catholic youth group to have somewhere to go on Wednesday nights, just like her Latter-day Saints friends, she said.

“Now I’m grateful. I have this community,” she said. “I have a community I have always longed for. I am so grateful for the opportunity I have to serve the ladies and the community that so well served me growing up.”

She has been involved with the catechism classes since her own confirmation. She also has taught first Communion and first-grade religion classes.

“Then somehow I landed on the teenagers, and that truly is the passion of my life,” said Gauchay, who for the last five years has taught her parish’s confirmation classes.

The Holy Spirit let her know that she was needed by the teenagers, she said, adding, “I know what it’s like to grow up here in Utah Valley as a Catholic.”

“It is hard being in the minority with something so important to you, your religion,” she said. “I feel like growing up here in Utah, it will make your faith or it will break your faith. At an early age, I was really in tune with my faith because I wanted to answer the questions that were being asked of me.

“I want to give that gift, the knowledge of their faith, why they are here, to these kids too,” she said.

Peterson writes for the Intermountain Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

Photographers & Writers

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Lessons from Ukraine's witness

Putin's war is teaching us something about ourselves, if we are paying attention. The scenes of brave Ukrainians standing in front of tanks, making Molotov cocktails, picking up arms to fight an overwhelming aggressor, taps into some powerful American myths about righteous struggles and David vs. Goliath contests.

Think of "High Noon" with Gary Cooper taking on a band of killers. Think of "Red Dawn," a Cold War fantasy of high school students resisting Soviet invaders. Think of any "Star Wars" film with the resistance always on the verge of extinction from the Emperor's endless supply of storm troopers.

Despite having been the world's most powerful nation for decades, we still see ourselves as Gary Cooper, as defenders of the underdog. And because we see ourselves this way, we feel a tremendous sympathy for the Ukrainian people enduring this violent and unprovoked aggression.

The Ukrainians' willingness to risk their lives for their homeland, their passionate defense of their country even at great cost, is a powerful display of patriotism. Ukrainian civilians blocking the road to the country's nuclear power plant with their bodies is breathtakingly heroic.

But it isn't just the Ukrainian courage in the face of an overwhelming foe. It is the spirit of the people. Our greatest strength is our unity, one Ukrainian told a reporter. What American cannot feel a catch in his throat when he hears those words.

These days, that is a strength we lack. We are a house not just divided, but torn asunder. And when we see the Ukrainians united even in the bomb shelters and the hospitals, on the front lines and on social media, I think we envy them.

The willingness to bear up under tremendous suffering is evident also in the exhausted refugees fleeing to Ukraine's neighbors – Poland, Hungary, Moldova. Almost exclusively women and children seek shelter while their husbands and fathers and sons are conscripted to fight the invaders. Our concerns about gas prices, supply chains and masks seem trivial in comparison.

We can identify with the Ukrainians, but it is harder for us to admit that there are many war victims and many refugees just in this century that we have not felt the same kinship with.

People are streaming to our border, fleeing Putin-friendly dictatorships like Nicaragua and Venezuela, failed states like Haiti or countries broken by gangs and corruption, but many of us do not look on them with the same sympathy.

And while we applaud the Poles and Hungarians for receiving the Ukrainian refugees so generously, there are states in our country that would like to punish organizations helping the refugees at our doors.

Ukraine has for a moment united us. Its ordeal has united the world. But if there is a lesson to be learned here, it is that our empathy must be more than a momentary emotion sparked by



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

the graphic images on the evening news.

The lesson of Ukraine, of COVID-19, of the huddled masses at our border, the victims of opioids filling our rural health clinics and the gunshot victims in our cities is that emotion is not enough. It is not a substitute for true solidarity.

We need to recover a culture of the common good, a concern for the least among us, the voiceless and the suffering. We need to think about the "we" a lot more than the "I."

"Every citizen is responsible for the common good," said Pope Francis. "And for Christians, it is also a mission." It is the foundation of Catholic social teaching, but it really is more basic than that. It is loving our neighbor as our self.

Greg Erlandson, Director and Editor-in-Chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

Allow God to fill you up

Normally I scroll past things like this, but something about it caught my eye. One of my friends had reposted a lengthy message on Facebook — basically what amounts to a modern-day email forward. Remember those?

