

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Provided by Nicole Kurut

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend celebrates the 100th anniversary of their founding in 1922 with a banquet and fundraiser on April 21. Catholic Charities Board President Paulette Davis, CEO Dan Florin and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades pose for a photo to commemorate the occasion at the Fort Wayne Country Club.

It was in 1922 when Bishop Herman J. Alerding saw a need for better organization of the Church's charitable activities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne, which at that time covered the entire northern half of the state. So he established Associated Catholic Charities, which became known as Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. On Thursday, April 21, 2022, more than 100 people gathered to celebrate its centennial anniversary and to raise money to continue the works of the organization.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades walked guests through the history of the organization and the

great social and economic challenges Bishop Alerding faced in establishing dozens of new parishes and schools in the "midst of anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant hostility," while still being "deeply committed to the two dozen orphan asylums and other charitable works throughout the diocese."

Bishop Rhoades emphasized the need to remember the past while looking toward the next 100 years of service for Catholic Charities. "Through the past 100 years, Catholic Charities has grown and has adapted to the needs of society. I am struck, however, how many of the needs

have been constant, including care for pregnant single mothers, care for immigrants and refugees, family counseling, and care of the elderly poor." Bishop Rhoades also spoke of new needs in helping people with drug and alcohol addictions as he expressed his gratitude to all those who have supported and continue to support Catholic Charities.

Keynote speaker Father Agustino Torres, CFR, a priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, based in the Bronx, New York, told everyone in the audience that the Lord has plans for them. He said that in preparing for this speech, he felt that

was the message the Lord had for him to share. Relating that to Catholic Charities and the contribution of its benefactors, he said, "The Lord has plans for you to prosper, and when we live in this way, my brothers and sisters, the act of giving to our brothers and sisters in need is just an extension of who we are, and if you've ever been on the other side of things, you know that you are really and truly grateful."

He reminded the guests that the Eucharist would not have happened without charity. "The

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University of Notre Dame presents Evangelium Vitae Medal

BY ANN CAREY

A doctor who performed abortions early in his career before dedicating himself to pro-life medicine received the prestigious Evangelium Vitae Medal at the University of Notre Dame on April 23.

The medal has been presented annually since 2011 by the University of Notre Dame's de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture to individuals or organizations for outstanding efforts to proclaim the "Gospel of Life," set out in Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*.

The 2022 winner is Dr. John Bruchalski, founder of Tepeyac OB/GYN, a large pro-life medical practice in Washington, D.C. and Virginia. Bruchalski founded the practice after a conversion he attributes to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In its 28 years, Tepeyac OB/GYN has cared for thousands of women and delivered 500 babies, regardless of ability to pay.

Bruchalski joins other pro-life champions who have been medal recipients, including the Sisters of Life; the Knights of Columbus; the Women's Care Centers; and the 2021 winner, the late Vicki Thorn, founder of the post-abortion healing ministry Project Rachel.

Ethics and Culture Center Director O. Carter Snead conferred the medal at an evening banquet attended by 500 current Notre Dame students, faculty, alumni and other supporters of the center. The medal citation read, in part:

"John Bruchalski came to see that true healthcare for women is not about rights, but relationships; not about limits, but love. Thanks to the gift of God who purifies and renews, a new heart and a new spirit were given him, making him capable of bringing

about a renewed relationship with God and with others, and opening up new and extraordinary possibilities for understanding and carrying out all the demands inherent in the 'Gospel of Life'."

Those demands led Bruchalski to find a new way to care for women and children, and the result was Tepeyac OB/GYN, named for the location where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego.

In a related panel discussion the day before the awards banquet, Bruchalski joined three other pro-life physicians to deliberate on the topic: "Women and Children First: The Role and Work of the Pro-Life Physician."

He related that during his residency in OB/Gyn, he started to reflect on the dichotomy of trying to save the life of a mother and premature baby in one hospital room and then moving to another room to end a baby's life. That "schizophrenia," he related, "tears your mind and hardens your heart."

Bruchalski said he came to realize that good medicine is never pitting mother against child or "helping" a patient by destroying a life. Now, he said "We can sleep at night," secure in the knowledge that practicing good medicine is "an act of mercy" toward other members of our human family that shows the love of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Monique Chireau Wubbenhorst, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Duke University Medical Center and a visiting scholar at the Center for Ethics and Culture, picked up on her colleague's comments about the schizophrenia of abortion.

"We are in a struggle for the soul of America," she said, and she criticized the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for affirming the legal right of women to obtain

an abortion prior to viability, when in fact, most ACOG members refuse to perform abortions.

She also stressed the need to address the sexual morals of the culture, and she warned that pro-life medical personnel may have to suffer for standing up for their convictions.

Dr. John Y. Rhee, Chief Resident in Neurology at Massachusetts General Brigham Hospital and a teaching fellow at Harvard Medical School, provided advice on how a pro-life person can successfully navigate medical school and residency without being pressured to participate in immoral services.

He advised students to start early to practice well-formed Christian virtues and to "Do good because you want to, not because you should." Be clear about your beliefs, he advised, but show that you are willing to work hard; be cheerful and create bonds with people; and find a trusted person in authority who can provide direction and protection.

The other panelist, Dr. Katharine Callaghan, Associate Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital, South Bend, and Adjunct Professor at Notre Dame's Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care in Medicine, spoke about pro-life care for the underserved.

She said that parenting is the hardest job there is, and on top of that, single poor mothers face an "astounding" number



of obstacles, especially for those who did not have a good parental model. Thus, it's necessary to walk with these mothers for at least five years.

"It's our call as a Church," she said, and this walk is "central to bringing the Gospel to the world."

Callaghan also noted that it's very important to encourage and invite fathers to be involved in the responsibility and care for their children.

The panel was the first program of a new initiative of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture titled "Women and Children First." Center director O. Carter Snead said there is hope that the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand will be overturned soon. When that

happens, he said, there will be a "new landscape," and the plan is for Notre Dame to be ready to care for families, mothers and babies — both born and unborn — in the best way possible.

Snead described the initiative as a multi-disciplinary effort fueled by a team of experts in health policy, healthcare, housing, education and other issues related to employment, poverty, racial justice, religious freedom and international human rights. The goal is to develop policies to bring justice to not only babies in the womb, but also to mothers, families and all involved, and to sustain them in a post-Roe era.

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Photos provided by Nicole Kurut

Employees of Catholic Charities pose together at the 100th anniversary gala at the Fort Wayne Country Club.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, from page 1

Last Supper happened because of benefaction, because people said yes to Jesus," he said. "And you, my brothers and sisters, are the ones saying yes to Jesus in this time, in this place, and in this diocese, and for that I say thank you; and for that, I say we still have a lot of work to do."

Catholic Charities Chief Executive Officer Dan Florin closed the evening by sharing his story of recently being named permanent CEO after serving as interim CEO, and why he accepted the position. Florin had spent more than 30 years in corporate America, "climbing the ladder to reach financial independence," he shared. When he and his family moved to Indiana in 2007, he spent 12 years as Chief Financial Officer of Biomet and then Zimmer Biomet. He said that though he loved his job, it came at a high price in other areas of his life. He stepped down from his corporate job in 2020. His new CEO told him he was crazy to give up such a lucrative job. Florin said, "I may be a little crazy, but I am definitely Catholic, and God needs me elsewhere." He wasn't sure where God needed him, but he felt that, "Looking back, I see now that the Holy Spirit had been working on me for many years to change my direction and focus to what mattered most – my faith, my family and to give back."

He was asked several times to join the board of Catholic Charities by Board President Paulette Davis. "God's timing was perfect," he said. "I had been asking the Holy Spirit for guidance on how I could serve the Church by engaging my heart and my mind while leveraging my business experience." Florin said that the more he learned about Catholic Charities, the more he was drawn to the mission, and that the idea of helping the most vulnerable people right here in our communities pulled at his heart strings.

Not only did Florin join the Catholic Charities Board in 2020, but he also later became interim



Keynote speaker Father Agustino Torres, CFR, speaks on the importance of charity of both time and money to aid "our brothers and sisters," as Christ called on His followers to do.

CEO. When considering taking the job permanently, Florin questioned whether it was a good fit. All his experience had been in the for-profit world, and he had no experience in social services and was unsure if his background was an asset or a liability. He said, "After discussing the opportunity with Bishop Rhoades, my answer was a resounding 'yes!'"

Florin shared that his decision was confirmed a couple of months ago. He had driven one of the new Afghan refugee families to the local mosque for Friday prayer service. On the drive home afterward, the family asked Florin if he could take them to the local grocery store, which he was happy to do. When they arrived at the family's home, the mother asked Florin in for tea and cookies.

"As I sat in their living room of the house that our agency had secured for them, I asked the son whether his mom liked the new house. Speaking in Dari, he turned to his mother and then back to me, and in English said, 'She feels safe now.'" With emotion in his voice, Florin continued, "In that

have been impacted, Florin shared. He continued, "We now have the opportunity – in fact the obligation – to help millions of people in our diocese over the next 100 years."

The mission of Catholic Charities remains the same as it always has, to serve all those in need as Christ calls us to do. With that, Florin reminded the attendees that the night was about celebrating 100 years, but also about ensuring the legacy of the organization for the next 100 years.

The evening ended with the fundraising portion of the program. The goal was to raise \$100,000. Florin kicked things off by personally pledging \$10,000 toward the mission. That was followed by two anonymous gifts of \$25,000. By the end of the fundraiser, Catholic Charities had surpassed their goal.

If you would like to donate to Catholic Charities or find out more about the organization, visit ccfwsb.org.

instant, I knew this was what God wanted me to do."

In Catholic Charities' 100 years, more than 750,000 people



To date, Catholic Charities has aided more than 750,000 people through various programs such as pro-life and refugee services. The service organization expects to continue that aid for years to come.



Provided by Jeanne Arbanas

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ordains three priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the University of Notre Dame campus on April 23. From left are new priests Father Drew Clary, CSC, Father Cameron Cortens, CSC and Father Gabriel Griggs, CSC.

Bishop Rhoades ordains three new Holy Cross priests

With abundant joy and thanksgiving, the United States Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross announced the ordination of three men to the priesthood. On Saturday, April 23, 2022, the ceremony took place at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the University of Notre Dame campus. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Father Cameron Cortens, CSC, Father Drew Clary, CSC, and Father Gabriel Griggs, CSC.

“This is a joy-filled day for the Congregation of Holy Cross and the people of God. Cameron, Drew and Gabe are poised to help ‘wake up the world’ as Pope Francis invites us,” said Provincial Superior Father William M. Lies, CSC. “They are thoughtful and compassionate ministers of God’s friendship, something our Church and our

world need more than ever. We in Holy Cross are so grateful to have them walking with us in our mission to make God known, loved and served.”

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke about the priesthood and its connection to the Resurrection. He said, “Priests are called to be messengers of Christ’s Resurrection, of His victory over evil and death, and heralds of His divine love. This was the mission of the Apostles, as we heard in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles.”

He told of how Jesus, after his resurrection, rebuked the Apostles “for their unbelief and hardness of heart,” after which He sent them forth to proclaim the good news.

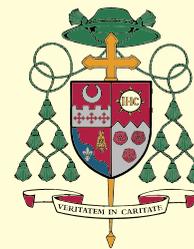
“This is rather paradoxical – Jesus scolds them and then commissions them. They had to be humbled before going out to preach,” he said. “This is an

important lesson for us who are ordained, that we recognize our own weakness, that we must be on a constant path of conversion ourselves, as we preach to and serve God’s people. God can make use of our weaknesses. What we need is to have faith in His fidelity and power. There is nothing like humility for attracting the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Then he spoke of how the Apostles did as Jesus commanded them and how the priestly calling is an extension of that commission. He then instructed the three priest candidates to “abide in Christ through prayer, from which your ministry will draw its efficacy.”

