

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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**Pope: 'There is no justification' for
'sacrilegious' war on Ukraine**

CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis blesses a child as he visits Ukrainian children being treated at the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome on March 19, 2022. The next day, Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered for the Angelus prayer that among the patients, there was a child who is missing an arm and another with a head wound as a result of the Russian bombing of Ukraine.

CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis again condemned Russia's war on Ukraine, calling it a "senseless massacre" and "sacrilegious" attack on human life.

"Sadly, the violent aggression against Ukraine does not stop, a senseless massacre where each day slaughter and atrocities are repeated," the pope said on March 20 after reciting the midday Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

"There is no justification for this!" he told an estimated 30,000 people who had come to the square to pray with him.

Pope Francis once again urged international leaders to work together to put an end "to this repugnant war."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, missiles and bombs have continued to fall "on civilians, the elderly, children and pregnant mothers," he said.

"I went to see the wounded

children here in Rome. One of them is missing an arm, the other has a head wound," he said. That happened to "innocent children."

The pope had gone on March 19 to the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital where some 50 Ukrainian children had been cared for since the war began. Initially, the Vatican said, most of the young Ukrainian patients were brought to Rome for treatment for cancer, neurological or other diseases.

More recently, it said, the hospital has been providing care for those injured in the war.

Pope Francis also drew attention to the almost 3.4 million people who have fled Ukraine, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency.

"And I feel great sorrow for those who don't even have the chance to escape," he said.

"So many grandparents, sick and poor, are separated from their families," the pope said; "so many children and fragile people are left to die under the bombs without receiving help and without finding

safety even in air-raid shelters," some of which have been bombed.

"All this is inhuman," he said. "Indeed, it is even sacrilegious, because it goes against the sanctity of human life, especially against defenseless human life, which must be respected and protected, not eliminated, and which comes before any strategy!"

"Do not forget," the pope said, "it is cruel, inhuman and sacrilegious!"

Pope Francis also expressed his gratitude for the bishops, priests and religious who have stayed with their people, living "under the bombs." They are "living the Gospel of charity and fraternity."

"Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for this witness and for the concrete support you are courageously offering to so many desperate people," the pope said.

He specifically mentioned Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas, the Lithuania-born nuncio to Ukraine, "who since the beginning of the war has remained in Kyiv" and is a sign of the pope's close-

ness "to the tormented Ukrainian people."

Pope Francis urged everyone to continue to pray for peace, to pray for the people of Ukraine and to offer concrete assistance to them.

"And, please, let's not get used to war and violence," he said. "Let's not tire of welcoming them (the refugees) with generosity, as we are doing."

The assistance will need to continue for "weeks and months to come," especially for the women and children forced to flee without their husbands and fathers and without work, which makes them targets of human traffickers, whom the pope called "vultures."

Finally, the pope asked "every community and every believer to join me on Friday, March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, in making a solemn act of consecration of humanity, especially of Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that she, the Queen of Peace, may obtain peace for the world."

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Nonstop bombing, exploding buildings: Priest describes Mariupol attacks

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – A Ukrainian priest described escaping from his bombed-out parish in Mariupol and said he still hopes some Catholics will survive the relentless Russian onslaught.

Pauline Father Pavlo Tomaszewski said the decision to leave was not easy, “but when they started shelling the whole city, we realized we’d have to go.”

“They bombed and shelled us without any break for four days – since our monastery had no cellar for hiding in, we could see tall apartment blocks exploding in front of us,” said the priest, who comes from the western city of Kamenets-Podolsky but studied in neighboring Poland.

“Although there’d been water, food and gas and electricity supplies at the beginning, these were deliberately hit to cut off what people needed for daily survival. By the end, with no sense of time, we’d lost any contact with parishioners or with the outside world.”

The priest spoke at a March 18 virtual news meeting organized by the pontifical agency Aid to the Church in Need, as Russia’s Defense Ministry confirmed its forces were “tightening the noose” around Mariupol, a port city on the Sea of Azov. Up to 90% of all buildings in the city were reported damaged.

Father Tomaszewski said he had headed Mariupol’s Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, incorporating multiple ethnicities, including Ukrainians and Russians, since 2011. He worked with two other priests and two St. Vincent de Paul nuns.

He said Catholics had begun leaving, “insecure and frightened,” in 2014, when fighting erupted with Moscow-backed separatists in the self-declared Donetsk People’s Republic, but said Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion had been “completely unexpected” and inflicted “unimaginable suffering.”

Since the invasion, Russian troops have attempted to capture Mariupol, a city of 446,000 between the Crimean Peninsula and Ukraine’s separatist-controlled Donbas region.

Father Tomaszewski said Russian forces had targeted civilians from the outset, bombing and shelling Mariupol’s eastern districts, but had intensified “atrocities against the innocent population” in retaliation for Ukrainian resistance.

The priest added that he had seen three women torn apart by an artillery shell when they went out in search of water.

In a March 16 TV message, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said remaining inhab-



CNS photo/Alexander Ermochenko, Reuters

A woman reacts in front of destroyed apartment buildings in Mariupol, Ukraine, March 17, 2022. A theater in Mariupol, where hundreds of people are said to have taken shelter, has sustained heavy damage after it was bombed by Russian forces.

itants were now without food and water, and he compared the situation to the 1941-44 German siege of Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, Russia.

Russian forces were accused of bombing a Mariupol maternity hospital on March 9 and a historic theater sheltering local people on March 16, as well as shelling a Mariupol swimming pool complex housing women and children and a convoy of cars evacuating civilians. Although the incidents have been documented on video, Russians have denied the claims.

Father Tomaszewski said he and another Pauline priest had feared taking icons, chalices and other valuables with them, for fear of being robbed, when they headed north by car toward Zaporizhzhia.

He added that he had witnessed people “behaving like wild animals” on the way, along with leveled residential buildings

and burned-out tanks. He said he and other refugees, now in a convoy of 100 cars, had expected to be shot when they were stopped by 40 heavily armed separatists at a checkpoint and told only women and children could pass.

“Some families had already run out of petrol. Though I saw women begging the soldiers on their knees to allow their menfolk to accompany them, the military insisted they’d received orders,” the priest said.

“Hours later, as if sent by God, a local villager arrived and offered to take us in so we wouldn’t freeze to death. Although some people were initially afraid to follow him off the main road, he and others were very kind, even giving us warm beds.”

Father Tomaszewski said most Catholic priests and nuns had resolved to stay with their communities nationwide, but

added that some had been forced to flee as Russia’s “scorched-earth policy” destroyed local infrastructure.

He said he was unaware how many Mariupol Catholics had been killed and injured, but added that the war had created a “huge gulf” between Ukrainians and Russians who previously lived together peacefully.

“No images, pictures or videos can ever reproduce what it’s like to be caught up in this war – but our Church will always be with people, showing the face of Christ,” the priest said.

“While there’s no peace, all the diplomatic talks and discussions won’t help the ordinary men, women and children now being bombed and killed daily. Though I’m worried about the beautiful monastery and church I left behind, I’m also hopeful some of our parishioners may still be alive.”



CNS photo/Paul Haring

The dome of St. Peter's Basilica is pictured at the Vatican on July 12, 2019. On March 19, 2022, Pope Francis promulgated the long-awaited constitution reorganizing the Roman Curia.

Pope promulgates Curia reform, emphasizing missionary nature

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Nine years after taking office, Pope Francis promulgated his constitution reforming the Roman Curia, a project he began with his international College of Cardinals shortly after taking office in 2013.

“*Praedicate Evangelium*” (“Preach the Gospel”), which was published only in Italian by the Vatican on March 19, will go into effect June 5, the feast of Pentecost.

Merging some congregations and pontifical councils and raising the status of others – particularly the charitable office of the papal almoner – Pope Francis said he hoped the constitution would ensure that the offices of the Vatican fulfill their mission in helping promote the Church as a community of missionary disciples, sharing the Gospel and caring for all those in need.

Part of that effort, he wrote, requires including more laypeople in Curia leadership positions.

“This new apostolic constitution proposes to better harmonize the present exercise of the Curia’s service with the path of evangelization that the church, especially in this season, is living,” the pope wrote in the document.

To emphasize the importance of the Church’s missionary nature, in the new constitution Pope Francis specified that he is the prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization; he will be assisted by a “pro-prefect” for

“basic questions regarding evangelization in the world” and a “pro-prefect” for “the first evangelization and the new particular churches,” those previously supported by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

In a similar way, until 1968, the popes were prefects of what became the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“*Pastor Bonus*” began its description of the doctrinal congregation’s responsibility saying, “The proper duty of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world; so, it has competence in things that touch this matter in any way.”

The new constitution begins its description by saying, “The task of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith is to assist the Roman pontiff and the bishops-eparchs in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, promoting and safeguarding the integrity of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, drawing on the deposit of faith and also seeking an ever deeper understanding of it in the face of new questions.”

The new constitution does away with the previous distinctions between “congregations” and “pontifical councils,” referring to all of them simply as “dicasteries.”

In addition to creating the Dicastery for the Service of Charity in place of the almoner’s office, the constitution merges the Congregation for

the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization into the new Dicastery for Evangelization, and it merges the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture into the new Dicastery for Culture and Education.

“*Praedicate Evangelium*” replaces St. John Paul II’s 1988 constitution, “*Pastor Bonus*,” but, unlike it, does not reserve the leadership of certain offices only to cardinals and bishops, although the individual statutes of those offices may make such a specification.

However, Pope Francis wrote in the document that offices that have “their own statutes and laws shall observe them only insofar as they are not opposed to the present apostolic constitution and shall propose their adaptation for the approval of the Roman pontiff as soon as possible.”

Insisting that every Christian is “a missionary disciple,” the constitution said, the reform of the Curia also needed to “provide for the involvement of laymen and women, including in roles of governance and responsibility.”

The participation of laypeople “is indispensable, because they cooperate for the good of the whole Church and, because of their family life, their knowledge of social realities and their faith that leads them to discover God’s paths in the world, they can make valid contributions, especially when it comes to the promotion of the family and



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, March 29: 5:45p.m. – Diocesan Review Board Meeting, Oakwood Resort, Syracuse
 Wednesday, March 30: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, Most Precious Blood Church, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, March 31: 9 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Mary of the Assumption Church/St. Joseph School, Decatur
 Friday, April 1: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Bernard Church, Wabash
 Saturday, April 2: 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Plymouth
 Sunday, April 3: 10 a.m. – Mass, St. Michael Church, Plymouth

respect for the values of life and creation, the Gospel as leaven for temporal realities and the discernment of the signs of the times.”