The post shared the story of a little boy who was struggling, an 8-year-old who needed a break, needed a hug and needed just to be reassured of a parent's love. The mother writing the story shared how, seeing her son in tears, she had pulled him close to her, held him tightly and "asked if he could feel my love filling him up." Several minutes went by as she and her son stood together, holding one another, as the mother reassured and "refilled" her little boy with her love. It was just what he needed.

Attached to the post, my friend had commented how she had tried this with two of her young boys that week, and that it had been an exercise for the good. But then she said something unexpected. She, too, had tried it. After hugging her sons close to her heart and letting them be refilled with her own maternal love, she opened her own heart to God, asking him to "fill me from my toes to my head with His love." It was just what she needed.

I've been thinking about this a lot as we get deeper into Lent. We spend so much time preparing to have the "Best Lent Ever." We make plans about what we will "do" — what we will sacrifice or add onto our schedules, or how we will be more gener-



GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN CROWE

ous, more giving or loving. All of those things are important. We should do these things. But sometimes we just need to be still. Sometimes, we just need to be filled up with God's love, from our toes to our heads, remembering that, in the words of St. Paul, "I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me" (Phil 4:13).

Into the third year of a pandemic, we are tired. Watching a shocking and unprovoked war unfold on the European continent, we are on edge. Even going about the business of daily life, we can feel overwhelmed. The Lord beckons to us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

Pope Francis, who has so often written of the importance of taking time to be silent in the presence of God, wrote sagely in *Gaudete et Exsultate*: "The presence of constantly new gadgets, the excitement of travel and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard. We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and by an increasing din, filled not by

CROWE, page 13

Encountering God leads to conversion, eternal life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Lent Luke 13:1-9

In the first reading from the Book of Exodus, Moses encountered God. Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock when suddenly an angel appeared and led Moses to a bush. The bush, although on fire, did not burn. Then God spoke; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His identity was clear.

God, always with the people, knew of their plight. He was intervening in the situation to give the people relief. As events unfolded, Moses was the instrument of this relief. He would lead the people out of Egypt.

This reading reveals intimacy and immediacy, in God's rela-

tionship with the people. God is almighty and above all.

Moses could not stand to look upon God's face. By removing his footwear, Moses showed respect even for the ground upon which he met God.

Yet, God spoke the divine name to Moses, a supreme revelation in itself. In the Hebrew tradition, a proper name carried the very being of the person. To know a person's name was to access the person's identity. God freely spoke this name.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. Corinth's Christian community challenged Paul since the city was a reservoir of excesses and moral outrages. Christians were tempted. With cause, Paul warned them of the temptations surrounding them — indeed bombarding them. He warned them, taught them and sought to inspire them.

Recalling the history of God's people, Paul insisted that without God's guidance, without the nourishment provided by God, the people would die. What they had from earthly resources

would not protect or sustain them. With God, they would live forever.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. This reading gives one of the rare glimpses of Pontius Pilate in the Gospels outside the Passion narratives. It is hardly complimentary to him. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death was ruthless and unmerciful.

An ancient tradition is that imperial authorities eventually recalled Pilate to Rome because of his brutality; a brutality too vicious even for accepted standards of Roman governance.

He certainly had no regard whatsoever for the people of Israel, or for their religion, which worshipped the God of Israel.

Jesus said that clearly the victims of Pilate's impetuous cruelty did not deserve what they received. Jesus referred then to an accidental disaster, when 18 people were killed by a falling tower in Siloam, noting that they too were innocent. The tower simply fell on them.

All those to whom Jesus referred in the story perished,

innocent or not, unable to control evil decisions of others, or mishaps of nature or things crafted by humans. He warned that they too were vulnerable.

Jesus told the parable of the barren fig tree. The owner wanted to destroy the tree, but the vinedresser pleaded for another year, enough time to nourish the tree in the hope that it would bear fruit.

Reflection

In these Lenten readings, the Church is very frank. Just as the vinedresser pleaded for time for the tree to develop, the Church pleads for time for us, providing Lent as an opportunity for us to think and to reform.

We well may be victims of human coldness and human evil, as were the victims of Pilate's outrage. We may be victims of nature, but all humans must face the fact that they cannot rely upon themselves alone.