“During this Easter Octave, we share in the joy of Mary, the Queen of Heaven, and we pray the Regina Coeli. We rejoice with her in the Easter victory of her

ORDAIN, page 4



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, May 2: 8 a.m. – Meeting of Indiana Bishops and Major Superiors of Religious Institutes, Indianapolis
- Monday, May 2: 5 p.m. – Mass and Blessing for Graduates of Masters of Divinity Program at the University of Notre Dame, Moreau Seminary
- Tuesday, May 3: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St John the Baptist Church, New Haven
- Wednesday, May 4: 1 p.m. – History Lesson to 8th Grade Class at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, May 4: 7 p.m. – Talk on Theology of the Body to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish MOMS Group, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 5: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne
- Friday, May 6: 11 a.m. – Blessing of Babies Closet, Associated Churches, Fort Wayne
- Friday, May 6: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington
- Saturday, May 7: 9:30 a.m. – University of Saint Francis Baccalaureate Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, May 7: 5 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola
- Sunday, May 8: 2 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw



Priest assignment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignment:

Reverend Drew Clary, CSC, as Parochial Vicar at St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend, and St. Casimir Parish, South Bend, effective April 23, 2022.

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ORDAIN, from page 3

Risen Son, Our Lord and High Priest. Drew, Cameron, and Gabe, may you welcome Mary anew as your Mother and as the Mother of your priesthood, as did the Apostle John at the foot of the cross! May she intercede for you, that you may be faithful images of her Son, the Good Shepherd!"

Father Cortens is the oldest of four children of Caroline and Andrew Cortens of Boise, Idaho. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 2013, where he also received his Master's of Divinity in 2021. During his formation, he served at various ministries in the South Bend area and at St. Adalbert and Sacred Heart Parishes in the same city. He celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, April 24, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.

Father Clary is the oldest of three children of Pamela and Richard Clary of Castroville, Texas. He graduated with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from the University of Notre Dame in 2009. He earned a Master's in Education through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) in 2011. Father Clary entered formation with the Congregation of Holy Cross in 2015 and earned his Master's of Divinity in 2021. In the summer

of 2020, he began living and ministering at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes in South Bend, where he continued as a transitional deacon in preparation for priestly ordination.

Father Clary celebrated his first Mass in English on Sunday, April 24, at St. Adalbert Church, followed by a Mass in Spanish at St. Casimir Church. He will continue to serve at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parishes.

Father Griggs grew up in South Bend and is the oldest of three children of Ann and Gladden Griggs. After receiving his B.A. in Liberal Studies and Applied Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame in 2014, he completed one year of graduate work in statistics

at Purdue University. He received his Master's of Divinity from Notre Dame in 2021. While in formation, he served at St. Adalbert and Holy Cross Parishes, as well as in other local ministries. He spent his diaconate year in preparation for priestly ordination as the rector of Keough Hall, a men's residence at the University of Notre Dame. Father Griggs celebrated his first Mass on

Sunday, April 24, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame. He will continue as the rector of Keough Hall at the University of Notre Dame.

"This is a joy-filled day for the Congregation of Holy Cross and the people of God. Cameron, Drew and Gabe are poised to help 'wake up the world' as Pope Francis invites us."

PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR
FATHER WILLIAM M. LIES, CSC



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CNS photo/courtesy Polish Presidency

Polish First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda embraces a boy during an Easter breakfast for Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw, Poland, on April 24, 2022.

Caritas, Polish hotels serve Easter breakfast to 20,000 Ukrainians

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – For two months, Poland has been welcoming Ukrainian refugees, and organizers wanted them to be able to celebrate Easter in a special way. So on April 24, Caritas joined with hotels to sponsor an Easter breakfast for more than 20,000 Ukrainians.

Agata Kornhauser-Duda, Poland's First Lady, joined some of the refugees in Warsaw. "Ukraine will not be left alone. We are together, we are brothers and sisters," she said.

Orthodox and Eastern Catholics celebrated Easter on April 24, following the Julian calendar. In the Latin Rite, Catholics celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, and it was also the patronal feast of Caritas.

So Caritas Poland proposed celebrating the Day of Goodness,

which included Easter breakfasts, an initiative of Polish Hotel Holding, Poland's second-largest hotel group and the first backed exclusively by Polish capital. The 45 diocesan branches of Caritas took charge of inviting the Ukrainians.

"During this event, there were many emotions and tears, but also words of gratitude from our brothers and sisters from Ukraine for the fact that we could celebrate one of the most important holidays in the Orthodox Church with them," Gheorghe Marian Cristescu, PHH President, told Catholic News Service.

"This Easter holiday is extremely difficult for them because it is the first time they are spending it far from home, and often also without their clos-

est family members. We wanted to be with them at that time to help them experience the first Orthodox Easter in Poland, in a safe and friendly atmosphere," he said.

Kornhauser-Duda thanked Polish citizens who are supporting Ukrainians, especially Caritas Poland, for their full commitment in many areas. She also thanked Polish Hotel Holding for its quick response and immediate provision of accommodation for guests from Ukraine.

"We all believe – and we pray for it – that Ukraine will win, that Ukraine will emerge victorious from this war. Ukrainians are a proud nation that will do whatever it takes to make Ukraine flourish," she said.



CNS photo/courtesy Caritas Poland

Rev. Mitrat Doroteusz Sawicki, a clergyman of the Orthodox Church, talks with Father Cordian Szwarc, Deputy Director of Caritas Poland, during an Easter breakfast for Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw, Poland, on April 24. The breakfast was organized by Caritas Poland, Polish Hotel Holding and other Polish hotels for more than 20,000 people from Ukraine.



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Ukrainian Catholics in New York celebrate Easter by praying for end of war

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — Ukrainian Catholics in New York celebrated Easter with prayers that Christ's triumph over death will also signify victory over everything evil happening in their home country.

Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Connecticut, was the main celebrant for the Easter Divine Liturgies on April 24 at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan. The parish celebrates services according to the Julian calendar.

On the 60th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Bishop Chomnycky said the situation there is coloring the whole Easter feast, as a cloud hanging over everything, but there is reason for hope. "In the Resurrection, not only did Christ defeat death, but He also defeated violence, evil and mistruth," he said.

He said all Ukrainians are "putting our trust in the resurrected Christ that He will defeat evil in our country."

He also read passages from the Easter message of Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Writing from Kyiv, Archbishop Shevchuk compared the passion of Christ to the war in Ukraine. "We have become aware of how human nature remains fallen, how the devil continues to control human beings who have no God in their hearts. He who sows hatred and instigates war against one's neighbor opposes the Almighty."

The archbishop said the power of the presence of God is a miracle demonstrated in underground shelters. "In his resurrection, Christ emerges not only from the empty tomb but from the depths of hell and from deadly captivity for humankind ... taking with Him the hand of soldiers, volunteers and the civilian population who have seen the hell of the Russian occupation," he wrote.

More than 1,500 people attended two back-to-back concelebrated Easter Divine Liturgies at St. George. Many worshippers at the two-hour services wore Ukrainian blouses, shirts or dresses embroidered with traditional designs. Prayers were said in Ukrainian. Bishop Chomnycky and four concelebrants read the Gospel in Greek, Latin, Old Slavonic, English and Ukrainian.

In the sanctuary, hydrangeas in the blue and yellow colors of the Ukrainian national flag served as a backdrop to Easter baskets delivered before and during the liturgy. Bishop Chomnycky blessed the baskets at the end of the services before they were collected by the fami-



Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn., uses holy water to bless the congregation during an Easter Divine Liturgy on April 24, 2022, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in the East Village neighborhood of New York City. The parish maintains many of its ancestral faith traditions, including celebrating services according to the Julian calendar.

CNS photos/Gregory A. Shemitz



A priest blesses a girl with holy oil following an Easter Divine Liturgy.

lies that brought them forward.

Andrij Dobriansky, Director of Music for the parish, told Catholic News Service that the baskets typically contain hard-boiled eggs, sausage, fresh bread, butter, cheese, horseradish and beets. He said they are reminiscent of a time when congregants fasted from Good Friday until the end of the Easter Vigil service and broke the fast by eating from the blessed baskets.

St. George has been at the center of neighborhood efforts to provide spiritual and temporal aid for Ukrainians overseas and in New York. Father Peter Shyshka, a parish priest, said they are sending three shipments of food and supplies each week to aid monasteries, orphanages, soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, as well as helping new arrivals and those who were stranded in New York when the war broke out.

The priest, who was born and raised in the parish, told CNS that the Holy Week and Easter liturgies drew 40 percent more people than usual.

Dobriansky said the Marian Sodality group at the parish is collecting funds and has organized the humanitarian aid shipments. In addition, members have established a schedule for the continuous recitation of the rosary since the Feb. 24 start of the invasion. The parish is working with local civic and religious groups to open a welcome center for anticipated new arrivals from Ukraine.

He said that approximately 30,000 Ukrainians were in the United States on Feb. 24 and as many as 60,000 Ukrainians may qualify for Temporary Protected Status, granted by the Department of Homeland Security to eligible foreign-born individuals who are unable to return home safely.

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Vatican officials in U.S to study alleged miracles in Father Tolton's cause

QUINCY, Ill. (CNS) – The local ABC-TV affiliate in Quincy, where Father Augustus Tolton grew up and is buried, reported on April 14 that Vatican representatives were in the United States to investigate possible miracles related to the priest's sainthood cause. Father Tolton was born into slavery and is the first recognized African-American priest ordained for the U.S. Catholic Church. His cause for canonization was officially opened by the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2010 and he received the title "Servant of God." On Dec. 10, 2016, his cause took a step forward at a cemetery in Quincy where his remains were exhumed, verified and reinterred. In June 2019, Pope Francis declared that Father Tolton lived a life of heroic virtue, giving him the title of "Venerable." The next step is beatification, which requires verification of a miracle attributed to the saint-hood candidate's intercession. In general, a second such miracle is needed for canonization. While Father Tolton died in Chicago in 1897, he requested to be buried in Quincy, which is in the Diocese of Springfield. He and his family had fled there after escaping slavery in nearby Missouri and that is where he returned to minister after being ordained in Rome on Easter in 1886. In its April 14 report, KHQA-TV Channel 7 provided no details as to what the alleged miracles under investigation might entail.

State court halts firing-squad execution with temporary stay

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – South Carolina's Supreme Court has issued a temporary stay blocking the state from executing death-row inmate Richard Moore by firing squad. The brief order from April 20 put a stop to the scheduled April 29 execution and said details would be issued at a later date. Moore's attorneys requested the stay due to pending litigation in another court challenging the constitutionality of the state's execution methods. They also want the U.S. Supreme Court to review Moore's case to determine if his sentence was proportionate to his crime. On April 15, Moore chose death by firing squad over electrocution but described both methods as unconstitutional. Moore, who is 57, is scheduled to be executed for the death sentence he received nearly 20 years ago for the 1999 murder and robbery of a South Carolina store clerk. His execution had initially been scheduled for 2020 but was postponed because prison officials said they did not have the necessary lethal injection drugs. Two weeks prior to his scheduled execution date, Moore was given the choice for

Mariupol evacuees wait to be taken away from war zone



CNS photo/Alexander Ermochenko, Reuters

Evacuees in the southern port of Mariupol, Ukraine, wait before boarding a bus to leave the city on April 20, 2022, during the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations called on every Russian religious figure, regardless of confessional affiliation, to make public and private requests to the Russian authorities to organize the evacuation of civilians and wounded defenders of Mariupol.

how he wished to be put to death. A South Carolina law passed a year ago made the electric chair the state's primary method for executions since drugs for lethal injections have been difficult to obtain. The law also stipulates that prisoners have the option of choosing to be executed by firing squad.

Vicki Thorn dies; founded post-abortion healing ministry Project Rachel

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. (CNS) – Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI said the life and work of Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn, who died unexpectedly on April 20, stand "as a living testimony to an unwavering and unconditional defense of life at all stages, and to the mercy of God's love." Thorn was 72. The Catholic Herald, Milwaukee's archdiocesan newspaper, reported that she died of a massive heart attack. Funeral arrangements were pending. As the founder of Project Rachel, she single-handedly created a post-abortion healing ministry at a time when none existed. She maintained an office at the Milwaukee archdiocesan pastoral center for 37 years. During that time, her ministry expanded across the U.S. and around the world. Now overseen by the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops, Project Rachel is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priest confessors, mental health professionals, spiritual directors and others who provide ongoing, one-on-one confidential post-abortion care. In an April 20 statement, Archbishop ListECKI said he and the pastoral center staff offered "our deepest condolences" to Thorn's husband of 50 years, William, and the couple's six children.