Describing the personnel of the offices, the constitution said the leadership, “as far as possible, shall come from the different regions of the world so that the Roman Curia may reflect the universality of the Church.”

They can be clergy, religious or laypeople “who are distinguished by appropriate experience, knowledge confirmed by suitable qualifications, virtue and prudence. They should be chosen according to objective and transparent criteria and have an adequate number of years of experience in pastoral activities.”

Pope Francis described the reform of the Curia as part of the “missionary conversion” of the Church, a renewal movement aimed at making it reflect more “the image of Christ’s own mission of love.”

He also linked it to the ongoing process of promoting “synodality,” a sense of the shared responsibility of all baptized Catholics for the life and mission of the Church.

True communion among all Catholics, he said, “gives the Church the face of synodality; a Church, that is, of mutual listening in which each one has something to learn: the faithful people, the College of Bishops (and) the bishop of Rome listening to the other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth.”

Addressing one of the main concerns expressed by bishops around the world in the past, the constitution said, “The Roman Curia does not stand between the pope and the bishops, but rather places itself at the service of both in ways that are proper to the nature of each.”

Pope Francis wrote that in reorganizing the Curia, he wanted to promote a “healthy decentralization” that would, at the same time, promote “co-responsibility” and communion with the bishops and among the Vatican offices.

The Curia, he said, should

support individual bishops in their mission as pastors as well as the work of bishops’ conferences and synods of Eastern Catholic bishops.

Because “the face of Christ” is reflected in the faces of his disciples, the document said, members of the Roman Curia should be “distinguished by their spiritual life, good pastoral experience, sobriety of life and love for the poor, spirit of communion and service, competence in the matters entrusted to them, and the ability to discern the signs of the times.”

In the ordering of the Roman Curia, the Secretariat of State maintains its position of leadership and coordination, but the new Dicastery for Evangelization is placed above the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The description of the organization of the doctrinal dicastery includes changes announced by Pope Francis in February, creating separate doctrinal and disciplinary sections, reflecting the growing importance of the office that investigates allegations of clerical sexual abuse and the abuse of office by bishops or religious superiors.

The constitution places the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors “within the dicastery” and says “its task is to provide the Roman pontiff with advice and consultancy and to propose the most appropriate initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable people.”

Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the commission and a member of the Council of Cardinals that drafted the constitution, said, “For the first time, Pope Francis has made safeguarding and the protection of minors a fundamental part of the structure of the church’s central government.”

“Linking the commission more closely with the work of the new Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith represents a significant move forward in upgrading the place and mandate of the commission, which can only lead to a stronger culture of safeguarding throughout the Curia and the entire Church,” he said in a statement on March 19.

Christ Child Society kicks off 75th anniversary celebration

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Not many 75-year-old organizations get to honor one of their founding members, but the Christ Child Society of South Bend was able to give its prestigious Mary Virginia Merrick Award to Barbara Dillon at a luncheon on March 14. A year before her marriage, she was the youngest woman that Rosaleen "Puddy" Crowley invited to join 14 others in this new venture in August of 1947.

Flanked by one of her four sons and his wife, Dillon called herself living proof that dinosaurs still roam the earth, declared that everyone in the room deserved an award and said, "I am awe-struck at all that has happened in 75 years." Kathy Seidl, who presented the award, recalled that Barbara originally used index cards to record information about every family that the Christ Child Society helped, including the children's ages and sizes. "She was the Intake Room," Seidl said, a job now done by five members of the ministry, and all through the use of modern computers. Another fun memory Seidl shared was of clothing kept in tubs too heavy to carry downstairs; clothes were thrown over the banister to those waiting below.

Himself a member of the Christ Child Society, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades professed his delight at celebrating Mass with members of the Society at St. Bavo in Mishawaka, kicking off a year-long celebration with the theme: "Honoring our past. Embracing the future." He began his homily by quoting from the day's Gospel from Luke: "Give and gifts will be given to you."

The bishop continued, "Since 1947, the members of your chapter of the Christ Child Society have been serving needy children of St. Joseph County, giving of your time, talents and treasure out of love for the Child Jesus and the little children in whose faces you see the face of the Child Jesus." He also underlined the importance of the Eucharist as the sacrament of charity. "The Holy Eucharist impels us today to hear the cry of the poor and to



Barbara Dillon, one of the founding members of the Christ Child Society of South Bend, is honored with the prestigious Mary Virginia Merrick Award at a luncheon on March 14 in Mishawaka.

Photos by Joshua Schipper



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass for members of the Christ Child Society of South Bend at St. Bavo Church in Mishawaka. To celebrate their 75th anniversary, he presented the organization with a framed picture of the national organization's found, Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick.



respond in love."

At the luncheon following Mass, a short film was shown about Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick, who founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 in Washington, D.C. Although a fall that she took as a teenager left her paralyzed, she developed a rich spiritual life and found creative ways to serve needy children at a time when there were few social services. She prioritized spending time among poor children, not just giving them things. Since the postulator for Merrick's canonization cause is a friend of Bishop Rhoades, he was able to gift the local Society with a framed photo of Mary Virginia Merrick with two little girls.

The Christ Child Society has always worked to "widen and deepen its activities to meet the exigencies of its time," in Mary Virginia Merrick's words. One of their earliest projects was providing layettes of handmade blankets and clothing for newborns, including angel layettes for infants who have passed away.

Brand-new and high-quality used clothing for older children, especially winter coats, soon followed, then books became a staple giveaway for the Society. School uniforms and first Communion outfits were another specific need.

Through the years, the Christ Child Society of South Bend has filled this need, beginning with the trademark layettes, with their first recipient born on Christmas Day in 1947. They also provided Christmas dinners to families in need, supplied beds and crib mattresses to meet local needs and engaged in educational programs.

More recently, Society members have been involved in tutoring at St. Adalbert School, even when they had to read online due to COVID-19. The Society even financed a field trip to the symphony for St. Adalbert students.

Members have also made a special effort to clothe refugee families and provide large duffel bags full of supplies that chil-

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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Members of the Christ Child Society of South Bend pray at Mass at St. Bavo in Mishawaka.

dren in foster care and homeless centers can call their very own. The anniversary year for the Christ Child Society of South Bend will include fundraisers like the annual appeal in May and the November Let Love Shine gala, as well as fun social events like the May Derby (hat) Day, where past presidents showcase fashions from every decade of the Society's existence. Around Mother's Day, there will be a diaper drop with the goal of collecting 60,000 diapers. On August 4, the new Clothing Center on Miracle Lane in Mishawaka will host an anniversary open house. Besides welcoming clients, volunteers shop for needed items and solicit donations within the local community. "We can pinch a penny until it screams," claimed Betsie Pendarvis, Vice President of Clothing. She was especially thrilled when Puddy Crowley's daughter in Philadelphia – one of the found-

er's ten children – offered to do some of the online shopping for them. Other volunteers sort, label and organize items. Students looking for service hours have been very helpful in this area. Recent retirees often enjoy working at the Christ Child Center. Besides camaraderie with other volunteers, member Patty Barrett says, "Baby clothing today is so adorable!" St. Bavo collected baskets of such treasures that were carried forward at the offertory during the Mass and blessed by the bishop. Despite the pandemic, 25 new members joined during the past year, bringing the total membership of the South Bend chapter to 380. Despite the large number, they are a close-knit group, supporting each other through sickness and times of grief as well as working side by side. It is not unusual for several generations of women in the same family to be involved in the organization

together. Co-President Monique Deguara from Holy Cross Church said, "The best way to handle change is to stay flexible. The Christ Child Society of South Bend is a very flexible organization while staying focused on its mission of supporting the children of St. Joseph County for the past 75 years." Co-President Patti Banet, and President-Elect Sue Seall helped Deguara read the names of deceased members, spouses and parents before Mass began. In its first 75 years, the Christ Child Society of South Bend has served more than a quarter million local children. So far, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend boasts the only two chapters in Indiana, one in Fort Wayne and the one in St. Joseph County.

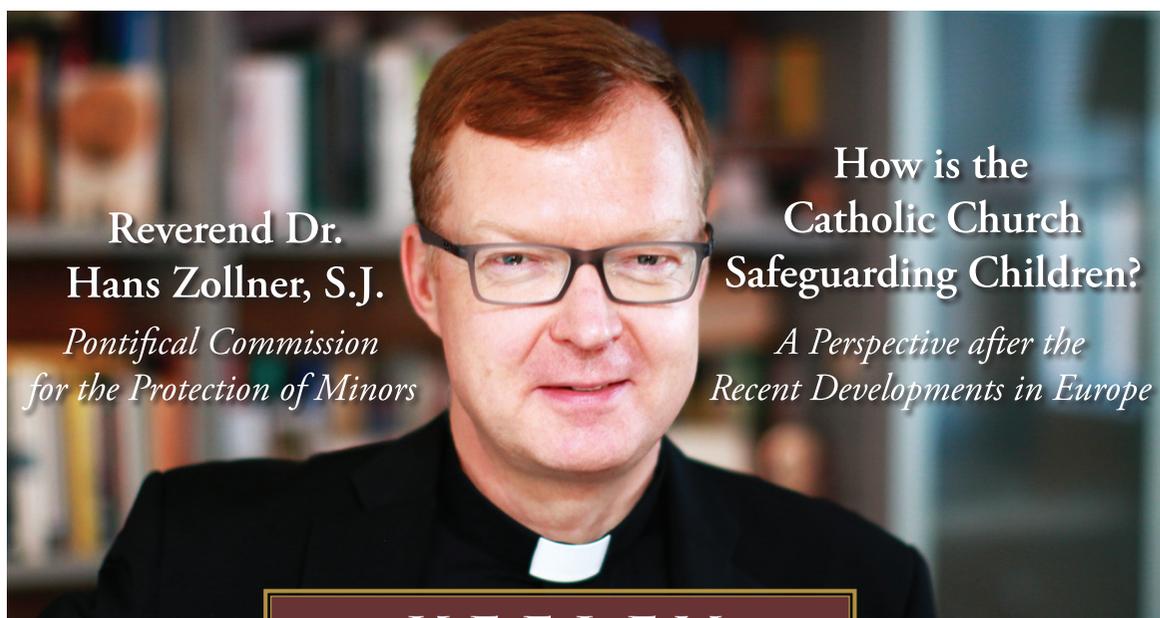


Photos by Joshua Schipper

Bishop Rhoades blesses baskets full of baby clothing that the Christ Child Society will give away to needy families as part of their layette program.