Eternal life alone matters, honestly speaking. As Paul said, abandoning God reaps a whirlwind of calamity.

God alone is the sure support. Lovingly, God provides guidance, support and eternal life in Jesus.

Humbly turning to God and following the Lord are the only answers. The decision belongs to us. Lent is a useful tool to be used when we seek to see reality and make our decision.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11 1 Cor 10:1-6 10-12 Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

The poison of gossip

Just last week, I was at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, Louisiana, not far from New Orleans. I was there to address about 30 Benedictine abbots from around the country who had gathered for some days of reflection and retreat. Covering the walls of the abbey church and the refectory of the St. Joseph monastery are marvelous paintings executed by Fr. Gregory de Wit, a monk of Mont César in Belgium, who worked for many years in our country at both St. Meinrad in Indiana and at St. Joseph's before he passed away in 1978. I have long admired his very distinctive, quirky and theologically informed art. In the apse of the abbey church, de Wit depicted a series of magnificent winged angels who hover over images of the seven deadly sins, conveying the profound truth that the right worship of God overcomes our spiritual dysfunction. But a novelty of de Wit's painted program is that he added an eighth deadly sin that he felt was particularly destructive within a monastery — namely, gossiping. He was right about monasteries, of course, but I would say he would have been right about pretty much any type of human community: family, school, workplace, parish, etc. Gossip is poison. Period.

De Wit's painting prophetically anticipated the magisterium of our present pope, who has often made gossip the object of particular opprobrium. Listen to this from a recent discourse of Francis: "Please, brothers and sisters, let's try not to gossip. Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse! Let's make a big effort. No gossiping!" And lest we somehow missed the point, he continued, "The devil is the biggest gossiper." This last remark is not just colorful rhetoric, for the pope well knows that the devil's two principal

names in the New Testament are diabolos (the scatterer) and Satan (the accuser). I cannot think of a better characterization of what gossip does and what it essentially is.

Not long ago, a friend sent me a YouTube video of a talk by Dave Ramsey, a business and finance consultant. With the vehemence of Pope Francis, Ramsey spoke out against gossip in the workplace, specifying that he has a no-tolerance policy in regard to the practice. Helpfully, he defined gossip as follows: discussing anything negative with someone who can't solve the problem. To make things a bit more concrete, a person in your organization would be gossiping if he were grousing about IT issues with a colleague who had no competence or authority to resolve IT matters. Or someone would be gossiping if she expressed anger at her boss to people down the chain of command who were in absolutely no position to respond constructively to her criticism.

Ramsey provides a pointed example from his own experience. He recounts that he had a meeting with his entire administrative team, outlining a new approach that he wanted them to adopt. He left the gathering, but then realized he had forgotten his keys

and so made his way back to the room. There he discovered that "a meeting after the meeting" was taking place, led by one of his staffers who, with her back to door, was loudly and vociferously denouncing the boss to the others. Without hesitation, Ramsey summoned the woman to his office and, in accord with his zero-tolerance for gossiping policy, fired her.

Mind you, none of this is to say that problems never arise within human societies, still less that complaints should never be voiced. But it is indeed to say that they should be expressed non-belligerently and up the chain of command, precisely to

selves and let the Lord enter."

We need to allow God to fill us up. We need to allow ourselves time to be reminded that He loves us, that He is here for us, and that we can rely on Him through any difficulties. We can do this at Mass, kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament, at home or even in the car. The important thing is that we make the time to open our hearts to



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

those who can deal constructively with them. If that method is followed, gossip is not in play.

I might supplement Ramsey's insight with one from John Shea, a former teacher of mine. Years ago, Shea told us that we should feel utterly free to criticize another person precisely in the measure and to the degree that we are willing to help the person deal with the problem that we've identified. If we are utterly committed to help, we should criticize as vigorously as we like. If we have a moderate willingness to help, our critique should be mitigated. If, as is typically the case, we haven't the slightest inclination to help, we should keep our mouths shut. To direct a complaint non-belligerently up the chain of command is to be helpful; to direct it down the chain of command and in meanness of spirit is to gossip — and that's the devil's work.

Might I make a friendly suggestion? We are in Lent, the Church's great season of penitence and self-discipline. Instead of giving up desserts or smoking this Lent, give up gossiping. For forty days, try not to comment negatively to those who have no ability to deal with the problem. And if you feel tempted to break this resolution, think of de Wit's angels hovering over you. Trust me, you and everyone around you will be a lot happier.