Pope says no trip to Kyiv, meeting with Russian patriarch canceled

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican will never stop its diplomatic efforts to mediate an end to the war against Ukraine, Pope Francis said. However, the meeting between the pope and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow planned for June has been canceled out of concern it could cause "confusion," and there will be no papal visit to Kyiv while war rages, the pope said in an interview with the Argentine daily newspaper La Nación on April 21. Pope Francis told reporters on April 2 he was considering a possible visit to the Ukrainian capital. But in his latest interview, he told La Nación that "I cannot do anything that puts higher objectives at risk, which are the end of the war, a truce or,

at least, a humanitarian corridor. What good would it do for the pope to go to Kyiv if the war were to continue the next day?" he said. When asked about Patriarch Kirill, Pope Francis said, "I am sorry that the Vatican has had to suspend a second meeting with Patriarch Kirill, which we had scheduled for June in Jerusalem." Their first meeting had been in 2016 in Havana, the first time the pope and Moscow patriarch had met personally. He explained that the Vatican's diplomatic team understood that such a meeting "at this time could lead to much confusion." Personally, he said he seeks to promote fruitful interreligious dialogue because mutual understanding or agreement "is better than conflict."

NCEA speaker addresses impact of social media on adolescents

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) – The founder of an internet safety initiative warned Catholic school teachers and administrators on April 20 about the appeal and impact of social media on today's students. Chris McKenna, founder of Protect Young Eyes (www.protectyouneyes.com), told participants at the National Catholic Educational Association's conference in New Orleans that the world has changed for children

because digital technology has been designed slickly to grab kids' attention and keep them hooked. He said the ubiquity of online pornography and the sophisticated algorithms used by social media platforms to lure children and teens into inauthentic relationships with strangers and also encourage comparison envy have created unprecedented emotional challenges that can actually harm the brain. "Please try not to start another conversation, 'When I was a kid ...' because if TikTok existed when you were a kid, you would've been addicted, too," said McKenna, a father of four. Contrary to the common wisdom that kids are "resilient," McKenna said that while children with developing brains are "incredibly adaptive," the bottom line is that "trauma is trauma." "We live in a time, with digital doorways everywhere, where the opportunities for trauma to our young people are more prevalent than ever," he said, noting that the digital pornography today is of a type far removed from the "2D" pornography of the 1970s.

Vatican delegation travels to Vietnam to work on diplomatic ties

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) – A Vatican delegation traveled to Vietnam, hoping to accelerate a process for enhancing diplomatic ties between the Holy See and Vietnam. On April 20, the three-member delegation, led by Msgr. Miroslaw Wachowski, the Vatican's undersecretary for relations with states, arrived in Hanoi to start a seven-day working visit, reported ucanews.com. Other delegates are Vietnamese Msgr. Francis Cao Minh Dung and Korean Father Han Hyun-taek. The delegates were warmly welcomed by Singapore-based Archbishop Marek Zalewski, non-resident pontifical representative to Vietnam, Archbishop Joseph Vu Van Thien of Hanoi, three priests and officials from Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government Committee for Religious Affairs. Jesuit Father Joseph Dao Nguyen Vu, head of the office of the Catholic bishops' conference of Vietnam, said the Vatican delegates were to attend the ninth meeting of the Vietnam-Holy See Joint Working Group from April 21-22 to discuss ways to set up an office of a permanent papal representative in the country. Ucanews.com reported that the group started to work toward agreements to improve bilateral relationships, but no meetings have been held during the past two years due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. The Vatican has had no diplomatic relations with Vietnam since the last Vatican envoy was expelled from the country in 1976 after the communists took control of South Vietnam.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Pilgrims receive blessing for Santiago pilgrimage



Provided by Tom Labuziński

In preparation for their approaching pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago, Spain, a dozen pilgrims received a special blessing from Monsignor William Schooler, the pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger, during an evening Mass. The pilgrimage is set for this spring, in either May or June. From left to right are Jim and June Brandner, Joan and Paul Sniadecki, Monsignor Schooler, Millie Stackowicz, Janine and Greg Bennett, John Stackowicz, Max Ortega, Tom Labuziński and Flor Ortega.

Greenhouse to open on Mother's Day weekend

FORT WAYNE – St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne will open their greenhouse for the season for a Mother's Day Spring Festival on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A variety of plants will be available for purchase, including hanging baskets, flats of flowers, vegetables and herbs, houseplants, perennial flowers and ferns.

Information nights answer questions about World Youth Day 2023

MISHAWAKA — Two WYD 2023 info nights will be held on May 11 and 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. and are open to youth, parents, clergy and young adults wanting to learn more about the diocesan pilgrimage to Portugal in 2023 for World Youth Day. The May 11 info night will be held at Marian High School, 1311 S. Logan St. in Mishawaka. The May 12 info night will be held at Bishop Dwenger High School, 1300 E Washington Center Rd. in Fort Wayne. Info nights are the perfect opportunity to grow your interest in WYD, answer questions you may have, share ideas for fund-

raising, and hear from the travel partners at Verso Ministries. Contact John Pratt at jpratt@diocesefwsb.org or visit www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd/#INFO for additional details.

University of Saint Francis awarded grant for Crown Point campus

CROWN POINT – The University of Saint Francis Crown Point announced the acceptance of a Community Project Funding grant of \$225,000 in a news conference on Friday, April 22, at the campus, 12880 Mississippi Parkway. USF President Father Eric Albert Zimmer appeared with Rep. Frank J. Mrvan of the First Congressional District of Indiana to announce the grant. The funding will support the acquisition of equipment and other student needs for the USF Crown Point site. USF Crown Point expanded in size and scope for the 2021-22 academic year, adding several new degree programs. The grant will support efforts to expand a strong pool of medical professionals to serve northwest Indiana's growing health needs. The grant is the result of a Community Project Funding request included in the final version of Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations legislation.

CHERISHED — A retreat for those in a season of infertility

NOTRE DAME — 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 on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center. 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 this same path. The 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, \$25/individual, and includes lunch and dinner. Details at www.springsinthedesert.org. Contact Lisa Everett at 574-386-2947 or leverett@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Middle schoolers collect books for Kate's Kart



Lois Widner

During this past Lenten season, middle-schoolers in the National Junior Honor Society at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Fort Wayne collected brand new books and donated them to Kate's Kart, a non-profit that gifts children in hospitals with books at no charge.

Students learn about Divine Mercy in a sweet way



Lisa Marie Emrick

Divine Mercy Sunday is the second Sunday of Easter. On this day, Catholics are given the opportunity to once again bask in God's mercy and love. Bob Geyer greets children including his daughter Gwen within Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne during the lunch hour. He had the opportunity to teach about St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy over ice cream donated by a local Catholic-owned business to help Catholic youth "sprinkle" more faith in their lives.

Pysanky egg-making a mother-daughter tradition

BY JENNIFER BARTON

During her childhood, Karen Eckrich remembers dying eggs at Easter time, but not in the way that most American children did. “Growing up, we made Ukrainian eggs around Easter most years. As a kid, most of mine were just squiggles and bright colors,” she said.

These eggs are known as pysanky (pronounced pih-san-KEE). Pysanky date back to 2,000 B.C., when they had pagan connotations. However, the rise of Christianity gave new meaning to the ancient symbols and colors. They can be incredibly elaborate, with bold colors and amazing designs. On April 23, Karen, who is the secretary at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, held a workshop to demonstrate the technique and teach others this art form, her first time having done so.

Karen learned the craft from her mother, Carol Ann Eckrich. “When I was a child, I saw a picture of a pysanky in an ‘Ideals’ magazine. I had no idea what it was or what it took to create something so colorful and intricate, but knew that someday I wanted to make one,” Carol Ann said. It wasn’t until 1991 that she finally had the opportunity to do so.

As an academic advisor at Purdue University, she worked with the foreign language department where a Russian professor offered a pysanky egg workshop. She said, “I took a day off of work to make sure I could spend the whole day learning the craft and was immediately hooked. I enjoyed the challenge of the complicated process and especially taking the wax off at the end to reveal all of the colors underneath.”

Two years and dozens of eggs later, she began earning the nickname “The Egg Lady” at the Indianapolis Children’s museum, where she spent nine years teaching children how to create the beautiful eggs. To date, she believes that she has taught hundreds of people how to make them.

All the symbols traditionally used on pysanky eggs have special meanings. Triangles symbolize the Trinity; grapes mean a good harvest and the growing Church. The sun is the most widely used and symbolizes life and light. There are many more. Colors also have significance – white means purity, red is for hope or passion, black is the darkness before dawn.

The process for making pysanky eggs is time-consuming. Carol Ann estimates that a relatively simple egg could be created in one or two hours, but one with greater detail could take six or seven.

It takes so long because each layer of color requires detailing with a tool called a kitska, which



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Carol Ann Eckrich has created numerous pysanky eggs since 1991, when she participated in a workshop at Purdue University to learn how to make the Ukrainian Easter eggs. When finished, she drains the egg from the shell and sprays them with lacquer to maintain their colors.



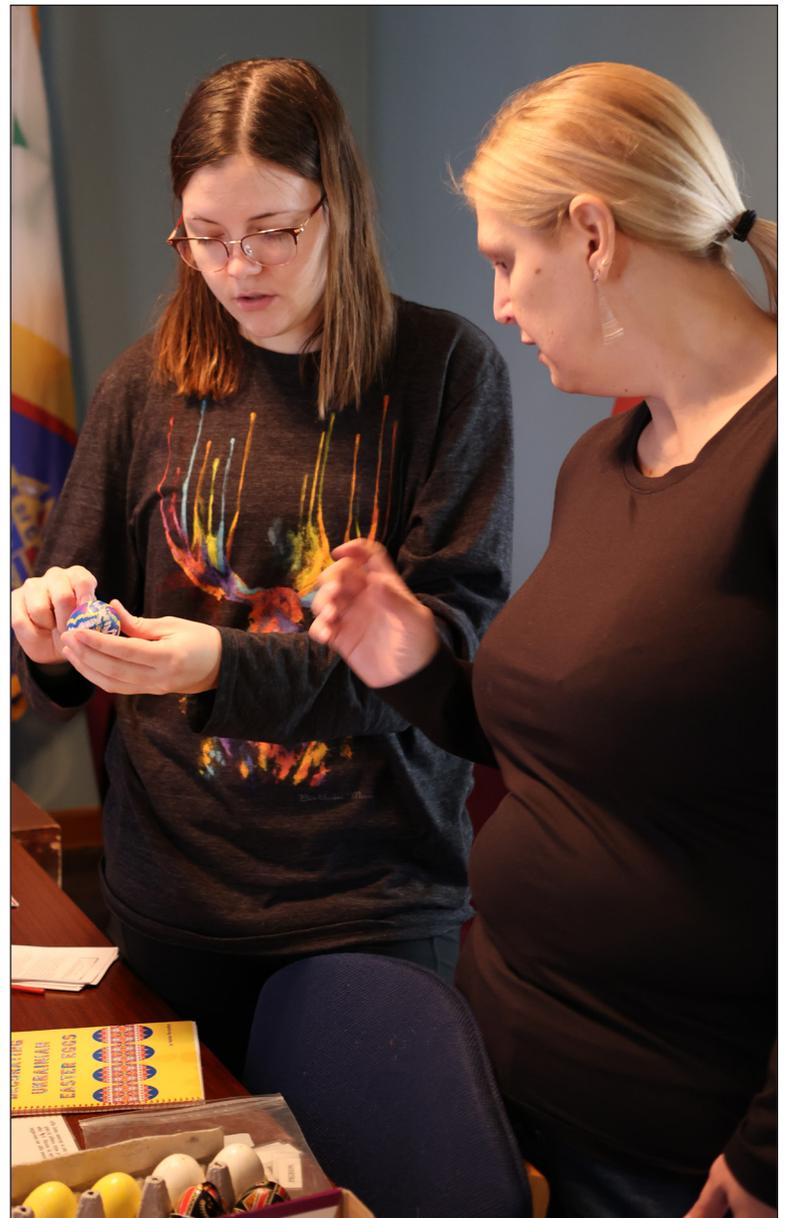
A tool called a kistka is used to detail symbols onto pysanky eggs using beeswax.

in essence is a tiny metal cup with a funnel that is roughly the size of a pencil point coming out of the bottom. This cup is heated over a lighted candle, filled with beeswax, then heated again to melt the beeswax. The beeswax flows out of the funnel as it is “painted” along the egg’s surface in whatever design the creator chooses. Then the egg is dipped into an inedible aniline dye.