Reverend Dr. Hans Zollner, S.J.
Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

How is the Catholic Church Safeguarding Children?
A Perspective after the Recent Developments in Europe



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Pope to consecrate Russia, Ukraine to Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a penitential prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica on March 25, the Vatican said. On the same day, the Vatican said, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, will carry out a similar consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. According to the Vatican's translation of the messages of Fatima, when Mary appeared to the three shepherd children in Fatima in 1917, she told them, "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace." Warning of "war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father," Mary told the children, "to prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart." The Eastern- and Latin-rite Catholic bishops of Ukraine had been asking Pope Francis for the consecration. Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Eastern-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, said March 16, "Ukrainian Catholics have been asking for this act since the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014 (in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine) as urgently needed to avoid the worsening of the war and the dangers coming from Russia."

Top USCCB committee says Russia's 'unprovoked war on Ukraine' must end now

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on March 16 called for "the immediate cessation of Russia's armed aggression and unprovoked war on Ukraine. We are witnessing an unprecedented threat to world peace," it said in a statement. "This possibility of global warfare is compounded by the unthinkable consequences that would result from the potential use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction." The committee, led by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez as USCCB president, joined its plea with that of Pope Francis, who said on March 13: "In the name of God, listen to the cry of those who suffer, and put an end to the bombings and the attacks!" "Similar appeals have been raised throughout the Orthodox Christian world and indeed by many Russians themselves," it said, noting the war "has already exacted a staggering toll – thousands dead and an exodus of 3 million refugees – with no end in sight." The Administrative Committee, which met in Washington on March 15

NEWS BRIEFS

Conflict, flooding in South Sudan cause extreme hunger



CNS photo/Denis Dumo, Reuters

Internally displaced South Sudanese families sit outside a shelter in Jonglei on Sept. 24, 2020. Extreme hunger has forced some South Sudanese to attack humanitarian aid convoys.

and 16, operates as the USCCB's board of directors. In addition to Archbishop Gomez, its membership is made up of the USCCB's other officers, chairmen of its standing committees, as well as a representative from each episcopal region of the United States.

Cardinal Czerny meets refugees in Slovakia, Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Continuing the mission entrusted to him by Pope Francis, Cardinal Michael Czerny visited Slovakia and a Ukrainian border town to convey the pope's closeness to victims of Russia's war against Ukraine. After meeting with refugees at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border in early March, Cardinal Czerny visited the eastern Slovak city of Košice on March 16 and met with Eastern- and Latin-rite Catholic bishops before traveling to the border village of Vyšné Nemecké with Archbishop Cyril Vasil of Košice, Vatican News reported. The next day, the cardinal crossed the border into Ukraine, visiting a seminary in Uzhhorod, where students from other seminaries in Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Mukachevo, as well as several missionary families from the Neocatechumenal

Way, were staying. In a video posted on March 17 on the Twitter page of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, Cardinal Czerny told the priests and seminarians he was happy to visit and "bring you greetings directly from the Holy Father." Pope Francis, he said, "wants you to know that he is with you. He is counting on you to bring Christ in these terrible conditions."

British Parliament rejects amendment to allow assisted suicide

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) – The British Parliament threw out an attempt to legalize assisted suicide in England and Wales. Amendment 170 to the Health and Social Care Bill would have forced the British government to introduce assisted suicide legislation in the near future. But members of the House of Lords, Britain's second political chamber, rejected the amendment, 179-145, following a March 16 debate. The defeat of the amendment represents the 12th time in 25 years that the British Parliament has dismissed an attempt to legalize assisted suicide, which is punishable under the 1961 Suicide Act by up to 14 years in jail. Danny

Kruger, chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dying Well, which opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide, said: "The House of Lords has now unequivocally rejected the latest attempt to shoehorn radical assisted suicide laws on to the statute book. Given that supporters of assisted suicide have said that the House of Lords is more supportive than the (House of) Commons, this is ample evidence that assisted suicide enjoys neither momentum nor support," Kruger said in a March 16 statement posted on the group's website.

Higher prices for food, gas squeeze food banks, pantries and clients

DETROIT, MI (CNS) – A trip to the grocery store is giving shoppers sticker shock over staples such as a gallon of milk. Imagine the pocketbook pain of buying 250,000 gallons. Southeast Michigan food aid ministries, including food banks and parish-based pantries, are "absolutely" feeling the pinch of inflation as food prices rise at their fastest pace in nearly 40 years, according to those who spoke to Detroit

Catholic, the archdiocesan news outlet. Granted, most aren't shopping at the local supermarket, but the impact of rising prices is there. "Inflation is definitely having an effect in terms of our costs," said Stacy Averill, vice president of community giving and public relations for Detroit-based Gleaners Community Food Bank. "Two of our largest costs as an organization are food and staffing. From the food perspective, we are definitely seeing substantial increases in the cost of items that we purchase and make available through our distribution." The U.S. consumer price index, which measures the impact of inflation across a range of categories, rose 7.9% in February, the steepest one-month gain since 1982. Food prices, which are among the most volatile commodities, rose an average of 3.9% in 2021. So far, ministries such as Gleaners have been able to keep pace with demand for assistance, which remains high two years into the COVID-19 pandemic. As one of the largest food banks in Metro Detroit, Gleaners purchases food in bulk to distribute to more than 660 soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and schools. Most of the food it distributes is given away free or at a low service fee.

Priest threatened in southern Mexico in area of increasing violence

MEXICO CITY (CNS) – A priest involved with social and environmental causes in southern Mexico was threatened by gangs, the latest in a wave of increasing violence gripping the communities served by the Diocese of San Cristobal de Las Casas. Father Matías Rodríguez Jiménez was threatened by five individuals on motorcycles, who cut off the priest as he was driving to Chicomuselo, where he is parish priest, according to March 17 statements from the Catholic organization Pueblo Creyente (Chiapas Support Committee) and a collective of social and religious organizations. The individuals struck the priest's vehicle and warned: "We know who you are and what you do. Be careful." The statements added that Father Rodríguez said he had been spied on at his parish, including in his residence, since becoming pastor in Chicomuselo in 2020. St. Peter and St. Paul Parish has a history of priests being involved in local issues, such as opposition to a Canadian-owned mine. Father Rodríguez also had confronted the issue of illegal alcohol sales, a problem in some Chiapas communities. A priest with knowledge of the area said the region has been rife with a violence between rival drug cartels. "The situation concerns us because the life and integrity of our priest ... is at risk," said Pueblo Creyente, which was founded by the late Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, a champion of human rights in largely Indigenous Chiapas.

Retreat for those facing infertility

SOUTH BEND – The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Springs in the Desert are partnering to support couples carrying the cross of infertility with a day-long retreat this Mother's Day weekend on Saturday, May 7, at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Notre Dame. Come with your spouse or on your own to be supported, hear inspiring reflections, have opportunities for group sharing and experience friendship with others on the same path. Our retreat will include time for prayer in adoration as well as an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and attend the vigil Mass for Sunday. Registration is \$50/couple or \$25/individual, and includes lunch and dinner. Details at www.springsinthedesert.org. For additional questions, email info@springsinthedesert.org.

Come and See retreat announced

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS – Where is God calling you? The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, are inviting all single Catholic women ages 18-42 to explore their call during a Come and See retreat. The free retreat weekend will take place beginning at 7 p.m., EST, on Friday, April 8, and concluding at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, at spirit-filled Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, located 10 minutes west of Terre Haute, Indiana. During the retreat, you will have the opportunity to learn about the life and mission of the Congregation foundress, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin. You will also experience the mission firsthand in the lives of the Sisters of Providence and by hearing sto-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Performing works of mercy locally



Provided by Lois Widner

The students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Fort Wayne collected money for the Divine Mercy Funeral Home. During Catholic Schools Week, the students and staff focused on the corporal works of mercy. On the last day of the week, the theme was “burying the dead” and each student from the school community gave a donation of at least \$1 to the funeral home. This donation was to offset funeral costs for families coming in to set up funeral services. Represented in the picture left to right are Casey Miller, Director of Divine Mercy Funeral Home, seventh-grade Student Ambassadors Noah Becker and Lucy Martinez and Jeremy Elder, school parent.

ries of living out the mission today. Learn more or sign up at ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org or contact Vocations Director Sister Joni Luna, SP, at 361-500-9505 or jluna@spsmw.org.

University of Saint Francis opens student art exhibit

FORT WAYNE – The University of Saint Francis will present its 46th Annual Creative Arts Student Exhibition from April 4 through May 4 at the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center. USF invites the public to a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8, at the Rolland Center, located off Leesburg Road on the southeast side of campus, 2701 Spring St. USF will present an awards program at 7:15 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St. The free exhibition will display works by students enrolled in USF Creative Arts. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The gallery will be closed Easter weekend, April 15 to 17.

Public lecture to examine solidarity

NOTRE DAME -- The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity is excited to welcome Gloria Purvis to the University of Notre Dame for a public lecture on Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Andrews Auditorium. She will explore the public discourse around racism and racial justice in recent years and invite all of us into a deeper examination of conscience about our history, our woundedness, and the call to solidarity. The event is free and open to the public.

St. Patrick Oratory celebrates patron saint

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

A good deal of early Catholic history in northeastern Indiana revolves around the building of the iconic Wabash-Erie Canal in the 19th century. Fort Wayne has two streets named for prominent Catholic Francis Comparet, who hosted priests ministering to the area's canal workers during the time that the Diocese of Vincennes had jurisdiction over the city. Comparet even notified the diocese that an estimated 2,000 Catholic canalmen had gone roughly six months without access to the sacraments.

Catholicism in Lagro has a similar story to that of neighboring Fort Wayne. According to the local church, many Irish immigrants came to work on the Wabash-Erie Canal's path through the area. After the canal opened in 1837, many of the immigrants stayed in Lagro.



Joshua Schipper

St. Patrick's Day marked the 149th anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick Oratory in Lagro, Indiana

These Irish Catholics needed the sacraments – and therefore needed a church.

Much of the history of the church building and former parish of St. Patrick in Lagro can be found in an application submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for recognition in the National Register of Historic Places, which St. Patrick Oratory was granted in the late 1990s.

The church was founded in 1838 on two lots donated by Thomas Fitzgibbon, a contractor for the Wabash-Erie Canal. According to “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” the historical account of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend written by Joseph White, parish records for St. Patrick date back to 1846. Two decades later, Father John Ryan directed that the church building be enlarged. This enlargement included the pur-

Students, teachers celebrate St. Joseph for feast day

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

March 19 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In honor of their school's patron, kindergarten through fifth-grade students at St. Joseph School in Garrett took to the hallway, gymnasium and outdoors in celebration.