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

Him. Because sometimes, to be filled from toes to head and back again, is just what we need.

Gretchen R. Crowe is Editorial Director for Periodicals at OSV.

CROWE, from page 12

joy but rather by the discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heart-felt dialogue with God? Finding that space may prove painful but it is always fruitful. Sooner or later, we have to face our true

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 20, 2022

Luke 13:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: A lesson about changing our ways. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

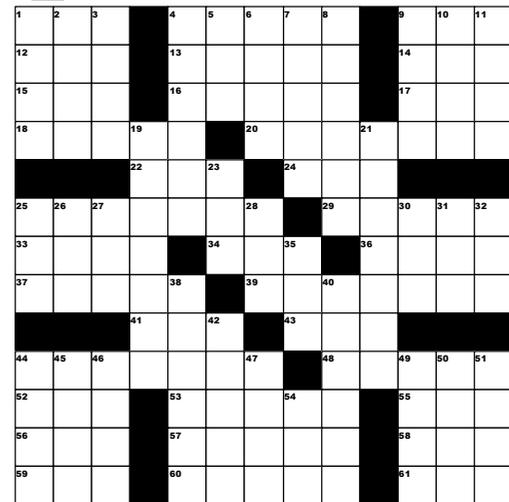
GALILEANS	WHOSE BLOOD	PILATE
MINGLED	SACRIFICE	SUFFERED
REPENT	PERISH	EIGHTEEN
KILLED	TOWER	SILOAM
FELL ON	PARABLE	FIG TREE
FRUIT	GARDENER	THREE
YEARS	CUT IT	SOIL

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The CrossWord

March 20 and 27, 2022



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Readings: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/ 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 & Jos 5:9a, 10-12/ 2 Cor 5:17-21/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

ACROSS

- 1 Advertisements
- 4 Devil does to Jesus in desert
- 9 "All the same spiritual food"
- 12 Eat
- 13 Henry in French
- 14 "Gardener did around fig tree"
- 15 Flightless bird
- 16 Do over
- 17 Dekagram (abbr.)
- 18 Abraham's first name
- 20 First Bible book
- 22 20A (abbr.)
- 24 Fox hole
- 25 "God was not ___ with them."
- 29 Makes an agreement
- 33 Indian wrap
- 34 Can metal
- 36 Legend
- 37 Discordant string noise
- 39 Ease
- 41 ___ Lanka
- 43 Tiny
- 44 Idiomatic
- 48 Sacred song
- 52 Government agency
- 53 Hesitate
- 55 Fish eggs
- 56 Apostles were 12 ___
- 57 Avid
- 58 Sea eagle
- 59 "Their ___ is

- Destruction."
- 60 Mary, Queen of ___
- 61 Join numbers

DOWN

- 1 On the water
- 2 ___ waiter
- 3 Short branch rail line
- 4 London river
- 5 Electroencephalograph
- 6 Get caught on
- 7 Brought to court
- 8 "Father I have ___ against heaven"
- 9 Totals
- 10 Carved Polynesian pendant
- 11 Omelet ingredient
- 19 Opposed
- 21 "___ of the cross"
- 23 Fishermen use
- 25 Pacific Time
- 26 Ten Commandment are
- 27 Epoch
- 28 Directory (abbr.)
- 30 "Yes, Captain"
- 31 Loan to Value ratio
- 32 That girl
- 35 "In Christ a ___ creation"
- 38 Complains
- 40 Jesus cured 10
- 42 Abraham, ___ and Jacob
- 44 District of ancient Attica
- 45 Unseal
- 46 God gave this as a possession
- 47 Hunchback of Notre Dame's creator
- 49 Size of a surface
- 50 He brought Abram from Ur
- 51 Heal
- 54 Game, __, match