The wax forms a seal that will keep those specific designs in one particular color. For example, covering a yellow layer with a wax flower will ensure that the

flower remains yellow at the end of the dying process. With each wax layer that is added, the egg is dipped into a progressively darker color (yellow to green to pink to blue, etc.). After the final color is achieved, the wax layers are removed by heating the egg close to the candle’s flame and wiping away the melted wax.

Through the years of plying her hobby, Carol Ann has probably crafted hundreds of eggs for herself and others, on anything from chicken eggs to a tiny parakeet egg. She even has an ostrich egg waiting to be decorated.



Karen Eckrich, left, learned the art of creating pysanky eggs from her mother, Carol Ann. Here she teaches Tara Bentley how to design her own egg at a workshop at St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne on April 23.

Her skill has grown over time. Karen enjoys making pysanky eggs, but admits, “I love the process, but still have never come close to creating what my mom is capable of. They take a lot of patience, a steady hand and the ability to plan out the whole thing and know what you want to end up with.”

Although the Eckriches are not ethnically Ukrainian, their roots do go back to Czechoslovakia, so touching a piece of Eastern European culture has special meaning for Karen. The workshop she hosted also gave her and others a way to connect with the Ukrainian people who are suffering under the strains of war and fighting desperately to defend their homeland.

Supporting Ukraine was one reason Priscilla Harless chose to attend. She had not heard of pysanky eggs before, but the bulletin announcement that Karen wrote “intrigued” Harless.

“It touched me in such a way that I thought I’d try it,” she said. With the excess money raised going to Catholic Relief Services’ Ukraine aid, it felt like another way she could help those in Ukraine aside from simply praying for them.

In addition to Harless, two other women came to the work-

shop. All three are members of St. John the Baptist and they enjoyed their time there, one of them stating that it certainly could be a meditative craft. Attendee Olivia Peterson commented, “I want to do this all day.”

Tara Bentley came because she loves arts and crafts. In the fall, she had taken a candle painting class at the parish and now helps customize baptismal candles for the children who are baptized there. She said she would definitely do this again. In fact, she said, “I’m thinking about how to do it differently in the future.”

And she could have an opportunity to work with Karen and others again to make pysanky eggs. Karen will host another workshop on May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at the parish. The cost will again be \$10, with any excess funds raised after covering the cost of supplies going to Catholic Relief Services. Space is limited, so registration is required. Since lit candles are used in the process, the age limit for attendees is 10 and older. For those interested in learning how to make these extraordinary and stunning eggs, email parishsecretary@stjohnsfw.org or call the church office at 260-744-4393 to register.

Teacher of 48 years shares the joy of journey

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

She was 22 years old as a 1969 graduate of Indiana University South Bend. From there, she would go on to devote the next 50-odd years to instilling knowledge and morals into the minds of hundreds of young children in northwestern Indiana.

Joann Johnson has taught at St. John the Baptist School in South Bend for the past eight years, but her passion for teaching did not begin there. For a total of 48 years – 19 spent within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend – she has taught some of the youngest and most impressionable pupils: second-grade and younger. Now, at the age of 74, she has decided to retire.

This choice wasn't an easy one to make, though; she had been "tossing it back and forth," she said. But finally at peace with her decision, she explained, "I'm moving to another chapter of my life."

Teaching second-graders at St. Anthony de Padua School in South Bend was her first teaching job out of college, but deep down, she had always longed to teach kindergarten. She took a break from teaching for a few years once she became pregnant, but she still worked as a substitute teacher during that time. When she officially returned to education, she was excited to go back to St. Anthony de Padua and start their kindergarten program herself.

She spent a total of 11 years at that school, and from there she moved to LaSalle Elementary School in Mishawaka for a year and then to Beiger Elementary School in the same city for the next 28 years. With joy, she finally returned to Catholic schools and has worked at St. John the Baptist ever since. There, she has taught mixed classes of both first-grade and kindergarten, as well as first-grade and preschool. For the last three years, she has taught solely kindergarten.

Education has also had a huge impact on her family. Her husband, John, has worked as a substitute teacher, and her two daughters, Michelle and Lisa, have become teachers too.

Johnson has come full circle, she said, going from Catholic to public back to Catholic schools. Initially, she was supposed to permanently retire from teaching after leaving Mishawaka schools, but there were other plans at work.

"I honestly have no clue what made me go on the diocesan website," she said. "I just went on my computer one day, and it was this job opening here. Kindergarten. And I just thought, God is telling me I'm not ready to quit; I need to keep going."

Between public and Catholic



Samantha Rohloff

Joann Johnson, kindergarten teacher at St. John the Baptist School in South Bend, speaks fondly of her many decades in the classroom and the things she has learned from her own students.

schools, the latter is definitely her home. "Being a cradle Catholic, I've lived my life with the Church, with all the true meanings of the holidays, and it's just so nice to instill that in the children," she said. She also noted how it was difficult not to teach religion at a public school.

Altogether, Johnson has taught kindergarten for 47 years straight, adding that students in her first kindergarten class would now be 52 years old. But the many years have not dulled her enthusiasm for these kids and their achievements.

"There is such joy in what they accomplish," she said. "It can be the simplest thing as learning to hold a pencil correctly or learning to skip." She said it's "like a lightbulb goes off, and it's so exciting."

Her favorite subject to teach is reading. "To see them picking up a little book out of their book bin and being able to read by them-

selves is really, really amazing," she said. "We teach them how to read, and some just blossom. Others struggle, but when they're so excited about what they've read or they can tell me, 'Oh, I think this is going to happen in the story' ... I treasure that."

It was evident that even as a child, she was called to be a teacher. When Johnson was born, her older brothers were already teenagers, so when they had children of their own, Johnson's nieces and nephews were more like her sisters and brothers. When she babysat them, one of their favorite games to play was school – Johnson as the teacher and her nieces and nephews as her students. "And they still talk about it as adults," she recalled fondly.

It was also as a student herself at St. Anthony de Padua where one of her seventh-grade teachers, Arlene Fleischaker, kindled Johnson's passion for

teaching.

"I would stay after school every day, clean the room, do anything she wanted ... She always just made me feel like this is what I need to be doing.

And I ran into her over the years, and I would always tell her she's pretty much the reason that I became a teacher because she made me feel like, 'Yup, that's what I need to be doing.'" Fleischaker, later Cerney, passed away earlier this year at the age of 89.

There is no doubt that Johnson is an expert in her field, but there's always more to learn. In fact, her students also instruct her. "Patience," she said emphatically, is what they have taught her the most. Teaching children can get stressful, and it is this same fruit of the Holy Spirit that Johnson advises other teachers to cultivate.

"Patience is the biggest thing – you have to be patient." She added: "Know your limitations. You can't be everything to everyone ... Do what you can do, and don't think you're a bad teacher because you can't do it all."

And if decades of putting others first wasn't enough, she said that when she leaves her classroom for the last time, every ounce of its items – decorations, tools, etc. – will remain behind. Not so she can forget her work and students, but so the next teacher who enters the space will have everything they need.

"Teaching to me is not a job; it's a vocation," said Johnson. "I'm going to miss it. I know I am."



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

On March 17, 2022, Pope Francis granted, for the good of the Church, a dispensation from all priestly obligations, including celibacy, to Reverend David S. Huneck, a priest incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who was credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor. This dispensation was sought at Rev. Huneck's request and entails the loss of the clerical state and of all the rights and duties of the clerical state and permanently forbids the exercise of priestly ministry. It took effect on April 20, 2022.

La Casa de Amistad a hub for assisting Latinos, immigrants and refugees in South Bend area

BY KEVIN KILBANE

The name of La Casa de Amistad means “The House of Friendship” in Spanish. During nearly 50 years of serving people in the South Bend area, the nonprofit youth and community center remains a place of friendship, but it also has become much more.

“Many times, it is the first stop for newcomers to our community,” said Juan Constantino, the organization’s executive director.

New arrivals, immigrants and refugees receive guidance on where to find housing, where to enroll their children in school, where to get jobs and more, Constantino said. People also turn to La Casa de Amistad, now at 3423 S. Michigan St. in South Bend, for answers to other questions that arise as they settle into daily lives there.

“Many times, it is a catch-all hub for our Latino, Hispanic and immigrant community,” Constantino said.

La Casa de Amistad was founded as a youth outreach program in 1973 by Father John Phalen, CSC, and South Bend-area Latino community leaders, as noted on its website, lacasadeamistad.org. Initially, the program served Latino teens, particularly those from migrant worker families laboring in the area, Constantino said.

La Casa de Amistad gained nonprofit status in 1975 and has gradually expanded services and programming to meet other needs in the community and to welcome and aid people from all cultural groups.

The center now offers 13 different programs including a food pantry, bilingual preschool, after-school tutoring for grades K-12, summer school programs and English and U.S. citizenship



Photos provided by Juan Constantino

This architectural rendering shows the final design goal for La Casa de Amistad’s new building and campus at 3423 S. Michigan St. in South Bend. The nonprofit youth and community center is raising money to complete the work.

classes for adults. La Casa’s legal immigration clinic assists immigrants, refugees and asylees with filing paperwork for U.S. residency, citizenship and renewal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA status.

“The reason we have everything I mentioned is it is a full, wrap-around center to serve a family at any stage of life,” Constantino said.

Over the years, La Casa de Amistad also has extended its service area to include St. Joseph, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and LaPorte counties in Indiana and areas in southwest Michigan, Constantino said. The organization is supported financially through donations by individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations and by United Way of St. Joseph County.

La Casa de Amistad has outgrown two smaller previous locations. So Constantino and his staff were excited when they moved in June 2021 to the pres-

ent location on Michigan Street, a 41,000-square-foot, former charter school that gives them more than five times the space as at their prior building. Since the move, the number of contacts from people in the community has surged.

They previously served about 6,000 people a year, Constantino said. This January, they assisted 5,500 people. They also are averaging about 2,500 phone calls a month.

He attributes the increase to the new location, which offers greater visibility, easier access from the U.S. 20/U.S. 31 bypass and has a better phone system.

Recently, La Casa also took on assisting Afghan refugee families being resettled in the South Bend area. That work involves partnering with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the group United Religious Community of St. Joseph County, Constantino said. La Casa gave the families

clothing and toiletries when they arrived. The center’s legal immigration clinic also will provide free help to Afghan families with legal paperwork for settling in the United States.

“Catholic Charities enjoys working with La Casa to bring important services to the South Bend region of our diocese,” Luz Ostrognai, Catholic Charities’ Director of Immigration, said by email. “They are another excellent resource for the South Bend community seeking immigration and other services.

“We have maintained a close relationship with La Casa de Amistad over the years, and, in addition to sharing clients and referrals, we have also collaborated on projects that are beneficial to the community and the diocese as a whole,” Ostrognai said.

“La Casa de Amistad has also been a wonderful resource for our agency in launching our Fort Wayne City ID program, which is based on the successful program they provide in South Bend,” Ostrognai added. “They have been a valuable consultant and provided us with very helpful guidance and encouragement. We are so grateful for all their assistance and look forward to continuing to work together in the future.”

At least two Catholic parishes in the South Bend area also have supported La Casa de Amistad in its work.

“They are an absolutely incredible organization,” said Marlene Nowak of Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame, who helps coordinate the parish’s work with La Casa de Amistad.

Nowak said she and her husband, Tom, have worked through their parish since 1998 to assist immigrants and refugees. They take immigrants and refugees to La Casa de Amistad because the new residents can find all the help they need there.