The school pays tribute to St. Joseph in a variety of ways throughout the year – even their bus number is 319 after the saint's Solemnity date. "Whenever it's St. Joseph's Day," said Jenny Enrietto, the school's principal, "we always do a big, school-wide celebration." Enrietto went on to explain that this year's St. Joseph celebration, the first outside of the wake of COVID-19, was particularly important "because during the pandemic, we really felt like St. Joseph had his hand on us."

As the solemnity fell on a Saturday this year, the school celebrated on Friday, March 18. The day began with Mass and festivities commenced in the early afternoon. Students were previously instructed to collect cereal boxes to donate to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen, located just outside their school. But for a brief moment that Friday, the cereal boxes became something else entirely.

Students and teachers placed each box a few inches apart from the next one, forming a line down the center of a hallway. Everyone eagerly sat outside their classrooms and waited. When everything was in place, the path of cereal boxes stretched around 70 feet long, starting at the first-grade classroom and reaching the other end of the hall.

The path of boxes stood as one long row of dominoes. In keeping with the day's theme, any student with the first or middle name of Joseph was called to tap the first box, sending it tumbling into the next one, and so on. But ironically, of all the students present, not one was named after the saint.

Instead, the oldest student in the school began the chain reaction; everyone watched in awe as the cereal boxes raced past them. Shouts and applause sounded as the last one fell, and following the teachers' instructions, students set the boxes in place to be knocked over again.

The two youngest students in the school were then called to push the first box over together. After that, the display was reset again. Continuing with this pattern, the teacher present at the school the longest was called next. Then, students cheered as other teachers took their turn in setting off the dominoes.

When all the boxes had fallen for the last time, students collected them and made their way outside.



Photos by Samantha Rohloff

First-grade students at St. Joseph School in Garrett hold up the cereal boxes they collected to donate to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen on March 19, in honor of the celebration of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, their school's patron.

Taking advantage of the nice weather, they walked to the rectory right next door. Father James Shafer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Garrett, stood atop the stairs and prayed a blessing over the children and their donations. The kids proudly raised their boxes high above their heads for the blessing.

"You are the best kids in the world," he told them with a huge smile on his face. Father Shafer explained to the children how helpful they were in offering food to those who need it.

The short procession ended at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen, just feet away from both the school and rectory. They gave the cereal boxes to soup kitchen workers, then made their way back to the school. The donated cereal boxes filled about 10 cardboard boxes. Enrietto estimated that more than a hundred cereal boxes were donated that day.

In the gym, students enjoyed cupcakes – their favorite part of the day, some said – followed by an ultimate rock-paper-scissors tournament. Every student in

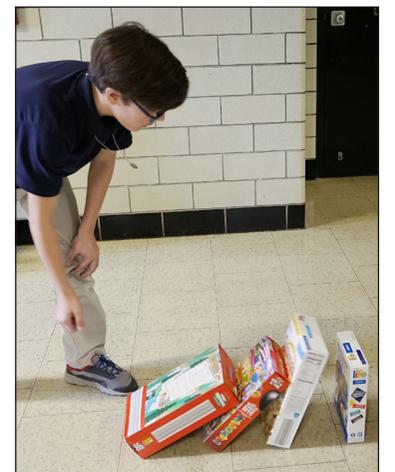


Father James Shafer, pastor of St. Joseph in Garrett, blesses the students and their soup kitchen donations. At right, students and teachers had fun playing dominoes with the cereal boxes before taking them to be blessed and delivering them to the soup kitchen.

the school had participated in preliminary rounds, so a bracket of the finalists was created. Students played against teachers, students against students and teachers against teachers. In the end, only two stood victorious. Kindergarten teacher Maria Albertson was the staff winner, and fifth-grader Kaylee Gaar was the student winner. They were each presented with trophies.

Awards were also given to students during the Tag Ceremony, a yearly celebration marking achievements throughout the school year. Kids were given colorful little tags they could wear with pictures and phrases on them. Students who received tags were congratulated for good grades, as well as for participating in the spelling bee, science fair and student council. The girls' volleyball team was also recognized. Students who sold Burger King coupons had their names placed in a raffle. Two Walmart gift cards and \$25 in cash were awarded to three students whose names were drawn.

As the event wound down, students walked to St. Joseph Church just across the street. Once inside, two of them led the rest of the school in praying a decade of the rosary, an activity they do every Friday to end their week, said the principal. That day's decade held the intentions of peace for families and peace for the world. "Because when you see your world events," explained Enrietto, "the part you can do is different for everyone, but we can all pray."





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LAGRO, from page 7

chase and installation of the "first bell in the Wabash Valley."

Ten years later, Father Matthew E. Campion became the pastor of St. Patrick. Father Campion realized that a new church needed to be constructed. The cornerstone for this new and present building was laid June 15, 1870, with dedication taking place on St. Patrick's Day in 1873. At this time, the church served approximately 300 families.

The building has gone through a handful of changes over the decades. Tie rods were added to support the ceiling around 1938. Initially painted with religious scenes, the ceiling has since been painted over in a solid color.

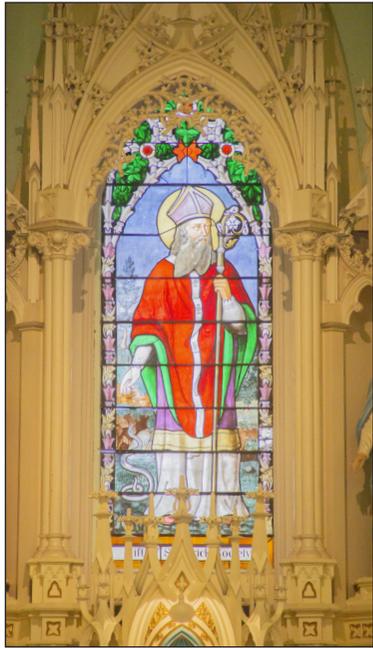
The organ and gallery of St. Patrick can be accessed by using the hand-carved, curving stairway behind the pews. The gallery extends through the entire width of the building.

The building's architectural style stands out in the region. Father Campion built the church in Victorian Gothic style with some additional Romanesque ornamentation. This unique combination of styles, the NPS application states, may have resulted from the pastor's lack of architectural experience.

As of 1982, the building was one of three regional Victorian Gothic churches rated "outstanding" by Wabash County, with St. Patrick being the oldest of the trio.

The last resident pastor, Father James Rose, left in 1980. In 1997, Bishop John D'Arcy disbanded the parish and made the church into an oratory.

The church's status as an 'oratory' is not particularly common in the diocese. The Code of Canon Law defines an oratory as "a place for divine worship designated by permission of the ordinary for the benefit of some community or group of the faithful who gather in it and to which other members of the faithful can also come with the consent of the competent superior." This means that an oratory is not a



Photos by Joshua Schipper

St. Patrick's Day marked the 149th anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick Oratory in Lagro, Indiana.

parish church, like one that people would attend every Sunday to fulfill their weekly obligation.

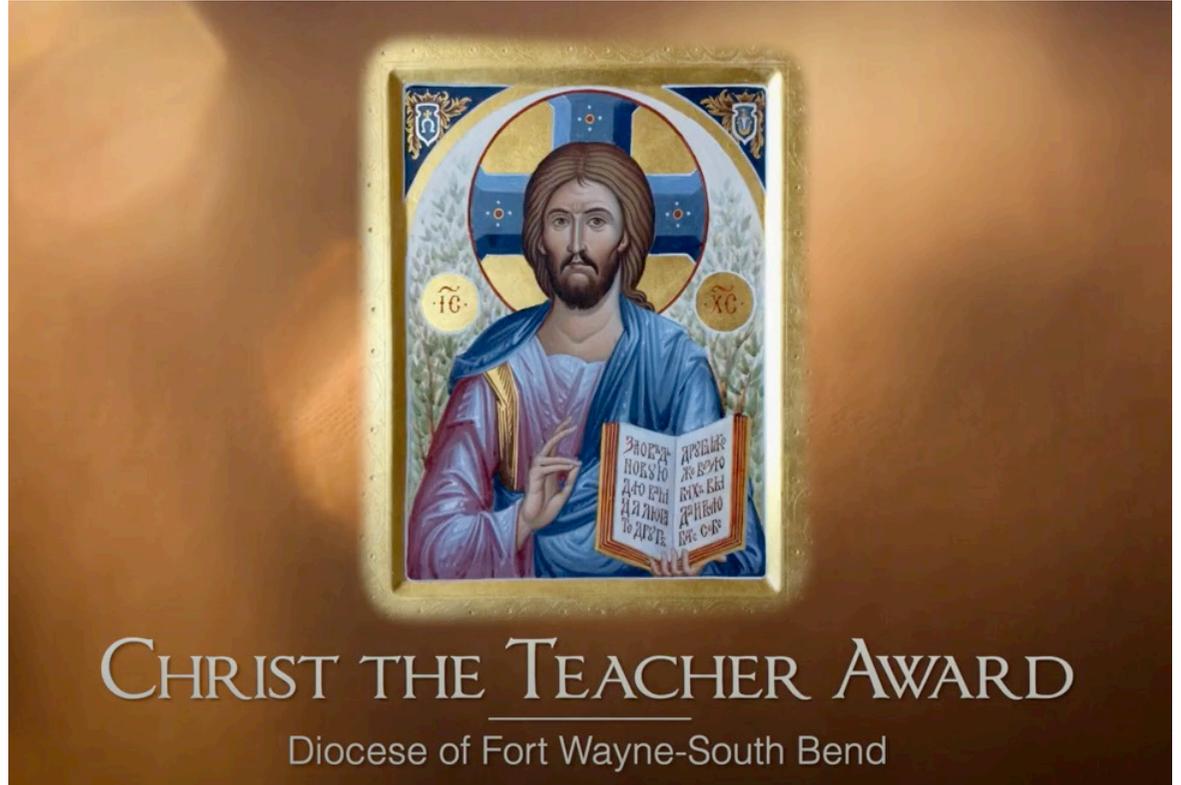
The diocese maintains two oratories: St. Patrick Oratory in Lagro, and St. Mary of the Angels Oratory in Hudson. Oratories do not celebrate Mass regularly, and people will gather 10 times this year to celebrate Mass at St. Patrick. March 17 marked the first Mass celebrated at the building in 2022, and was the 149th anniversary of the building's dedication. March 17 was also the feast day of the oratory's patron saint.