Answer key can be found on page 15

Father Wilfred Logsdon, OFM enters into eternal life

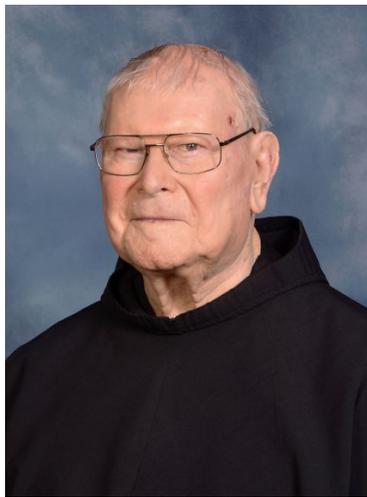
BY JENNIFER BARTON

The Catholic community in Angola is mourning the loss of one of their friars, Father Wilfrid Logsdon, OFM, after his passing into the next life at the age of 89. Father Wilfrid spent the last years of his retirement at St. Anthony of Padua Parish and peacefully left this world on March 3.

Father Logsdon was born outside of Carey, Ohio, in Salem Township on August 25, 1932. He was one of ten children – nine boys and one girl – of Wilfrid and Emma Logsdon, and given the name Clarence Wilfrid. Prior to entering the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Father Logsdon studied at Mount St. Francis Pro-Seminary in Indiana. He professed his simple vows on July 5, 1951, and his solemn vows on July 11, 1955. He was ordained on Feb. 22, 1959, at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Growing up on a farm, Father Logsdon was a large man. Patti Webster, office manager at St. Anthony of Padua described him as “a gentle giant. He was always at daily Mass, celebrated daily Mass. He was wonderful to talk to, very friendly; would hear your confession anywhere.”

She recalled his visits to the parish office and his lighthearted



FATHER WILFRED LOGSDON, OFM

mannerisms. He was a bit of a “jokester,” as Webster said, and had a good rapport with parishioners. He was known for his compassion and willingness to do the work of the Lord in all things. Though he was nearing 90, Webster stated that he still maintained his independence as much as possible, and had even gone to the hospital to anoint a parishioner from St. Paul Chapel a mere two days before he himself lost consciousness.

Father Logsdon served in Angola on three separate occasions; from 1950-1951 in his novitiate, from 1978-1988 as associate pastor and the designated vicar for St. Paul Chapel and from 2014 until this year, spending his retirement years in residence there. Throughout

his priestly ministry, he also pastored parishes in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky and briefly in Nebraska, and served as a chaplain for hospitals and correctional facilities for a time. Twenty-one years of his life were spent outside of the Midwest, when he volunteered to become a missionary in the southern state of Georgia. “He allowed himself to become very much a southerner, at home with the people – although to the last, he refused to wear his baseball cap backwards!” said Father Bob Showers, OFM, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua.

He was also instrumental in aiding at least one young man in his discernment process when he served as pastor of a church in Waupun, Wisconsin. One day, a young parishioner approached him to say that he, too, wanted to become a Franciscan priest. That man was Father Showers. “When I was 14 years old, he inspired me to become a Franciscan like he was,” Father Showers stated.

The visitation for Father Logsdon was held at St. Anthony of Padua on Thursday, March 10, followed by requiem vespers. His funeral Mass was held on Saturday, March 12, at St. Anthony de Padua, with a second funeral Mass to be held closer to his birthplace at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio on March 26.

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FISH FRYS

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus and Jerry's fish frying service will be offering an all-you-can-eat fish fry at St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., on Friday, March 18, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meals include homemade macaroni and cheese or freshly made seasoned potato wedges, coleslaw, green beans and beverage. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children age 12 and younger.

St. Jude drive-thru fish fry

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Knights of Columbus will have a drive-thru fish fry from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, March 18, at the church, 2130 Pemberton Dr. Serving fish, coleslaw, applesauce, a roll and tartar sauce for \$12. Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or kchurch@stjudefw.org.

St. Paul's Catholic Chapel Booster fish fry

FREMONT — St. Paul Chapel, 8780 E. 700 N., will have an all-you-can-eat fish fry Friday, March 18, from 5-7 p.m. with french fries, mac and cheese, cheesy potatoes, corn casserole, green beans, rolls, coleslaw, applesauce and dessert. Dine-in and carryout available. Tickets are \$12 for adults 13 and older, \$5 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger. Contact Katie Waltke at 260-665-2259 or katie@stpaulcatholic-chapel.org.