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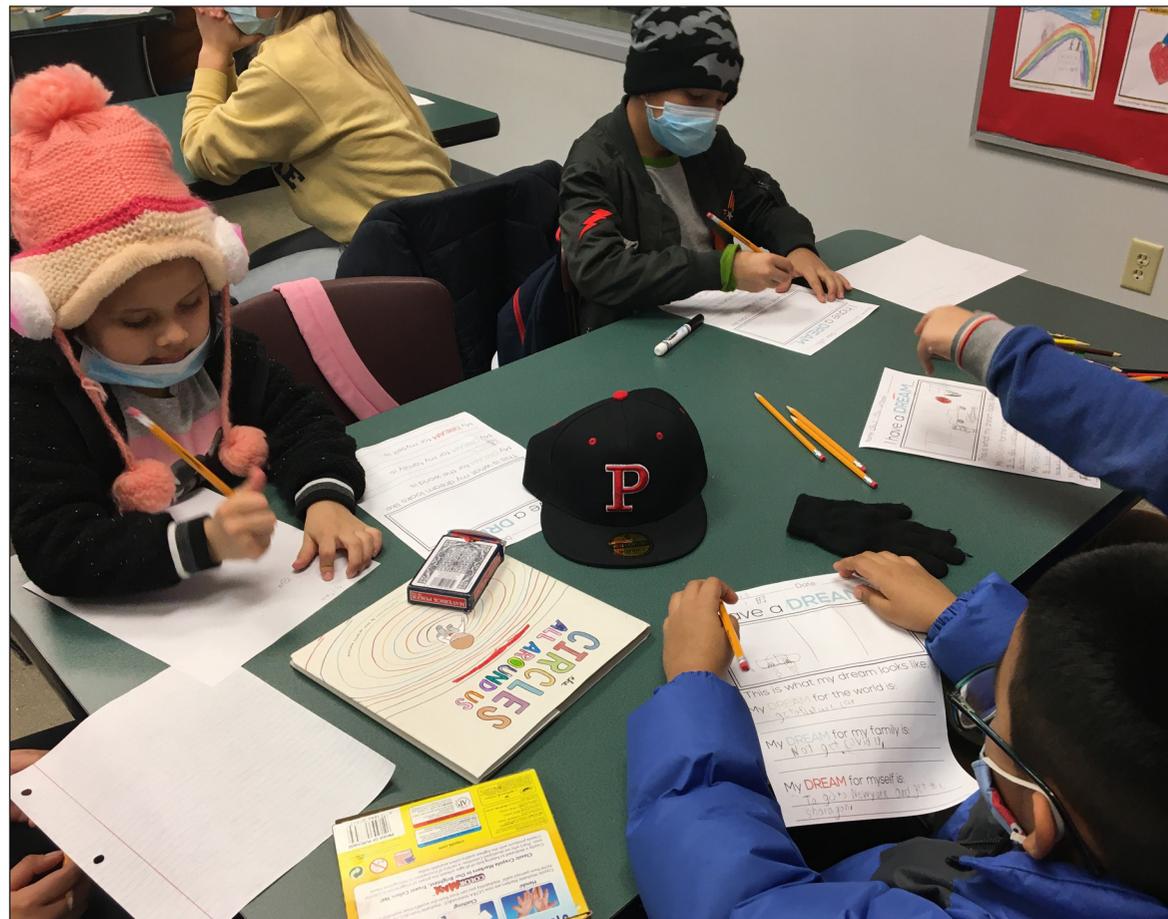
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Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul



Children work on a project at La Casa de Amistad in South Bend. The youth and community center provides more than a dozen programs for children and adults, including a bilingual preschool, after-school program and summer programs for children and youth and English and U.S. citizenship classes for adults.

Youngsters work on creating a large sign at La Casa de Amistad. The South Bend nonprofit provides a range of services to Latinos, immigrants and refugees in the region.

She said Constantino also has set aside a room at La Casa where Nowak and others can store items donated for use by immigrant and refugee families, such as food and clothing.

Sacred Heart parishioners recently donated \$737 to La Casa de Amistad through a second collection at Masses. Many parishioners also have offered to volunteer to help immigrants and refugees, Nowak said.

“Our social justice program is just really vibrant,” she added.

Parishioners at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend have included La Casa de Amistad among organizations assisted by the parish’s annual Advent Giving Tree, said

Sean Kennedy, Director of Marketing, Communications and Development for St. Joseph Parish and St. Joseph School. The Giving Tree invites parishioners to take a tag listing a needed item and then to buy and return the requested Christmas gift.

Looking ahead, Constantino hopes La Casa de Amistad can explore operating more sustainably, possibly by installing solar panels on the roof. He would like the organization to grow its regional presence and to partner with other organizations to help immigrants and refugees. The center will have to add more programs, depending on what the community needs, he said.

People who want to help can do so through a variety of ways:

- Volunteer by calling 574-233-2120.
- Make a donation or sponsor a program by contacting Constantino at the above number or by email at juan2@lacasadeamistad.org.

- Donate toward the organization’s endowment fund. The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County has agreed to help La Casa create an endowment by matching donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$150,000.

- Contribute toward La Casa’s \$500,000 capital campaign to

complete work at its new building and campus.

Any assistance is appreciated and will be put to use serving people, Constantino said.

“There is more need out there than there is help,” he noted.

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Student interaction highlight of pastoral visit to Bishop Dwenger

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his annual pastoral visit to Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, on Tuesday, April 19. At the onset of his day-long stop, the bishop concelebrated Mass with school chaplains Father Michael Ammer and Father Luke Okoye, as well as Fathers Nathan Maskal and Jay Horning.

During his homily, he talked to students about the resurrection of Jesus and how the event cooperates with the natural world in terms of physics and biology.

"You are all studying science. Think about it this way – a theologian and scientist I know wrote the following: 'From the perspective of physics, the Resurrection is the elevation of matter to a new way of existing beyond what is possible in the normal state of the universe.'"

He continued by stating that the resurrection of Jesus on Easter "doesn't contradict science since it is something beyond science. It's about a new dimension of human existence, the final stage of human evolution."

During Mass, the bishop also mentioned that he would soon celebrate baccalaureate Mass for the graduating senior class.

At the end of Mass, Bishop Dwenger principal Jason Schiffli honored science teacher Elizabeth Walker as the 2021-22 Christ the Teacher awardee in recognition of her contributions to the education, well-being and faith of her students.

Then Bishop Rhoades was off to visit a few classrooms, including Tristin Conroy's ceramics class, where he watched students spin clay. He expressed surprise that, when finished, these pieces of art must remain in the kiln for several days.

Numerous students greeted the bishop as he passed through halls between classes, stopping by both an American Literature and French class before heading to sociology. Though the French classroom was empty of students at the time, he spent a few minutes speaking with French teacher Lori Foltz.

The students in the sociology class, instructed by social studies teacher Tabitha Ray, discussed the difference between criminality and deviance. Ray gave her students a collaborative activity, and two of them invited Bishop Rhoades to join in their work group.

The students and Bishop Rhoades, who had been given a list of hypothetical scenarios, were tasked with determining whether an act was deviant or if the act was criminal. The bishop admitted that it was tough decid-



Photos by John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass at Bishop Dwenger High School during his annual pastoral visit on April 19. During his homily, Bishop related the resurrection of Jesus to their science classes, calling it the "final stage of human evolution." Throughout the day, the bishop participated in classroom discussions, met with teachers, witnessed students crafting ceramics and ate lunch with the student council.



ing how to label certain actions. He added that, while perhaps living as a hermit may seem deviant to the world at large, from a Catholic perspective it may not be as unusual.

At midday, Bishop Rhoades met with the student council for lunch, and they discussed theology, family and highlights of the current school year. He also asked the senior members of the council about their post-graduation plans.

One council member, a relative of Archbishop John F. Noll, asked Bishop Rhoades about the recent sale of Victory Noll, where the late archbishop is buried. According to Global Sisters Report, much of the land at Victory Noll was sold to local preservation nonprofit ACRES Land Trust, and the motherhouse was sold within the last several months to the Huntington County Community Corrections Program to assist in the treatment of drug addicts.

Bishop Rhoades said that, while parts of the property have been sold to different groups, the cemetery where Archbishop Noll and several religious sisters are buried would remain in Catholic possession.

Joseph Bulanda, student body president, spoke of the fruits of the council's lunchtime discussion with Bishop Rhoades. "I enjoyed talking with him, and he seemed to have a genuine care for all of our futures, and he really wanted to know the truth about Dwenger, so we got to talk to him about that."

Bishop Rhoades leaped at the opportunity to learn the sport of pickleball in physical education class before his afternoon meetings. Teachers Matt Kostoff and John Tone taught the bishop how to play, and three students practiced several rounds of the game with him.

At the end of the day, the bishop met with the high school's theology teachers as well as Schiffli. The principal said that they "all shared a laugh because we pointed out a rip in Bishop's pants at the knee."

"Bishop had dived for a ball with his paddle during a pickleball match in the PE class," Schiffli said. "Bishop sacrificed his pants, and he had a floor burn mark on his leg. I'm sure it hurt, but Bishop told me he loved playing the game with the students. It was fantastic and undoubtedly memorable for our students to see Bishop enjoying a game with them."

He added that they were "blessed to have Bishop Rhoades visit Bishop Dwenger during the Octave of Easter."

“Your prayers are everything to us” – teen battles aggressive cancer

BY JENNIFER BARTON

If there ever was a top ten list of the worst things a parent or child could hear, the word “glioblastoma” would be at the apex of it. It is an aggressive type of cancer that occurs in the brain, usually striking older adults, often with fatal results. Fifteen-year-old David Filer is determined, with the help and prayers of his family and friends, to fight – and beat – his recent and dire diagnosis.

David and his parents are members of Christ the King Parish in South Bend. He is an incredibly talented tennis player. So talented, in fact, that Dan Biggs, a former professional tennis player and longtime family friend and coach for David and his father, said that David has the potential to play professionally.

“He has the highest ceiling of anybody I’ve ever seen,” Biggs said. “This boy has a legitimate chance to play professional tennis and that’s his dream. But the important thing to me, he’s a much better person than he is a tennis player.”

All those dreams came to a screeching halt in early February. David’s dad – also a David, here referred to as Dave – reviewed the details of his son’s brutal ordeal. As a tennis competitor, David often travels to different locations with one of his parents to compete and practice with the best in the game. He spends much of his time at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida, where Dave shares that they recently bought a house.

It was at practice in that location that David began complaining about headaches. Dave said they dismissed them largely as migraines brought on by dehydration. After flying to tournaments in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and New Jersey, they flew to Phoenix, Arizona for a National Level 2 Championship. It was here, thousands of miles from home, that the pain became so intense that David had to be taken to the emergency room. Testing found a large mass on David’s brain.

Both Dave and his wife, Pam Mozdzierz, believe that God has been working on David’s behalf. “This is the strange part, you look at the whole picture, why we think God was saying this is where he had to be,” Dave said. Had their son needed medical attention a week prior, Eau Claire would not have had the necessary facilities; neither would Monterey, Mexico, their next destination the following week. Phoenix, however, did. Dave is certain that David would have died if they had been in Mexico. “It happened there for a reason,” Pam agreed.

David was taken to emergency surgery at a “top-notch” children’s hospital in Phoenix,



Photos provided by David Filer

Tennis is life for David Filer, a 15-year-old parishioner at Christ the King Parish in South Bend. David was recently diagnosed with a brain cancer known as glioblastoma, and his family is asking for prayers for him.

as Pam said, where an incredible pediatric surgeon removed the large tumor. Dave commented, “This surgeon did the most unbelievable job. In two-and-a-half days, [David] was out of the hospital. Five days later, he was hitting, practicing.”

Now David is receiving proton radiation and photon radiation at an Orlando hospital that provides the necessary treatments. He is still spending time on the court and his level of physical fitness gives the Filer family hope for his future. Dave said that although David is receiving treatment, “really, you wouldn’t know. He’s very positive; you have to be to beat it, I believe.”

Pam shared how the ordeal has changed the way she views her faith. “I think you do a lot of reflection and talking to God. I started out asking why, trying to get an answer,” Pam said tearfully. “I know that I’ll never know exactly why, but God has a reason for the path in our lives. No matter what we’re confronted with, we’re not alone, God is walking with us.”

“I feel like our family has definitely grown in how we pray,”

she added. “We’ve become better at praying as a family.”

The Filer family is hoping and praying for a miracle. More than anything else, that is what Dave and Pam have asked other people to do for them – to pray; pray that David can overcome the obstacles thrown in his path so that he can live his dreams. “Your prayers are everything to us,” Pam said.