Celebrating the oratory's first Mass of 2022, Father Levi Nkwocha talked about the story of St. Patrick in his homily. He also commented that the green dress of the congregation contributed to the celebratory spirit of the annual Irish holiday.

St. Patrick Oratory will celebrate Mass nine more times in 2022, on the first Sunday of every month at 11 a.m. Each occasion serves as an opportunity for area Catholics to experience Mass in a building with a rich history, in a town built on the legendary Wabash-Erie Canal.



Father Levi Nkwocha talked about the story of St. Patrick in his homily. He also commented that the green dress of the congregation contributed to the celebratory spirit of the annual Irish holiday.



High Schools

- Bishop Dwenger High School: Elizabeth Walker
- Bishop Luers High School: Kristen Billingsley
- Marian High School: Lauren Meyers
- Saint Joseph High School: Andrea Smolinksi

Avilla

- St. Mary of the Assumption: Claire Smith

Decatur

- St. Joseph: Alissa Summers

Elkhart

- St. Thomas the Apostle: Emily Oxley

Fort Wayne

- Most Precious Blood: Sondra Federspiel
- Our Lady of Good Hope: Lisa Crow
- Queen of Angels: Michelle Meyer
- St. Charles Borromeo: Rebecca Silkworth
- St. John the Baptist: Gail Welling
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Samantha Verslype
- St. Joseph: Samuel DiFilippo
- St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel: Angela Whitman
- St. Jude: Julie Goodman and Patricia Bond
- St. Therese: Kathryn Ehinger
- St. Vincent de Paul: Kristen Bader

Granger

- St. Pius X: Katherine Alexander

Goshen

- St. John the Evangelist: Ruth Newell

Huntington

- Huntington Catholic: Jacqueline Thomas and Julie Ramp

Mishawaka

- Mishawaka Catholic: Gina Mynsberge
- Queen of Peace: Kimberly Obringer

New Haven

- St. John the Baptist: Nicole Patton
- St. Louis Besancon: Kathleen Hoffman

Plymouth

- St. Michael: Laura Popielski-Ogorek

South Bend

- Christ the King: Kelly Ramesh
- Corpus Christi: Laura Barnes
- Holy Cross: Cara Barnes
- Holy Family: Elizabeth Peterson
- Our Lady of Hungary: Kari Wuszke
- St. Adalbert: Allison Jeter
- St. Anthony de Padua: Sarah Leblang
- St. John the Baptist: Maureen Alexander
- St. Joseph: Nathan Cole (posthumously)
- St. Jude: Tamra Wesolowski
- St. Matthew Cathedral: Anne Slater

Wabash

- St. Bernard: Angela Benner

Warsaw

- Sacred Heart: Brenda Kline

Yoder

- St. Aloysius: Theresa Kiracofe

Not participating:

- St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart
- St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville
- St. Joseph, Garrett



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Fort Wayne area high schools Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers combine their musical talents for the first-ever Saint Cecilia Honor Band on March 18 in the Bishop Luers gymnasium. Students from feeder schools were invited to spend the day learning and return in the evening for a concert. The middle school band was directed by Purdue Fort Wayne professor Dr. John Oakley Egger.

Fort Wayne Catholic high schools collaborate for music

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Two diocesan high schools – by all accounts, friendly rivals in the sporting arena – teamed up on Friday, March 18, to promote musicality within Catholic schools in the first-ever Saint Cecilia Honor Band. The music directors at Fort Wayne's Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers High Schools, Don Cochran and Adam Hanke, respectively, began a collaboration last semester to "reinvigorate music in our Catholic schools and diocese," as Hanke put it.

Hanke stated that it took a long time to bring the idea to fruition as well as the support of the feeder schools, Sweetwater Sound and Quinlan and Fabish Music Company. The idea originally came from Nathan Richter, the band director at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne.

This joint effort led to "a gathering of Catholic musicians," as the day-long event, ending in an evening concert, was advertised. Two instructors from the Schools of Music at Purdue Fort Wayne, Dr. Daniel Tembras and Dr. John Oakley Egger, were invited in to teach the attendees.

"In band, we are not competitors with Bishop Luers," Cochran said. Both high schools have been seeking ways to increase awareness of their band programs and build up their music departments.

He continued, "Many of our partner schools do not have

"My hope is that every student finds the excitement that being a part of the band can become... Music teaches us how to 'feel.'"

— Don Cochran

band programs that meet daily as many of our public-school counterparts have in place. This impacts student proficiency."

With the creation of an all-Catholic band, Cochran's goal is to give students who may not have the opportunity to study all aspects of music within the classroom a chance to "participate in a large performance with nationally recognized professors of music."

This has not been the first time the two high schools have come together to support each other. Among the many times throughout their history, more recently during the fall football season when Bishop Luers could not use their own field for a sectional game, Bishop Dwenger offered their Shield's Field as an alternate location for the Knights to play. Hanke stated that during that game, "Don offered to involve us in the concession stands for the game and the profit we both made for that event was put towards the funding of this event."

Bishop Luers was chosen as the location for the Saint Cecilia Honor Band's first concert in order to "help show off the renovations that have been happening at Bishop Luers," Hanke said. The plan is for Bishop



Adam Hanke, Music Director at Bishop Luers High School, conducts the high school band in performing three selections.

Dwenger to host the concert next year and then to seek out a new venue as the program continues to grow and offer more performance opportunities.

The concert consisted of two bands, one for the middle school and one for the high school students, both of which performed three selections. In total, four feeder schools from Bishop Dwenger and three from Bishop Luers were represented in the middle school band. More

than 100 students joined the middle school band and around 40 played in the high school band. Students who may have never met before blended their instrumentation into a one-time orchestra.

Dr. Egger graciously agreed to conduct the middle school band while Hanke directed the high school musicians. Hanke told the audience that "On the Kerry Shore," which evokes images of the Emerald Isle, was his favorite piece to ever have directed. The performance ended with a bang as the high school band played the high-energy piece "Adrenaline Engines." After the high school band performance, Hanke gave an emotional expression of gratitude to the students and to those who attended to support them. He spoke of how music touches people; how it touches him personally.

Parents, grandparents and others in the crowd certainly seemed to agree, giving both bands standing ovations. Accolades flowed through the crowd after the concert, and the energy and enthusiasm of the young performers was evident throughout the evening, speaking to the success of the joint effort. Hanke himself was greatly pleased by the performance of

the young people, especially with only a couple of hours' worth of practice under their belts.

Chris and Alicia Elliott came to watch their son Nathan play saxophone in the high school band. They agreed that it was a top-notch performance. "We loved it. It was a great show. Impressed with what Mr. Hanke put together and collaborating with the Dwenger people. Wonderful program," Chris stated.

Alicia was impressed to see "all the behind-the-scenes work that you know as a parent that's going on and to see the finished product, it's awesome."

Studies have shown a link between playing a musical instrument and academic success. Music connects people, inspires people, gives them an encounter with beauty that is so needed in the world today. Experiences like this help foster a love of music in young people.

As Cochran said, "My hope is that every student finds the excitement that being a part of the band can become. Music is a big part of our lives and being able to create music together with others offers for a very special experience. Music teaches us how to 'feel.'"

Watching the students from different schools and different backgrounds come together for a harmonious evening was an encouraging sight that will hopefully continue for years to come.

Exorcist emphasizes “fascination with God,” not demonic

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Throughout mankind's history, there has always been an unholy interest in the darker side of the spiritual realm. There are often two extremes when it comes to this – those who doubt its existence and those who are far too interested in it. Seances, Ouija boards and New Age occultism have all taken their turns in the rotation of demonic objects of interest. “These things are all deemed as attractive, whereas God has become unattractive in the lives of many people. The danger is that as people no longer believe in God, they will believe in just about anything and everything, and the end result is they could be opening themselves up to the forces of evil,” warned Father Vincent Lampert, exorcist from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Father Lampert spoke to a crowd of around 200 people at Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne on March 17 about his experiences with the demonic and the critical need for Catholics to avoid anything that might lead them to it.

He began his talk by explaining his background as a bishop-appointed exorcist and his studies in Rome under Franciscan priest Father Carmine De Filipis. Throughout the course of the evening, he told chilling and frightening stories of exorcisms that he had performed or been present at, but he sprinkled humor throughout his talk to counter the darker elements of his ministry.

The main point of his presentation, he stated, was “not to create some type of fascination with the practice of exorcism; what is needed is for all of us to have a renewed fascination with God. In fact, I always tell people that as an exorcist, my focus is not on what the devil is doing, but to help people focus on what God



Photos by Jennifer Barton

The World Apostolate of Fatima sponsored a talk by Father Vincent Lampert, exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, who spoke about his experiences with the supernatural and how Catholics should focus their attention on God, rather than the demonic.

wants to do in their lives.

“I like to remind people that when it comes to the topic of exorcism, much of what is found on the internet is meant to breed a fascination with the devil, rather than a fascination with God.”

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Father Lampert reported that the number of people who have contacted him for aid has grown exponentially. Part of this rise in demonic activity over his years of service, he stated, comes from a “distorted sense of freedom.”

This often means people choose a sinful life, with no regard for God. “And we might consider for a moment why so many people turn their back on God and the answer is, God is seen as a threat, because God sets limits on our understanding of what it means to be free.

Freedom in the true sense of the word ... means to live in the manner that God created us to live in.”

He spoke of the Rite of Exorcism as a “ministry of compassion;” a liturgical rite that the Church says must be done in a particular way, and always in a sacred space – never a movie-scene environment. He further explained that he does not work through his own power, but through God's. It is also not enough to only exorcize a demon from a person, but that to remain free, the person must invite God to fill that space.

In his talk, Father Lampert listed eight entry points demons can use to enter a person, illustrated through stories: ties to the occult, the entertainment industry, curses, dedication to a demon, abuse which creates emotional wounds, a life of habitual sin, inviting a demon into one's life and broken relationships. He stressed that no one should ever, even as a gesture of compassion toward another person, knowingly invite a demon into themselves. And in a spiritual battle like exorcism, “The devil is not in charge; the Church is.”

At the close of his presentation, Father Lampert took a few questions from the audience. In the course of answering these, he stated that he believed the increased isolation experienced during the pandemic affected people's spiritual lives; that community and healthy relationships prevent attacks from the devil. And since the start of the war in Ukraine, he has even begun receiving requests in Cyrillic, a Russian language.

Some attendees had come simply to hear his stories, but all left with a warning: That noth-

ing of the occult is innocent and “I cannot emphasize enough that it is the ordinary aspects of our Catholic faith that will always defeat the devil.”