St. Bavo Parish original Jonah fish fry

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Parish, 524 W. 8th St., will be hosting a drive-thru only original Jonah fish fry on Friday, March 25, from 4-7 p.m. Cost is \$12 per boxed dinner and includes four pieces of fish, coleslaw, chips, roll and cookies. Cash only. No advance sales. Contact Sue Alwine at 574-255-1437 or office@stbavochurch.com.

Knights of Columbus fish fry featuring Dan's Fish

BLUFFTON — St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 25, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12. Contact Rick Singer at 260-273-2460 or richardwilliamsinger@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus fish fry

FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council 11276 is sponsoring a fish fry on Friday, March 25, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Dine in the parish hall or drive up and get your meal

to go. Adult meals are \$12 and child meals are \$7. Adult meals consist of six pieces of hand breaded fish catered by Dan's Fish Fry, potato wedges, coleslaw and tartar sauce. Kid meals consist of either three pieces of fish and potato wedges or mac-and-cheese and applesauce.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

ANGOLA — The Knights of Columbus will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 25, from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Anthony Church, 700 W Maumee St.

REST IN PEACE

Angola Mary M. Chrysler, 89, St. Anthony of Padua	Anna M. Brough, 101, St. Joseph	Susan Kieffer, 69, St. Vincent de Paul
Albert C. Oldenburg, 76, St. Anthony of Padua	Marcos Gaytan, still-born, St. Joseph	David Schmitz, 69, St. Vincent de Paul
Cyndi K. Roller, 73, St. Anthony of Padua	José R. Lopez-Lemus, 32, St. Joseph	Goshen Socorro Pizaña de Pedroza, 72, St. John the Evangelist
Linda K. Hook, 56, St. Paul Chapel	Olivia Puryear, 93, St. Joseph	Granger Kurt Weinzetl, 68, St. Pius X
Bremen Jeanette Shriener, 97, St. Dominic	Oscar A. Salgado, 20, St. Joseph	Huntington Donald E. Bartrom, 83, SS. Peter and Paul
Fort Wayne Zachary J. DiFilippo, 39, St. Charles Borromeo	Michael Barnes, 79, St. Jude	Ralph E. Johnson, 85, SS. Peter and Paul
John J. Lawlor, 92, St. Charles Borromeo	Clayton Hetrick, 91, St. Jude	Mishawaka Margie Armstrong, 89, Queen of Peace
Maureen Gonser, 65, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Nancy Lawrence, 81, St. Jude	Frank Zappia, Jr., 83, Queen of Peace
Angie M. Bonilla, 24, St. Joseph	Ralph Parris, 60, St. Jude	Warren Chamberlin, 85, St. Monica
	Phyllis Schleitwiler, 94, St. Jude	
	Sheila Swinehart-Barchak, 81, St. Jude	



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Director of Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministry

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington, IN, are seeking a qualified person or persons to be responsible for the on-going pastoral/spiritual and liturgical needs of their Sisters.

This is a full-time position with a dual role of pastoral care and liturgical ministry. It could also be a part-time ministry for liturgical ministry and part-time for the pastoral/spiritual care.

The candidate will be responsible for providing spiritual offerings and religious activities; coordinating sacramental services; coordinating retreats, days of reflection and spiritual direction for the Sisters; being available during times of grief, crisis, death and transitions.

The candidate will serve in the capacity as liturgical coordinator for the weekly and Sunday liturgy; work with the cantors and organist; prepare the liturgical environment in the chapel; coordinate everything related to special liturgies for the OLVM community, including funerals, feast days, and special community events.

The candidate must be a Catholic in good standing with knowledge and understanding of the Sacramental and Liturgical life of the Roman Catholic Church. Must have an understanding of religious life; education and experience in pastoral care and liturgical and spiritual practices.

Qualified and interested candidates are invited to email a letter of interest and résumé by April 10, 2022 to:

Sister Lucille Martinez, OLVM
1900 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
lucillemartinez@olvm.org

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**

The CrossWord

March 20 and 27, 2022

A	D	S	T	E	S	T	S	A	T	E		
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St. Patrick and Abraham: stewards of God's covenant

BY JENNIFER BARTON

For one day, the Western world seeks to become Irish. Around March 17, t-shirts proclaim things like "Kiss me, I'm Irish" and a slew of "Lucky" slogans and shamrocks burst into every area of merchandising like performers in a flash mob. Sometimes Catholics even think that St. Patrick's feast day negates the Lenten requirement of abstaining from meat, which it doesn't. Bars are crammed full of revelers celebrating the well-known "holiday." How did honoring the saint who converted the Emerald Isle become nothing more than an occasion to drink green beer?