Biggs, whose own child conquered cancer many years ago, knows the importance of a strong faith and prayer life in times of crisis. He gave David a paper upon which was written the verse from Isaiah 40:31: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” David placed this on the back of his phone, where he looks at it often.

Tennis has been David’s passion for many years, and the Filer family has gotten to know many other tennis players and their families – people who also live and understand the hectic lifestyle of a sports family. Since



David plays competitive tennis all over the U.S. and his dream is to play professionally in the future. The tennis community has shown great support for him.

learning of his diagnosis, the whole tennis community has come together on David’s behalf, sending prayers, thoughts, texts and emails to the family, encouraging them in their most difficult moments.

“When I heard the news, an hour later, the whole tennis community was posting on Facebook for him,” said Ellie Cook, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne and fellow tennis player. “It was beautiful to see the whole tennis community come together for David. That’s been helping him a lot.”

She has played on the court with David a couple of times. “He is such an amazing kid,” Cook said. Though she hasn’t known him long, she remarked on his love for the game and his competitive spirit, as well as his will to beat the cancer. “He is such a fighter, so genuine. He’s really an inspiration to me.”

“As a fellow athlete, I can’t imagine how he’s doing” in facing such a difficult prognosis, she said. She remarked that she is glad to see him continuing to

play the game that they are both so passionate about.

Until a few days after his surgery, David had not been aware of this support. When he finally checked his social media accounts, he was amazed by the outpouring of love from the many well-wishers. “I got so many people saying that they were praying for me. It was really special to me.”

Faith has become a greater focus in David’s life over the last couple of months. He stated that he’s been “getting more into my faith” and praying more often throughout the day. “I wasn’t the most engaged before,” he said, but now he makes prayer before bed and meals a priority.

David is staying positive out on the tennis court every day, doing the best he can as an athlete and fighting against a ruthless enemy. Yet he and his parents and so many others know that he is not alone in his trials. He said, “I’m always going to believe that God’s going to get me through this.”

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Understanding the Easter tomb aids understanding of Resurrection

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

This is the final resting place of Archbishop John F. Noll, who served as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne from 1925 to 1956.

Throughout the centuries, many have speculated on what Christ's tomb was like and what happened in the early morning hours of the third day more than 2,000 years ago. What did the tomb look like? What did it feel like? Understanding His tomb can aid faithful Catholics in more thoroughly understanding His resurrection, and there are different locations within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend where people can gain some insight on this.

In addition to its architectural structure and intricate stained glass above, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne holds another interesting design below. A crypt is located underneath the cathedral, just below the altar. This tomb-like room could possibly resemble Christ's tomb, thus providing visitors with a similar physical experience of Christ inside His tomb.

"Jesus went through everything that we go through when it comes to life," said Father Jake Runyon, Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This "included being buried," he continued, and said that just as Christ rose to life again after three days, so His faithful hope to share in the Resurrection as well.

The crypt contains the remains of past bishops and clergymen, including the previous bishop, John M. D'Arcy, who

passed away on Feb. 3, 2013.

It is also the final resting place for Bishops John H. Luers and Joseph G. Dwenger, the first and second bishops of the diocese.

One wall holds five bishops and three priests all in a row, and a cathedral tour guide explained that three additional plaques, which line another wall, commemorate other prominent clergy buried elsewhere. There is only one empty space left available in the crypt for burial, which could become the final resting place of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, should he decide to be interred there, said the guide.

A small altar for celebrating Mass rests along the wall across from the vaults. A few kneelers and chairs are available for prayer, but the entire windowless space is small with low ceilings, perhaps reminiscent of the cramped quarters of Christ's own tomb.

Father Runyon said that when people visit the crypt, the space may seem, in the beginning, "off-putting" or "strange." But after he explains the link among the "worship and death and resurrection of Jesus," that "disconnect" disappears, he said. He explained that the bishops buried there devoted their earthly lives in servitude to Christ, so

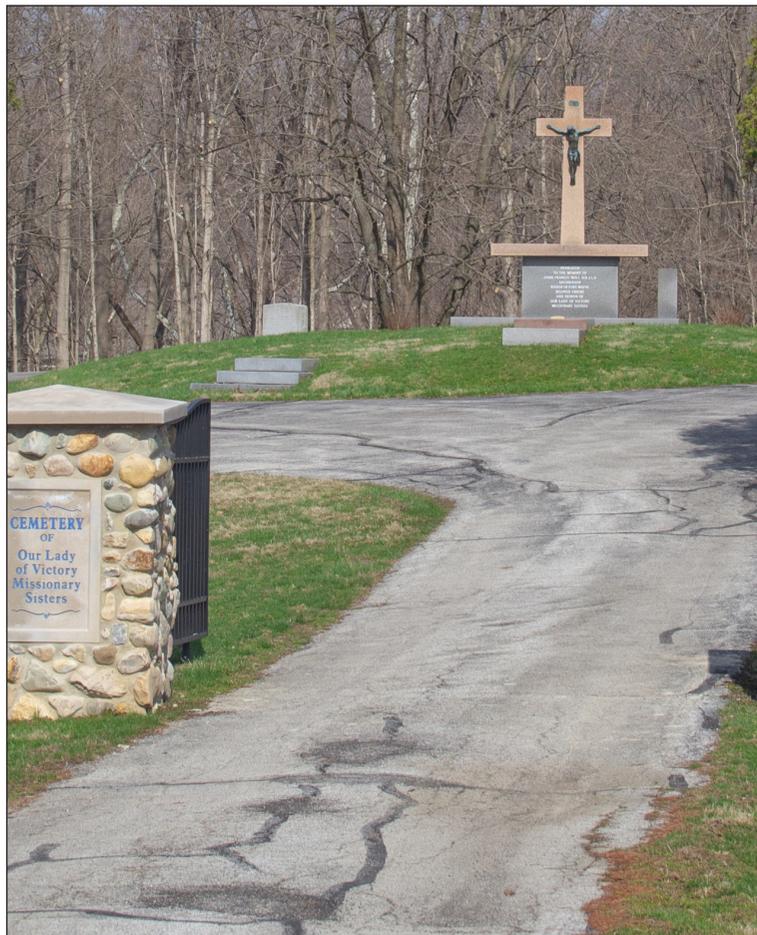
they remain within the cathedral, the very place where they accomplished this service, so that they are "connected in life and in death."

He also pointed out that a "fear of death" and "fear of cemeteries" is prominent in American culture. But he argued that cemeteries are not representations of death; rather, they are signs of hope in which the dead can look forward to eternal life. "We're not afraid of this stage in our life because Jesus went through the same thing," he said.

Another place where the faithful can find a better understanding of Christ's tomb is located in Huntington. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, a Pontifical Congregation also known as the Victory Noll Sisters, has a sepulcher that has since been designated to Huntington County.

Historically, sepulchers were a part of the Stations of the Cross, said Jeff Hoffman, Director of Archives for Victory Noll. "After Constantine allowed Christians to worship openly, they started going to the various sites that Christ did," he said. "But once the Muslims took over the Middle East, Christian pilgrims had trouble in going there, so they started setting up some of these other stations so that they could visualize it."

The Victory Noll sepulcher, made of field stone and built in 1926, said Hoffman, is a small man-made cave that displays a coffin-like basin made of stone with a glass top. Inside it is a statue of the reposed Christ.



Photos by Samantha Rohloff

Both Archbishop John F. Noll, a past bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, and Father John J. Sigstein, the founder of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, are laid to rest at the Victory Noll Cemetery in Huntington.

Another statue, this time of the Blessed Virgin Mary, stands above and looks down at this resting figure of her Son.

The room itself is only about 56 square feet, Hoffman estimated, and acts as the final station to their outdoor Stations of the Cross, which were also placed in 1926, he said. Though the sepulcher does not contain real human remains or an altar like the cathedral's crypt, it does provide one interpretation of what Christ's tomb could have looked like, especially with His holy body still present inside.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



There is also a cemetery on the campus that holds almost all the order's religious

sisters, said Hoffman. This is the final resting place of Archbishop John F. Noll, who served as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne from 1925 to 1956. Archbishop Noll was heavily involved in the purchase and building of Victory Noll, and one of the three complimentary plaques found in the cathedral's crypt is designated for him. The congregation's founder, Father John J. Sigstein, is also buried in the Victory Noll cemetery.

It's also important to note that Christ's tomb, though legendary in status, was not a legend itself. Jerusalem is home to the fourth-century Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place where Christ is thought to have been crucified and buried.

Father Jonathan Norton, pas-

tor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw, shared his experiences of visiting the sacred space, having made pilgrimages there in 2019 and in 2020. "There's like a little chapel inside of the church," he explained. This chapel is known as the Aedicula, a shrine built in the 19th century that surrounds Christ's tomb. Another feature of the Holy Sepulcher is the Stone of Anointing, where pilgrims often stop to venerate. "It looks like it's just sort of a flat stone, and you are able to go in there and kneel and touch that stone. And that's believed to be the very spot where Jesus was laid ... It's very profound to be at that spot."

Father Norton noted that the faithful, when they visit the place, see it for what it truly is: historical fact, not myth. "When people visit that, I think they realize that 'Wow, this is where it happened. This really took place.'"

Visiting the Holy Sepulcher, Father Norton said, is important for his faith journey because it is "the spot where death was defeated, and that's what we hope for as Christians. We have hope because of Jesus Christ, that we too, by His grace, will conquer death."

So, whether through exploring an interpretation of Christ's tomb or visiting it in person, these enclosed, prayerful spaces can assist the faithful in more deeply understanding Christ's tomb and resurrection. And hopefully, their own interment at the end of their earthly lives will culminate in eternal life – just as Christ rose from His tomb, full of life.



In the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, a staircase leads down to a crypt, which lies right beneath the altar above. Five previous bishops of the diocese and three priests are buried there.

Director of Adult Faith Formation Specialist

St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Carmel is seeking a Director of Adult Faith Formation Specialist who will develop and execute programs, groups and events to meet parish needs as it relates to Adult Faith Formation.

Typical Duties include:

- Develop and coordinate small groups amongst all ranges of the evangelization spectrum.
- Supervise, coordinate and/or direct religious education programs for adults including but not limited to: scripture studies and talks by guest speakers. Refer people as needed to other groups or ministers, ordained or lay. Research topics and approaches and make recommendations to the Director of Evangelization as deemed necessary.
- Collaborate with the Office of Catechesis of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana when applicable.
- Facilitate the Seton Adult Faith Formation Strategy Group. Identify and help develop new facilitators and ministry leaders.
- Serve as an instructor for a Catechist Formation as needed.
- Coordinate Adult Confirmation classes once a year, including advertising, scheduling, and identifying facilitators, meeting with confirmands, processing paperwork, and teaching as needed.
- Coordinate website and social media communications for Adult Faith Formation including submitting content. As time permits, prepare or request others to write regular bulletin entries and supervise preparation of other communications by volunteers as necessary, i.e. bulletin ads, posters, flyers and other promotional materials for Adult Faith Formation sponsored programs.
- Support Clergy in their Adult Faith Formation presentations to adults in the parish, including researching, summarizing and promoting events.
- Assess interest to determine if a need exists for retreats, days of reflection or weeks of prayer. Identify, schedule and oversee promotion and registration for Adult Faith Formation events deemed appropriate in collaboration with the Director of Evangelization and other staff.

Required Skills/Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Theology or related field preferred and/or 4 or more years of ministry-related experience.
- Strong supervisory, administrative, organizational leadership and program planning experience required. Experience working in a parish.
- Must be willing to occasionally work evenings and weekends when necessary.

For more information, contact:

Kevin Sweeney: St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 10655 Haverstick Rd., Carmel, IN 46033 • 317-846-3850
 kevin.sweeney@setoncarmel.org
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**SAINT PIUS X
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Assistant Director of Engagement

Saint Pius X Parish in Granger, IN, is seeking a full-time Assistant Director of Engagement responsible for overseeing efforts to build a deeper sense of Christian community for all ages and interest groups in the parish. This position plays a key role within the parish's Stewardship and Engagement Team.

Responsibilities include:

- Assist in managing the overall communication strategies for the parish.
- Assist in marketing efforts to promote the evangelization efforts of the parish.
- Assist in developing and overseeing efforts to foster community building and parishioner engagement in the parish.