One attendee, Sara Gordon, said that lately she has been trying to attend more events that the Catholic Church offered, so when she and Clare Meise saw an announcement for the talk in the St. Vincent de Paul Parish bulletin, they decided to attend. Both women found the talk to be riveting and proclaimed that they were glad they came. “I thought it was interesting, really informative,” Gordon said. She was especially astonished by the entry points that Father Lampert described.

Meise commented, “What I really liked most of all was that everything I know about exorcism comes from movies, and now I know that's all misinformation. It was nice to hear from a real exorcist.”

“It was comforting to know that the ordinary things that we do in the Catholic life are a deterrent, things like Mass and the rosary,” Gordon added.

Though the crowd was diverse, a great number of them were young adults. Several parents had even brought their adolescent children to listen to Father Lampert, prompting healthy conversations about the right and wrong ways to

approach the spiritual realm and the need to eschew anything demonic.

The event was sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, with several of the organization's members in attendance, including their spiritual director, Father Glenn Kohrman, who celebrated Mass beforehand, and his brother, Deacon Jerry Kohrman. Seth Ball, the organization's corresponding secretary, was instrumental in arranging the evening. The WAF hosts a yearly

breakfast every October near the anniversary of the miracle of Fatima with a special speaker. As they were considering options for the next year's speaker, Ball pondered doing an event in the spring as well.

“I presented to the board in January doing something in Lent,” he said. Father Lampert had spoken at Bishop Dwenger High

School in Fort Wayne in the fall with a great response, so Ball expressed an interest in bringing him back to the area. Due to his busy schedule, Father Lampert is only available on weekdays, and Father Zak Barry agreed to host at his parish. The number in attendance exceeded the amount that the organizers had expected, and Ball said that the evening was so successful that the WAF will likely do it again in the future.

“I cannot emphasize enough that it is the ordinary aspects of our Catholic faith that will always defeat the devil.”

FATHER VINCENT LAMPERT

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Come on in

When I was a boy, there was a revolution in Hungary against the communist government. The Soviet Union put it down brutally. Several hundred thousand Hungarians fled the country, some for the United States.

My grandfather took in one family. They moved into the little white house where I was born and stayed for a year or two, until the dad found a job in a local auto body shop. The children were a wonder to us. Their clothes were different. We had never heard a language other than English.

I've been thinking about this as I have watched the news about the invasion of Ukraine. The Russians have bombed civilian areas, and more than 3 million people have fled the country. Sixty percent of them have gone to Poland, their neighbor to the west. Most are women and children. The men stay behind to fight.

The Polish government has provided an easy off-ramp. It is accepting refugees without a passport. It is drafting a bill to allow Ukrainians social benefits available to permanent residents. Arrivals at the border are taken by tour buses to reception centers where they can get food and beds, medical care and legal services.

The European Council has approved a Temporary Protection Directive that will allow Ukrainians to stay in EU member states for up to three years. During that time, they can work and get access to housing, medi-

cal services and education.

These are generous policies, to be sure. But what I have marveled at are the nightly reports of ordinary people taking refugees into their homes. The New York Times reports that more than 500,000 Poles have joined a Facebook group that coordinates support.

These families don't have a spare house like my grandfather did. The Times spoke with one couple who moved their 5-year-old daughter into their bedroom to make space for a mother and her 2-year-old son.

Imagine living in that household. Overnight, your food bill doubles. Guests need anything they have not crammed into a suitcase. They likely have little money (hryvnia, not euros). Evenings around the table are not like a visit from your college roommate. These are strangers. Poles and Ukrainians are Slavs, so there is a rough linguistic similarity, but they're not like Danes and Swedes. Any conversation is work.

To most Americans, this prospect seems strange and off-putting. As Father Henri Nouwen once observed, here "the assumption is that strangers are a potential danger and that it is up to them to disprove it." We protect our apartments with dogs and double locks. We no longer pick up hitchhikers. We teach our children to avoid the risk of "stranger danger." We post security guards in subways and airports.

Something about our culture has bred in us an unhealthy fear



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

of strangers. I wonder whether our very prosperity is to blame. The rich can wall themselves off from people they don't know. Wealth lets them be selective in their relationships. They choose their friends and connect at work, on social media and by air travel. And if you're rich, you yourself have probably never had to depend on the kindness of strangers.

Whatever the explanation, our fear of strangers may cause us to lose sight of an essential Christian virtue. St. Benedict says, in Chapter 53 of his Rule, that "any guest who happens to arrive at the monastery should be received just as we would receive Christ himself, because he promised that on the last day he will say: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"

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

How the world has failed Lia Thomas

When Will Thomas was in his sophomore and junior years of college at the University of Pennsylvania, he decided that he was a woman, began hormone replacement therapy and changed his name to Lia. This month, at age 22, Thomas was scheduled to compete in three events at the NCAA women's swimming championships in Atlanta — events in which he was strongly favored.

No doubt you have heard of Thomas, who has become the face of the full-on collision that has taken place between the ever-surging transgender movement and women's sports. Thomas' argument is that because he has transitioned, he should be able to compete in women's sports.

"I'm a woman, just like anybody else on the team," he said in a recent interview with Sports Illustrated. But Thomas, of course, is not a woman, regardless of how much he might want to be. And he is not just like anybody else on the team. Thomas is biologically male and has the physical qualities of a man, which makes him stronger and faster than his female competitors, giving him a natural advantage in the world of athletics. As a male athlete on the men's swimming team, Thomas was mostly inconsequential. As a male athlete on the women's swimming team, he is breaking record after record and is now bound to compete at the highest level of collegiate sports.

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

Understandably, this complete lack of equity has drawn strong (though mostly anonymous) objections from some parents, teammates and leaders — even those who self-identify as "progressives" and who otherwise champion the transgender movement (that is, in circumstances other than when they are affected by its consequences). Truth may be shoved into a corner, but by definition it cannot be obliterated completely. Facts are facts. Males and females are different and they have been from the dawn of creation. Those differences can never be fully eliminated, despite the many options available to try to make it so.

Discussing this greatly disturbing rise of gender ideology, Pope Francis counseled in his 2016 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*: "It needs to be emphasized that 'biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.' [...] It is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable

OSV, page 13

Laetare Sunday calls us to rejoice in God's unfailing love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Lent Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

This weekend, the Church observes Laetare Sunday, the name being derived from the first word, in Latin, of the Entrance Antiphon. The word is "laetare," or "rejoice." The end of Lent is approaching, but much more importantly, the Church rejoices that Lent has assisted us in finding God and in anticipation of remembering what the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus brought to us.

Priests may wear rose vestments, not pink. Pink is a blend of red and white. Rose mixes red with gold. Human life is red, fiery and even bloodthirsty. White is lifeless and bland.

Gold is the color of treasure, glory and of Jesus, the light of the world.

When the first rays of the sun sweep across the horizon, breaking the cold and darkness of night, they are golden, not white. Piercing the darkness, sunbeams create a sky not white but splendidly rose in color.

The Book of Joshua, the first reading, looks far back into the history of God's people, who, in this story, are almost finished with their long and arduous trip across the Sinai Peninsula.

God came with the gift of manna from the sky to sustain the people. They did not starve. As they neared the Promised Land, the supply of manna stopped. Why? God's Promised Land provided them with a steady, reliable source of food.

St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the second reading. Urgently, Paul appealed to the Corinthian Christians to be reconciled with God in Christ. He wrote while watching the tendencies of the Corinthians to yield to old pagan ways unfolded.

His urgency also underscored his insistence that nothing else matters but life with God. Following Jesus makes a person a "new creation." The trials of earth, including death, are only momentary concerns.

For its final reading, the Church presents, from Luke's Gospel, the beautiful and reassuring parable of the prodigal son.

Much of the parable is self-evident, even to us in the 21st century. Quite clear is the uncompromised, constant love of the father, who symbolizes God.

Some powerful messages may be lost unless we consider the context. For example, the prodigal son was not the oldest. As such, he was not his father's heir. In the prevailing tradition, the father owed him little if anything.

Then, the prodigal son had deserted his father. Jews prized loyalty to parents, expressed in loving care and attention, as they still do.

Next, the prodigal son engaged prostitutes, abhorred for Jews since such unions

scorned the sanctity of marriage and the family, an ideal so treasured by Jews then and now. Biologically, that meant that the pure stock of God's people might be defiled by the children born to pagan women in vice.

Finally, the prodigal son stooped so low that he waited on pigs, the lowest of animals in pious Jewish eyes. He did not even serve humans.

Nevertheless, the father forgave all and gave a wonderful inheritance to this wayward son.

Reflection

The Church is excited and joyful. Salvation is our inheritance. Lovingly, the Church calls us to salvation, to be with God in and through Jesus.

To be with God, to enter the Promised Land with its security and unending plenty, we all must be new creations in Christ, brightened and led by Christ through this dark world.

Even to think of abandoning selfishness or sin or accepting God may at times be a tall order. We may be angry. We may

doubt. We may be ashamed. Instincts are powerful, habits hard to break.

We are not alone or helpless. God loves us and awaits us with love, mercy, forgiveness and strength.

Rejoice! Laetare! The brilliant, warming light of Christ gleams before our eyes.

READINGS

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-7 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a. 13b Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:1-16

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53s

What kind of Christian do others think we are?

When Pope Francis announced that the next world Synod of Bishops would convene on the topic of synodality, a lot of eyebrows were raised. A synod on synodality seemed redundant, a bit of abstract navel gazing when so many more tangible problems beset the Church.

So when the pope asked every diocese and major Catholic institutions to conduct their own listening sessions, and to include the input of those disaffected from the Church as well as those highly committed souls who are the backbone of any parish, some eye rolling followed.

Yet Pope Francis is serious in wanting a church that listens as well teaches. If the church is both “mater” (mother) and “magistra” (teacher), he wants a bit more of the mother at this stage, listening to those who feel left out or excluded.

Listening, especially to one’s critics, is difficult, however. In today’s culture war environment, we feel we have to fight tooth and nail for issues like abortion, conscience protection or an end to the death penalty. Listening feels to some a bit like surrendering.

So leave it to the Episcopalians to do some listening for us.

A survey, released on March 9 and conducted by the Episcopal Church, asked all sorts of Christians what their impression was of other Christians. And it asked nonbelievers what they thought of Christians as well.

Not surprisingly, Christians generally gave themselves

high marks as “compassionate,” “loving” and “respectful.” (Interestingly, Catholics graded us a bit lower than Protestants.) However, non-Christians and nones (those without religious affiliation) gave their highest marks for “self-righteous,” “hypocritical” and “judgmental.”