St. Patrick was more than a bishop in green robes holding a shamrock. At different points in his life, he had been a slave, a stranger in a foreign land and a man who influenced countless numbers of people who followed him.

In many ways, he was like Abraham of the Old Testament. Like St. Patrick, Abraham was called by God to leave the people, places and things that were comfortable to him and to journey to another land. Both men became great leaders of multitudes of people. Through Abraham, the Jewish people, God's chosen people, were quite literally born. Through St. Patrick, one small nation was converted to Christianity, and through that nation much of Europe.

Ireland is commonly known as "The Land of Saints and Scholars," and for good reason. In the book "Triumph: The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church," H.W. Crocker III outlined St. Patrick's influence throughout the whole of Europe at a time when the Roman Empire was crumbling under invasion by groups such as the Visigoths. He explained that St. Patrick was able to teach the Irish in a manner free from corruption of the heresies that had long plagued Europe.

"Patrick not only Christianized Ireland, but inspired a missionary diaspora from the Emerald Isle to Europe, promoting a Catholicism that was perfectionist in its monastic thrust," Crocker wrote.

Various sources, including the website www.Biography.com, state that Patrick was likely not the given name of the fifth-century saint, though his birth name is not known with complete certainty. This is yet another commonality he has with the Jewish patriarch, Abraham. The changing of both men's names pointed toward the change in their lives and their God-given callings.

In a homily given by Father Luke Okoye, parochial vicar



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after him, such as St. Brigid of Kildare and St. Columba – established monasteries throughout Ireland. These monasteries brought forth missionaries to the rest of Britain and mainland Europe. Crocker also wrote that the Irish "became masters of rhetoric and scholarship, which were elsewhere being trampled under barbarian heels. Irish monks would thus become the tutors of Europe."

"Green martyrdom" became an attribute of Irish monasticism. Thomas Cahill spoke of this in his book "How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe." Knowing that unlike the martyrs, they would not lose their lives for God, they chose to give them up in a different way – by "leaving behind the comforts and pleasures of ordinary human society" to inhabit desolate places "to study the scriptures and commune with God," wrote Cahill.

Irish aestheticism sacrificed everything to deepen the relationship between men and God, the same way that Abraham was willing to sacrifice everything – including his own son – in his devotion to God. This was rewarded with descendants as numerous as the stars, as the Genesis reading proclaimed.

Years after St. Patrick converted much of Ireland, the Irish converted their neighbors. Cahill continued: "Just as the new English invaded the old Celtic territories, the Irish monks launched a spiritual invasion of England from their island monastery of Lindisfarne in the northeast corner of Northumbria, establishing new monasteries in brisk succession." Similar to Abraham are the sundry heirs of St. Patrick, the beneficiaries of his evangelization.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend alone, there are six churches named for the great saint: one in both Fort Wayne and South Bend, Arcola, Walkerton, Ligonier and an oratory in Lagro. These parishes and others not named for St. Patrick were established and built by Irish immigrants who came to northeast Indiana for work, carrying their faith with them.

As Father Okoye indicated in his homily, all Christians who hear God's call and allow themselves to be transformed through obedience can do great things for the Lord, spreading the faith as Abraham and St. Patrick did.

at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, he spoke about Abraham and the changes that God wrought in his heart and his life. He pointed to the reading for the second Sunday in Lent in which God established His covenant with Abraham. "Abraham was transformed into a father of nations simply because he obeyed," Father Okoye said.

He further expounded on the idea of transformation; the transformation that takes place at every Eucharistic celebration and the personal transformation in which God changes the hearts of His children. Lent in particular is a time to allow and encourage this change, when all should say to God, "Change me, transform me," as Father Okoye stated.

God called both Abraham and St. Patrick to leave their homeland and without question, both went forth. In Genesis, God promised Abraham, "I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

Both Abraham and St. Patrick exemplified this conversion and blessing with their lives. They became blessings for the nations, spreading the faith beyond the borders of the lands in which they lived. As bishop, St. Patrick – and the holy men and women who came