Preferred candidate qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree and a minimum of one to three years experience in business, marketing, communications, pastoral ministry, or closely related field.
- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing and committed to stewardship as a way of life.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Able to operate independently to develop and implement relevant projects, collaborating with parish staff and volunteers as needed.
- Proficiency in computer programs, including desktop publishing (Microsoft Publisher or Adobe InDesign), and with social and digital media, with a willingness and capacity to learn new platforms, medium, and software as needed.

For the full position description, visit:

StPius.net/Employment

Qualified and interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and résumé by May 3, 2022 to:

Betsy Quinn, Director of Stewardship and Engagement
bquinn@stpious.net

The squeakiest wheels and the rest of us

What if there are not one but two chasms that divide Americans today? One chasm separates the reds and blues, the ideologically conservative and the ideologically progressive. This is the polar divide that cripples Congress and makes every issue from library books to traffic stops a flash point.

The other chasm is less noticed, but it is the one that exists between those who are heavily committed to reading and tracking everything to do with politics and those who are not. It is a divide between those heavily engaged and those not so much.

The second chasm has been described by Yanna Krupnikov, a political scientist who is co-author of "The Other Divide: Polarization and Disengagement in American Politics." Krupnikov was recently interviewed by Kevin Loker for the American Press Institute. Loker has an abiding interest in the topic of polarization. I have an abiding interest in the topic of polarization in our Church and often find that research in the secular world has implications for our Catholic world.

Krupnikov's research suggests that "the growing partisan divide in America can only be understood in the context of the growing gulf between people who spend their day following politics and those who do not."

Those obsessively following politics are called "deeply involved." They check their Twitter feeds, watch the all-news channels, and talk constantly about politics. "They are

unlike basically everyone else," Krupnikov said. This does not mean that "everyone else" is ignorant or completely disengaged. That may describe one group, but it doesn't describe those who are "following their local news and ... actually know big events that are happening. They're just not engaged with it on an hourly basis."

The challenge, of course, is that journalists, who are deeply engaged as part of their job, often gravitate to others who are deeply engaged. Journalists therefore tend to overestimate what percentage of the population is "deeply involved." While journalists might estimate the highly engaged, highly polarized as 50% of the population, Krupnikov says the true percentage is around 20%.

Overestimating the most engaged (and often the most ideologically polarized) has implications for how journalists portray these divisions in the world and, ultimately how Americans view their own society.

In looking at the Church, I have been struck that there is a "deeply involved" cohort in our parishes and dioceses too. They track controversies and developments more closely. They can be influencers in their local parish, for good or for ill. This level of engagement doesn't make them more spiritual or more holy. It may simply mean their degree of involvement is much more obsessive and intense.

In terms of Catholic media, the "deeply involved" may be more connected to national Catholic media, which are often



GREG ERLANDSON

AMID THE FRAY

more editorially polarized and polarizing. One concern I have is that the decline in local Catholic media means there is less of a local and moderating influence, a concern that has been recognized in secular media as local newspapers die off. Studies show that in "news deserts," counties without local press, polarization increases, political involvement decreases and corruption goes unmonitored.

The danger is we overestimate the "deeply involved," unconsciously influenced by who is most present on social media or who fills up the bishop's mail bag each week. The challenge for Church leaders is to avoid catering to the obsessives, to feed those Catholics who are engaged but not obsessed with Church politics and trends, and to bring into closer union those who may be on the periphery in terms of practice and belief.

Local Catholic media can help meet this challenge if they both reflect and serve the whole community and not just its loudest cohort.

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

Why culture was healthier when Johnny Carson and Joan Rivers were around

When I was a kid, it was a bit of a rite of passage in my family to receive permission to stay up late enough to watch Johnny Carson's monologue on the Tonight Show. So, I followed Johnny from the time I was about 15 until he retired in 1992. Not long ago, my Facebook feed offered up a video of one of Johnny's monologues from the 1970s, and because I clicked on it and liked it, my algorithms presented a whole slew of these stand-ups. I got a kick out of the jokes, but something else impressed me as I took in these performances from long ago. The audience laughed hard at some of Johnny's witticisms; they reacted mildly to others; and sometimes they barely made a sound. On very, very rare occasions, if they were truly impressed by a joke, they would applaud. Of course, a mark of Carson's genius is that he made great hay out of the clunkers — tapping the mike to see if it was working, laboriously explaining why the crowd should have laughed and in extreme cases, filling in the time with a little dance.

The reason this impressed me is that it is so different from the way audiences react to comics today. I don't know whether you've noticed this, but practically every joke of Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel or Bill Maher is met not just with laughter but with applause. As far as their devotees are concerned, there is no gradation, no relatively good and relatively bad jokes. What explains the



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

WORD ON FIRE

difference? Are they so much funnier than Johnny? Please. I think it is that Johnny Carson was not considered the leader of a tribe, while the comedians of today are. Colbert, Kimmel and company are so identified with a particular political/cultural point of view that refusing to respond to them with anything less than complete enthusiasm is construed as letting down the side.

The flip side of this, of course, is that Carson could entertain the entire country, liberal and conservative alike. He would, from time to time, take light jabs at both sides in the political wars, but he never clearly identified with either party. One typical joke that I remember had to do with President Jimmy Carter, who was experiencing a slide in his poll numbers the same weekend that his young daughter Amy was on a ski vacation with her friends. Johnny remarked that the president and Amy had something in common: they were both going downhill fast!

The comedian Joan Rivers was the second most popular guest in the history of Carson's Tonight Show, appearing more than a

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Peter's commission becomes our commission



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Easter John 21:1-19

Again this weekend, the Church presents as its first reading for liturgy in Eastertime a passage from the Acts of the Apostles.

The mere construction of Acts is a lesson. It is a continuation of St. Luke's Gospel. Its underlying lesson is that the salvation achieved by the Lord Jesus did not end with the Ascension. The presence of Jesus in the world did not end with the Ascension. The Risen Lord, ascended into heaven before the very eyes of the Apostles, absent the dead Judas, lives and acts through the Christian community, a com-

munity of visible structure, with specific functions.

This reading reports a conflict between the Sanhedrin, led by the high priest, and the Apostles. The Sanhedrin was the official ruling council of Judaism at the time of Jesus. Its agenda was primarily religious, but its authority touched virtually every aspect of life. Again, and important to note, Peter was the spokesman for all the Apostles. He was their leader.

Ordered to stop preaching about Jesus, the Apostles boldly reaffirmed their intention not to stop. No earthly power could deflect them from fulfilling their commission from the Lord. As was the case in earlier weekends, Peter offered here a capsulized story of the life and mission of Christ.

The Book of Revelation is the source of the second reading. Probably no other book of the New Testament, and few in the Old Testament, perennially leave readers wondering as does Revelation.

Revelation is clear. It refers

to Jesus as the sinless lamb of God, the title used by John the Baptist for the Lord, an overpowering reference to the fact that Christians stand with one foot on earth, the other in heaven, for they stand in and with Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, a woman.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last reading. It is a Resurrection narrative, wondrous and consoling. Jesus, risen from death, appeared to the Apostles as, without luck, they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. At dawn, recalling the time of the Resurrection, Jesus came into their midst. He told them exactly where to cast their nets. They obeyed, and a huge catch resulted. The beloved disciple recognized Jesus, but Peter is central to the story. He rushed to Jesus.

Then, at a meal, Jesus asked Peter if he really loved Jesus. It was a question put to Peter three times, with three affirmative responses. In ancient Jewish symbolism, three represented what was complete, final and absolute. After each answer,

Jesus commissioned to Peter to love the Good Shepherd's flock as if it were Peter's own flock.

The commission is exact, final and unqualified. It sent Peter to continue the Lord's work.

Reflection

It would be difficult indeed to find three readings from the New Testament that individually are so beautiful and so expressive and that together teach such a marvelous lesson.

Setting the stage is the reading from Revelation. Disciples live with one foot on earth, but the other in heaven, and nowhere else is this reality better seen than in the Eucharist.

The very combination of Acts with Luke's Gospel reminds us that the salvation accomplished by Christ still lives. It was with the early Christians gathered around the Apostles. It is with us still in the Apostle's successors, and in the Church. The trial before the Sanhedrin reminds us that Peter's fervor beside the sea, as Peter saw Jesus risen from

the dead, never ended. After the betrayal, Peter changed. Forgiven by Christ, Peter was strong and confident. We can rely upon his testimony and his guidance.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19

Monday: Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17 Jn 6:60-69

Dehumanizing one another

A female sharpshooter nicknamed "Lady Death" has recently become a Ukrainian folk hero for defiantly attacking Russian soldiers undercover. The young marks-woman fought for several years in eastern Ukraine against Kremlin-backed separatists, before shifting to the front line of hostilities as Russia initiated its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Her real name has not been made public and photos hide her identity by blurring her face or showing her with a mask. Long-range sniper attacks are her area of expertise. As she assassinates enemy combatants, she militantly proclaims, "We must take them all out. These people are not human beings. Even the fascists were not as vile as these orcs. We must defeat them."

Her battle cry, though clearly motivated by the atrocities unfolding in Ukraine, should also prompt some circumspection and soul searching. Whenever we move in the direction of believing that others are "not human beings" and dehumanize them in our thoughts and words, we risk diminishing our own humanity in the exchange. Even in the face of great depravity, we cannot fall prey to thinking that those who commit horrific evils or even war crimes are somehow no longer really human beings.

I was reminded of this recently as I viewed online videos of armed drones firing on Russian tanks traveling along Ukrainian highways. As they took successive missile hits, Russian soldiers could be seen launching themselves out of the hatch and escaping from the tank before it went up in a fireball. Sometimes they would barely get out alive, only to collapse and die by the side of the road. If the mother of a Russian tank driver were to watch a video of her son trying to escape this way under fire, she would be justly indignant, offended and even more saddened if anyone dared to declare he was "not a human being."

BARRON, from page 16

hundred times. That this wildly popular funny lady would certainly be canceled today, if not arrested, indicates another real decline in our culture. My older readers will remember that Rivers was famous for "insult humor." Her customary schtick was to mock the rich and powerful, the British royal family being a favorite target. Her style was like that of another popular Carson guest, Don Rickles, who once waded into an audience of Hollywood stars and noticed an actress who was, shall we say, past her prime. Rickles said to her, "I loved your last movie — came out in 1916, didn't it?" For more than 50 years, in venues across the country, Rivers and Rickles traded in this sort of humor — and as far as I know, they were never disinvited, never put on a blacklist, never canceled. And considering what

In the posted remarks section following these videos, in fact, many commented on the hideousness of a world in which 18-year-old boys have to perish in this manner.

By demonizing others, we no longer acknowledge the transcendent realities common to all human beings: our shared desire for truth, goodness, beauty and love. Whenever we ignore or negate the important commonalities that unite us in our humanity and instead choose to dehumanize others, the consequences will be dire. Historically, the use of language that dehumanizes others has been a key tactic in marshaling support for atrocities.

Such language has always been central, for example, to acts of genocide. During the latter part of the 20th century, the Tutsis were often denigrated as cockroaches and snakes in Rwanda, culminating in approximately 800,000 men, women and children being murdered during a 12-week period in 1994. In Nazi Germany, Jews and other enemies of the Third Reich, including persons with disabilities, were contemptuously viewed not as humans, but as vermin and rats, in order to justify their systematic extermination.

President Abraham Lincoln strongly objected to treating any person, whether slave or free, as "less-than-human" during his 1858 public debate with Stephen A. Douglas. Lincoln rebuffed the idea that African Americans fell outside the "all men are created equal" clause, declaring such a concept to be marked by "an evil tendency, if not an evil design." He repudiated every attempt to "dehumanize the negro... [and] prepare the public mind to make property, and nothing but property of the negro in all the States of the Union."

Still in our nation today, the process of dehumanization continues to derail our thinking and diminish our collective conscience, especially when it comes to those humans who are very

happened a few weeks ago at the Oscars (yes, I'm talking about The Slap), neither was ever physically accosted on stage.