The nones were the harshest of all in their grading of Christians, which is unfortunate, since almost 30% of Americans count themselves as nones.

Other questions asked in the survey suggest that Christians, including Catholics, have a rather selective knowledge of Jesus’ teachings, and that non-Christians and nones think Christians do not do a good job of representing the values and teachings of their founder.

Now all of this can be debated. If Christians don’t know the breadth and depth of the Lord’s teachings, others may know less.

And surely some of those hot-button issues that we’ve been fighting so fiercely about may explain “self-righteous” and “judgmental.” Sex abuse scandals may explain “hypocritical,” but so do other political positions Christians – fairly or unfairly – are identified with.

It would seem, however, that we have a bit of a communications problem. How do we effectively communicate the principles of our faith and our belief in the risen Lord to our own, first of all, and then how do we communicate to the world beyond our Church doors?

Some folks may think we



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

need to jettison the hard stuff. That would certainly be easier in the short term, but that’s not what our faith calls us to do. And it must be noted that many younger Christians and would-be Christians are looking for something firm to hold on to. Wishy-washy never really appeals except to wishy-washy people.

I think the real challenge, the one where unfortunately our communications efforts and our example may be found wanting, is in the Lord’s invitation: “Come and see.” Can other Christians and non-Christians see our faith in how we live and how we love? Are we quicker to judge than invite? Are we quicker to preach than to exemplify?

Every parish has its saints, but we do a pretty good job of hiding our lights under a bushel. Maybe the more practical question is: Do people see those lights shining when they step inside our parishes?

I think Pope Francis wants to know the answer.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 27, 2022

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: The story of two sons. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SINNERS	PHARISEES	A MAN
TWO SONS	FATHER	GIVE ME
SHARE	PROPERTY	BETWEEN
COUNTRY	SPENT	FAMINE
HIRED	SINNED	HEAVEN
KISSED	FOUND	FIELD
MUSIC	DANCING	ANGRY

WHICH SON?

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

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BLESSED PETER GONZALEZ

FEAST: April 14 1190-1246



His uncle, the bishop of Astorga in Castile, Spain, appointed Blessed Peter as a cathedral canon, even though he was under age. Swollen with pride, Peter rode jauntily through the city until his horse dumped him. The crowd’s jeers prompted him to reconsider his situation. And later he joined the Dominicans. Impressed by Peter’s strong preaching gift, Ferdinand III of Castile retained him as chaplain. When the king warred against the Moors, Peter accompanied the army and worked to restrain their pillaging and violence. Then he retired from the court to spend the rest of his life preaching the good news in the rural areas of northwest Spain. When our pride dumps us down, we will do well to imitate Blessed Peter’s humility.

OSV, from page 12

aspects of reality. Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift. At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created” (No. 56).

Creation — including the creation of our very lives — is a gift from God. It is not up to us to reject that gift, regardless of how we might feel or what others assure us is good and right. But this basic truth has been sacrificed at the altar of ideology and buried by the growing number of those who would insist that there is no divine Creator. Those who believe they are supporting Thomas have actually failed him by refus-

ing to accept or even simply to acknowledge that great truth. Thomas has been assured by undoubtedly well-meaning family, friends, coaches, school officials and counselors, sports leaders and media that “her truth” is equal to the truth, regardless of the realities of biology and ontology. This is the “dictatorship

It needs to be emphasized that “biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.”

POPE FRANCIS

of relativism” of which Pope Benedict so often warned.

Our hearts go out to Thomas, who clearly is struggling to find his place in this vast, confusing world. And we pray that he comes to see himself through the eyes of the One who knows him better than anyone else does — and who loves Thomas just as He made him.

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

Stations of the Cross a means of sharing Christ's suffering

BY CHRIS LUSHIS

The Stations of the Cross, the mini-pilgrimage along the road to Calvary offered at most parishes on Fridays in Lent, reveals to its participants the very heart of Christianity. Not only do the Stations display the love of God for His people, but they also provide the answer to the fundamental problem within the human experience: the problem of suffering.

Why are Catholics drawn to follow this journey of Our Lord? One reason is that most everyone finds value in stories; in narratives filled with drama, suspense, betrayal, and redemption. It is also known that Jesus was a real person who truly walked the streets of Jerusalem carrying a cross after being scourged and condemned to death by the Roman governor of the region, Pontius Pilate. If one were to walk along those roads today, one would see a rather similar experience to Jesus' own time. The Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) appears like many other streets in Old Jerusalem, filled with shops, vehicles, tourists, and plenty of commotion. Christian pilgrim groups on this walk garner similar attention from locals as Jesus did on the way to Calvary: very little. Yet those who choose to make this journey, whether in the streets of Israel or the churches of Indiana, realize that they have actually found the hidden, humble road of humanity's redemption.

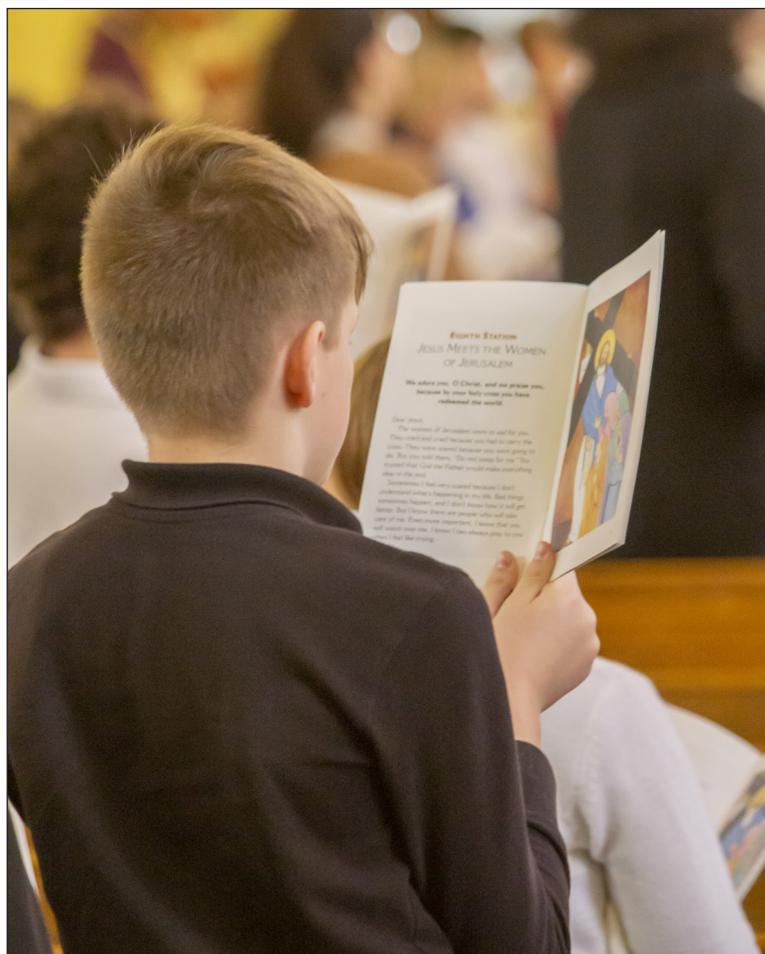
The pain and suffering each human being experiences at some point threaten to lead them away from belief and trust in a loving God. When people experience this pain and suffering in their lives, they can be tempted to think they do not deserve such difficulties, or that if God really loved them then He would take away their misfortunes. If one prays for God to remove their burdens and nothing seems to change, one can be faced with a real test of faith. Indeed, the problem of evil and suffering has troubled philosophers for millennia.

However, Jesus changes everything. The all-knowing God Who had often seemed eminently far away became wisdom personified in human flesh. We recall from the Christmas readings that the title Emmanuel literally means "God with us," revealing that He came to dwell among mankind, to show once and for all time that humans are not alone in their mess, in their feelings of isolation, abandonment or adversity. Indeed, Jesus' entire mission is one of redemption, to seek and save the lost – which encompasses everyone – by taking on human nature and restoring it to its original dignity. The way He does this is not simply through His birth – though it sometimes seems like Christmas



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Students at Huntington Catholic School recalled the Stations of the Cross at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington on Friday, March 18.



Students use reading materials to follow along during the stations.

is the high point of the year for many Christians. No, it is His paschal mystery – His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension – that makes salvation possible. This is why we enter into His way of the Cross.

When Catholics walk the stations of the Cross, they can see God, the infinitely powerful

Creator of all things, entering into the suffering others have created, and enduring it until He has given everything. Recall His unjust condemnation, the terrible burden of carrying that cross, the falls along the way, the encounters with His mother, Simon, Veronica, the women and others. Ponder the reality of the

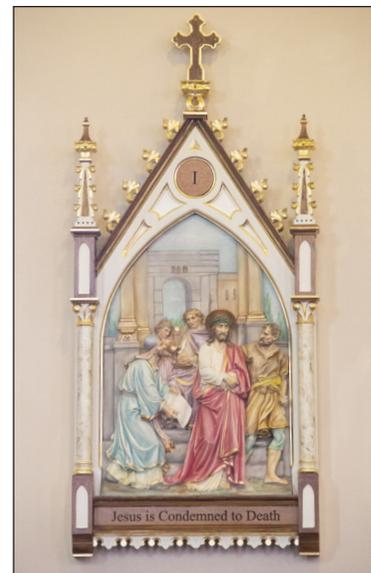
sins – remembering that the just punishment for even one mortal sin is – potentially eternal – separation from God. Yet Christ took the full burden of humanity's sins so that all may have a way back to full communion and restoration with the Father. As Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote, "Every other person who ever came into this world came into it to live. Christ came into it to die." He came that we might be made new.

While most experiences of this journey end with the darkness of the tomb, recognize that even in our churches, the 14th Station is not the end. The Christian way continues to the 15th Station, found at the front of the church: that of the risen, living Jesus, Whose pierced Heart is alive and beats once again in the tabernacle. In the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, at the place where Our Lord's Body rested in the tomb, is an altar where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered as a perpetual reminder that God's love is stronger than death and that His promises are true.

St. Faustina wrote that, "If the angels were capable of envy, they would be so for two reasons: Holy Communion and suffering." This could seem rather paradoxical or misguided, but this Polish mystic understood that the fundamental identity of God is Communion, as a Trinity of Persons. And while the sacraments allow Catholics to share in God's divine life, suffering worthily and courageously allows them to imitate our Blessed Lord.

Everyone has been in Pilate's shoes. All have sinned like the soldiers. All have stood back like the bystanders. All have been the people who didn't notice Jesus or care about Him. Today, in a new way, everyone is invited to see Him, walk with Him, help Him carry the cross and alleviate His suffering by reverently caring for His body – both in the Eucharistic host and in the host of neighbors around us.