The Chris Rock joke that prompted Will Smith's attack was, by Rickles' or Rivers' standards, somewhat mild, and yet it was enough to merit, at least in Smith's mind, a physical assault. What we saw at the Oscars was a gross and pointed expression of the cancel culture that is spreading like a poison throughout the body politic. And it is making comedians everywhere unsure, trepidatious and self-censoring. And this, like the tribalism already referenced, is deleterious indeed for a free society. There is no question that comics from time to time go over the top and say inappropriate or needlessly harmful things, but this is a small price to pay for the benefit they bring to a political arrangement such as ours. One of the principal



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

young and still in the womb, as well as the elderly and the infirm, the mentally fragile and those in vulnerable medical situations, such as newborn children with genetic defects. By dehumanizing these individuals in a "progressive" society, we can subject them to a range of unjust actions, from abortion to infanticide to euthanasia. Preborn children, for example, have undergone this dehumanization for decades, being denigrated as "tissue," "pregnancy" or "clumps of cells," to paper over the brutal reality of abortion. The website of Planned Parenthood, to cite one instance, defines a suction abortion as a procedure where a "suction device" is used to "take the pregnancy tissue out of your uterus."

We need to fight against dehumanization both by recognizing and opposing its occurrence in our midst, and by recognizing it within ourselves. The temptation to dehumanize people who are themselves dehumanizing others can also be very strong.

In the end, our shared humanity, from the weakest to the strongest, from youngest to oldest, constitutes an ineradicable bond of unity that should prompt us to spurn our own dehumanizing impulses. Renewing hope for conflict-laden humanity begins precisely in the acknowledgement of each other's humanity, strengthening those fraternal bonds on which peace is grounded.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

checks we have against a totalitarianism of the elite is the generous permission to mock the rich, the famous and the powerful. Like court jesters and professional fools in older times, comedians such as Joan Rivers, Don Rickles, George Carlin, Bill Burr, Ricky Gervais and yes, even Bill Maher, have served, in a very useful way, to puncture certain gas bags that badly need puncturing. If this form of free speech is compromised, our society suffers.

So, if you're sick of tribalism and sick to death of the cancel culture, I might invite you to call up on YouTube an old Johnny Carson show, especially one that Joan Rivers was on.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 1, 2022

John 21:1-19

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle C: a morning by the seashore. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THOMAS	NATHANIEL	CANA
GALILEE	FISHING	BOAT
NOTHING	CAST	THE NET
RIGHT SIDE	JUMPED	DRAGGING
CHARCOAL	FIRE	BREAD
CAUGHT	FIFTY-THREE	LOVE ME
LAMBS	MY SHEEP	FOLLOW

PETER JUMPED

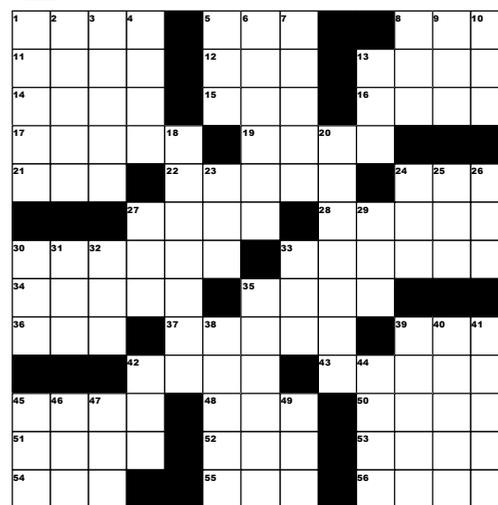
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G N I H S I F O L L O W
N A K T H G U A C A S T
I N L W K E D B R E A D
G A L I J U M P E D M N
G C Y G L F I R E F O A
A H A P E E H S Y M H T
R O C H O T E N E H T H
D T L J Y L A M B S A A
B N O T H I N G E W O N
F G F C C T K J H V B I
R I G H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

May 1, 8
and 15, 2022



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Readings: Acts 5:27-32; 40b-41; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 & Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rev 7: 9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30 & Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

ACROSS

- 1 Gives a nickname
- 5 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 8 Mouse catcher
- 11 Shortened version of Elizabeth or Danielle
- 12 "Under the earth and in the ___"
- 13 Northwest by north
- 14 A spinning toy (2 wds.)
- 15 "Come ___" (Get breakfast)
- 16 Magi came from here
- 17 Lopes
- 19 Large
- 21 Held

- 22 White poplar
- 24 Telegraphic signal
- 27 Black
- 28 Halt
- 30 One-celled animal
- 33 "___ is the Lamb"
- 34 Ancient Greek city now in Turkey
- 35 Nathaniel was from
- 36 Female sheep
- 37 Jesus asked Peter a ___ time
- 39 Science workplace
- 42 Thick carpet
- 43 Inscribed pillar
- 45 Went fishing in this

- 48 Moving truck
- 50 Tatters
- 51 St. ___ of Syracuse
- 52 Before, poetically
- 53 Canal
- 54 Crest
- 55 South southwest
- 56 Don't justify means

DOWN

- 1 "No more ___ or mourning"
- 2 Extreme
- 3 "...this man's ___ upon us"
- 4 September (abbr.)
- 5 Vane direction
- 6 "Every creature in ___"
- 7 Deadly
- 8 Communication Workers of America (abbr.)
- 9 Car brake system
- 10 Trinitrotoluene
- 13 "Cast the ___"
- 18 Jewish holy day
- 20 Minute parts
- 23 Constrictor
- 24 Digital audio tape
- 25 ___ Wednesday
- 26 ___! (call attention)
- 27 Electrical brain test
- 29 Epoch
- 30 Chimp
- 31 Kitten's cry
- 32 Lode yield
- 33 Revolutionary ___"
- 35 Cubans
- 38 "___ and have nots"
- 39 Become aware of
- 40 Chilly
- 41 Baseball plates
- 42 Eye infection
- 44 "hanging him on " one
- 45 Deli order
- 46 French "yes"
- 47 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 49 "I, John, saw a ___ heaven"

Answer key can be found on page 19

'A question is probably just a question'

BY BISHOP BRENDAN J. CAHILL

I remember attending a workshop given by Father John Kemper in the early 2000s focused on the theme of teaching "Gen Xers." At the time, I was teaching in a seminary and it seemed that often we teachers would enter into conversations about the "young seminarians" and how hard it was for us to understand them. I still have my notes from the talk that day, and the memory I want to share with you is that he told us, "When a student asks a question, it probably is just a question."

That observation wouldn't appear to be so enlightening to many people, but for someone who often perceived a question as a challenge to authority, it changed a way of looking at questions. For example, I realized that if a seminarian asked me why I celebrated the Mass in

a certain way, I simply needed to respond to the question.

One of the 10 themes listed in section 5.4 of the "vademecum" for the synodal process observes that "listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice." One way to look at this theme is to consider the areas in which I may have closed my mind and heart to another person or group, and even judged them before they opened their mouth to ask a question.

Using the story mentioned above, we could ask ourselves, "How do I listen to those in my 'classroom?'" and then follow with, "What are the labels or judgments I have placed on them?" and "Who do I keep out of the 'classroom?'"

The most basic attempt at the first question might reveal that there is a tendency to listen more closely to those who agree with me. There also could develop

a tendency to shut down an alternate view or even a simple question, maybe without even realizing it.

Father Henri Nouwen wrote about this spiritual problem years ago in his book "Reaching Out," observing how often a teacher spends time answering questions that aren't being asked.

Father Nouwen called for a spiritual movement in the classroom toward hospitality, in which students can be heard and appreciated for the questions they present. This image of the classroom can serve as an image for the different levels of relationships in my life. It could be at work or at home, in the larger community of schools and civic involvements, even in the Church.

The process of synodality has been challenging each of us to not immediately shut down any voice, and to listen to the

questions that are being asked. In the process, I am becoming aware of my preconceptions and judgments. I'm learning to listen without immediately responding.

The process challenges each of us to come to a greater appreciation of who we have been cutting off or who we may be talking about in a dismissive way. The process reminds each of us that often we don't need to give an answer, we can simply sit and acknowledge another person's humanity.

Beyond the people I may have been dismissing in my environment are those I don't even know. It could be different cultures, languages, political views, ages, experiences or other categories. The process of synodality outlines a path for each of us to go beyond stereotypes and what we hear about another group of people. Hopefully there will be a moment in which each of us can listen to someone from a "new"

group. A beauty of the process can be in the realization that whatever group we belong to, many of us have similar questions, hopes and dreams.

Recently Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in communion with the bishops throughout the world. A part of the prayer of consecration acknowledged our own sins before God, including when "we grew indifferent and caught up in our own selfish needs and concerns." May we develop listening hearts whose only concern is the salvation of all souls, especially those in most need of God's mercy.

Bishop Cahill has headed the Diocese of Victoria, Texas, since 2015.

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

Little Flower Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will take place on Tuesday, April 5, from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The May holy hour will be led by Father Tom Shoemaker. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611 for information.

Belonging Catholic schools meeting: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

FORT WAYNE — A meeting is offered on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. via Zoom to connect with others interested in helping children with disabilities to attend Catholic schools. To get the link, call 260-399-1452 or email asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

O Beautiful Mother

FORT WAYNE — A choir of young adults and Father Daniel Whelan will honor Mary from 1-2 p.m. at the outdoor Marian grotto in the Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave., with a rosary, prayers and Marian hymns in honor of the Blessed Mother, and to pray for all mothers, living and deceased. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Resurrection Mausoleum on site. Contact Jessica Schuster at jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com.

Third annual Diaper Drop

MISHAWAKA — This Mother's Day, the Christ Child Society wants to make the lives of infants, toddlers and moms in our community better, healthier and safer by collecting diapers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Christ Child Society Clothing

Center in the Town and Country Shopping Center, 2366 Miracle Lane. Diapers will be delivered to the following agencies: El Campito, St. Margaret's House, YWCA, La Case de Amistad, Center for the Homeless and St. Vincent de Paul as well as Foster Hope. Last year, more than 40,000 diapers were collected. The goal for 2022 is 60,000. Contact Debbie Low at 574-288-6028 or info@christchildsb.org.

May crowning

NOTRE DAME — Come and honor Mary, the Mother of God, at a May crowning event at the university dedicated to her name on Sunday, May 1, at 1:30 p.m. at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Families are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at Geddes Hall chapel. Contact Ciara Kanczuzewski at 574-631-0472 or cmccance@nd.edu for information.

Central Catholic Alumni Association Open House

FORT WAYNE — An open house at the Central Catholic Alumni Association Office will be held on Sunday May 1, from 1-3 p.m. at 4816 East State Blvd., in East State Professional Park behind Redeemer Radio. All are welcome to come and see the office and some of the memorabilia accumulated. Cookies and drinks will be provided. Contact Vickey Avila Linker at 260-341-6209 for information.

St. Joseph Grade School auction

SOUTH BEND — The St. Joe auction will be taking place on Friday, May 20, at the Morris Park Country Club in South Bend. Cocktail hour and silent auction to begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and live auction. The theme this year is "School's Out for Summer," to benefit St. Joseph Grade School. View all the details, including ticket and sponsorship information, at www.stjosephgradeschool.com/auction. Contact Sean Kennedy at 574-234-3134 or auction@stjoeparish.com for information.

The CrossWord

May 1, 8, and 15, 2022

D	U	B	S		E	H	F		C	A	T		
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				S	H	A	G		S	T	E	L	A
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L	U	C	Y		E	R	E		E	R	I	E	
T	I	P			S	S	W		E	N	D	S	

REST IN PEACE

Arcola Joseph D'Italia, 79, St. Patrick	Cynthia Ray, 74, St. Pius X	Monroeville Robert L. Butler, 77, St. Rose of Lima
Fort Wayne Carol Jockel, 88, St. Charles Borromeo	Pierson Sult, 14, St. Pius X	New Haven L. John Ryan III, 76, St. Louis Besancon
Marion Zarrillo, 92, St. Charles Borromeo	Patricia Unger, 91, St. Pius X	South Bend Shirley Bloom, 86, Cathedral of St. Matthew
Granger Mary Lazano, 54, St. Pius X	Bernadette Witous, 4 days, St. Pius X	George Cesavice III, 73, St. Adalbert
Patricia Meszaros, 90, St. Pius X	Huntington Sister Rose Miller, OLVM, 88, Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel	Simon Rodriguez, 73, St. Adalbert
Yvonne Nugent, 100, St. Pius X	Mishawaka Joan Meeks, 90, Queen of Peace	Warsaw John A. Roberts, 74, Sacred Heart

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