Many Catholics have come to connect the 3 o'clock hour with Divine Mercy thanks to St. Faustina. It is worth reflecting upon what Jesus told her about this time: "I remind you, My daughter, that as often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world – mercy triumphed over justice. My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it." He also reminds her, "Do not be afraid of sufferings; I am with you."



The first station

stripping, the nails, His seven last cries from the cross and His death. Meditate on the depths to which God knows exactly what His people are going through – from His own personal embodied experience. He came to endure it for His people, with them and alongside them – that they might never again feel desolation, despondency or despair.

If a person is tempted to think that their suffering is undeserved, they need only look at what He suffered. His pain was completely unjust, yet He willingly undertook it out of love to provide a path out of brokenness.

If one is tempted to think less of His self-gift, one must recall the magnitude and consequences of the Original Sin and the reality of one's personal

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRYS

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.

St. Vincent Boy Scout fish fry

FORT WAYNE — A fish dinner sponsored by the St. Vincent Boy Scouts, 1502 E Wallen Rd., will be on Friday, March 25, from 5-8 p.m. Carryout/dine-in meals are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children dine in only. Meals include fish, potato, mac and cheese, coleslaw, roll and dessert.

St. Peter K of C fish fry

FORT WAYNE — The St. Peter K of C Council No. 17446 will have a carry-out and drive-thru fish fry on Friday, April 1, from 4-7 p.m. at the church, 518 East Dewald St. Tickets are \$10 and include fish, tartar sauce, coleslaw, baked beans and roll/butter. Contact Kevin Workman at 260-715-5990 or striderkev@hotmail.com for information.

Fish fry at St. Aloysius in Yoder

YODER — A fish fry will be held Friday, April 1, in the gymnasium at St. Aloysius Church, 14623 Bluffton Rd., from 4:30-7 p.m. Meal includes fish, scalloped potatoes or chips, coleslaw or applesauce, roll and dessert. Cost is \$12 for adults and carryout, \$7 for children 6-12, and children 5 and younger eat free. Contact Jennifer Girardot at 260-622-4491 for information.

OTHER EVENTS

Most Precious Blood Parish spring musical 'Mary Poppins Jr.'

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will present the annual spring musical "Mary Poppins Jr." Show times are Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m. Tickets prices are adults \$5 and students \$3. Contact Angela Gernhardt at 260-424-4832 or office2@preciousblood.org for information.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross

FORT WAYNE — On Sunday, March 27, St. Jude parishioners will walk through the local 46805 neighborhood making

stops and praying at designated outdoor stations. In case of rain, the Stations will be held inside the church. Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or kchurch@stjudefw.org for information.

Guest speaker Msgr. Shea to speak

FORT WAYNE — Guest speaker Msgr. Shea will speak at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd., on Thursday, March 31, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Msgr. Shea is the president of the University of Mary and the principal author of the book "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission." Come hear this compelling message about how the Church is entering a new era in its history. Contact Monica Aquila at 260-489-3537 or monicaaquila@saintv.org.

An Examination of Conscience: Race, the Church, and the Public Square

NOTRE DAME — Gloria Purvis will discuss "An Examination of Conscience: Race, the Church, and the Public Square," Thursday, March 31, from 7:30-8:30 at Andrews Auditorium in Geddes Hall on the University of Notre Dame campus.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Doris Parrish, 74, St. Anthony of Padua

Albert Remenicky, 95, St. Anthony of Padua

Joseph V. Shively, 90, St. Anthony of Padua

Dorothy Stearns, 85, St. Anthony of Padua

Curtis D. Anderson, 90, St. Paul Chapel

Auburn
Jack Dold, 85, Immaculate Conception

Bremen

Betty Winslow, 81, St. Dominic

Fort Wayne

Suzann Hans, 72, Queen of Angels

Jon R. Lassus, 61, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Sister Mary Ann Fox, 83, St. Jude

New Carlisle

Paula Heiser, 76, St. Stanislaus Kostka

New Haven

Sharon M. Shea, 73, St. John the Baptist

Kathleen T. Talbott, 90, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

Isobel Adamson, 87, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

David Towner, 93, Christ the King

Amparo Martinez, 93, St. Adalbert

Robert Price, 93, St. Anthony de Padua

Joan Mooney, 91, St. John the Baptist

Submit your event at
www.TodaysCatholic.org/event

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

St. Patrick, Arcola
12305 Arcola Rd, Fort Wayne
Fish Fry
Drive-thru ONLY
Friday, March 25
4-7 p.m.
Tickets are \$13 dinner, \$15 all fish

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS are ALIVE in ROME CITY!
Our Lady the IMMACULATE VIRGIN PATRONESS OF AMERICA
awaits you at the Mother of Mercy Chapel
2730 E Northport Rd, Rome City, IN
April 2 at 11 a.m. EDT
for Holy Mass and Devotions
Confessions beginning at 9:30 am
More info @ www.patronessofamerica.org

Schools use CRS Rice Bowls to join in aiding millions

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

Lent began a little later by the calendar date, but the penitential season still provides opportunities to make sacrifices. The nostalgia of the small, foldable paper boxes that rest on classroom windowsills is not lost among adults who once attended Catholic middle and high schools. These are the Rice Bowls, a fundraising initiative of Catholic Relief Services, and for current school children and teens, the image is so fresh, they can touch it. Schools and parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are no stranger to this charitable approach; CRS Rice Bowls are basically a Lenten tradition.

CRS accomplishes what its name suggests – alleviating the struggles that individuals in need around the world face by offering a variety of social, monetary and spiritual aid. Though small enough to fit in the palm of a hand, the Rice Bowl makes a huge impact. CRS states that through these Rice Bowl donations, more than 140 million individuals in more than 100 countries receive assistance. Poverty and hunger relief services allocated to U.S. dioceses come from a quarter of the contributions alone, while the rest aids a wide range of other countries.

People at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne understand the importance of the Rice Bowl. In fact, more than \$7,000 from the school's Rice Bowl contributions has been accumulated in just five years, said Bishop Dwenger theology teacher, Nick Miles.

A student CRS chapter began this year at the high school. The reasoning behind the chapter's formation, Miles explained, is to make students aware of unjust circumstances that struggling individuals may face, to educate students on what real change in the world looks like and to encourage students to make the appropriate changes to ensure a better future.

Taking this to heart, CRS students set up a "rice fast" on both Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday after that.

"The idea was that students could show solidarity with those around the world who were suffering from hunger by eating the same allotment of food that many of the poor of the world may eat in a given day," said Miles. Receiving just one bowl of rice in return, students willingly traded their lunches by giving a \$1 donation.

These acts of fasting and almsgiving were specifically offered up for Ukraine this year, with a total of \$232 raised for the country. "That amounts to 232 bowls of rice or just charitable donations," Miles added. Students could also personally acknowledge Ukraine



In families striving to stay intact through adversity,
Let us see Christ.

In the poor and lowly of the world,
Let us see Christ.

In those forced to leave their homes because of war or famine,
Let us see Christ.

In children who go to bed hungry and who cannot attend school,
Let us see Christ.

In those who are living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases,
Let us see Christ.

In immigrants and refugees seeking freedom and hope,
Let us see Christ.

In those who are orphaned or abandoned,
Let us see Christ.

In the elderly who are forgotten,
Let us see Christ.

In those who struggle to find meaningful work,
Let us see Christ.

In those who work for justice and peace for all people,
Let us see Christ.

LET US PRAY.

Jesus, teach us to recognize your presence in those who are in need. May we give of ourselves in service to them and so hasten the coming of the Kingdom you have promised, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

during the Lenten season that offer support to those in need. Currently, St. Charles is awaiting the arrival of their ordered Rice Bowls. When received, the junior high students will be the first to participate in this program, setting the example for the younger children.

A third Fort Wayne school also stands for service and almsgiving. Nicole Rudolph, Pastoral Minister at Bishop Luers High School, explained that they, too, utilize Rice Bowls during Lent. They also have a CRS chapter, which functions in tangent with the high school's Sodalities Service. For Bishop Luers, the whole student body participates in the chapter because it is installed via these Sodalities instead of just a single CRS club. Sodalities, Rudolph explained, are "established service groups."

In their homerooms, Sodalities gather on a weekly basis to brainstorm and complete in-house service projects. In addition to spending two hours completing a larger service project on school grounds during the fall semester, students also partake in a Day Service Project during the spring semester in which they serve those outside their immediate school community.

Bishop Luers is demonstrating its support for Ukraine too. Rice Bowl donations, as well as Mass and daily intentions, are offered up for the struggling country.

In response to Russia's attack on Ukraine, a CRS news release stated that the organization "is deploying staff and resources to support the Church as it responds to the unfolding humanitarian crisis across a handful of affected countries."

CRS is offering assistance to the people of Ukraine through services such as providing food and shelter, transportation and evacuation facilities to the displaced. CRS is also offering aid to the nearby countries of Moldova, Romania and Poland.

Speaking to the Catholic News Service earlier this month, CRS president and CEO, Sean Callahan, reflected on the millions fleeing Ukraine. "The scale of the suffering," he stated, is "alarming to see." To Callahan, individuals who donate to CRS as well as countries that welcome refugees are encouraging.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement regarding a national CRS collection that will take place on March 26 and 27 this year.

Dropping a handful of coins into a small square box this Lent can help a migrant family thousands of miles away...or a poor soul down the street.

For CRS resources, such as free Rice Bowls, visit crsricebowl.org. To support Ukraine, visit crs.org. For information about joining diocesan CRS chapters, contact Shawn Storer, Catholic Social Ministry Coordinator for the diocese, at 574-339-1100.

by wearing one of the blue and yellow ribbons produced by the school's CRS chapter and Saints for All clubs.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish and School in Fort Wayne also participates in CRS initiatives. Assistant principal Sister Genevieve Raupp, OSF, said the parish has created a CRS chapter of its own just this year. Their goal is to have members personally hand out Rice Bowls to parishioners, rather than merely setting them on a table for people to pick up. Sister Genevieve emphasized that the personal contact makes a world of difference, and even the youngest answer the call to help the less fortunate.

Each Friday, students were given envelopes to collect donations for different agencies in need. Working with CRS, the school also raised funds for Haiti this past fall semester; CRS was present in the country to assist those suffering from last summer's 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Now the school is collecting donations for Ukrainian refugees, said Sister Genevieve.

St. Charles will continue to list different initiatives in the bulletin