Students, staff celebrated during pastoral visit

Saint Joseph High School student Cole Hatkevich receives his first Communion after Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades baptized him during his annual pastoral visit to the South Bend high school on April 26.

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

On Tuesday, April 26, Saint Joseph High School in South Bend welcomed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for his pastoral visit to the school. After greeting everyone over the intercom, Bishop Rhoades began his morning by joining students in the Leep Dining Hall. There, students in the Project Lead the Way classes, a nationwide organization that helps schools such as Saint Joseph to implement a more hands-on STEM curriculum, and those from the Faith and Science classes gave short presentations on what they had studied.

After hearing their presentations, Bishop Rhoades expressed his own love of religion and science with the students. Biology was his favorite science class, he told them. And among his many interests, physics, astronomy and biology as well as their connections to the faith especially captivates him, he said.

In his homily during the all-school Mass, Bishop Rhoades spoke on the greatness of the sacraments of initiation. He explained how baptism, like Christ’s resurrection, brings “new life.” And in confirmation, he added, “a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit” is bestowed upon those who receive it, “like the Apostles received on Pentecost.”

While acknowledging the greatness of two out of the three sacraments of initiation, Bishop Rhoades also spoke on the significance of the third. “The Eucharist is truly ‘the sacrament of sacraments,’ the greatest of the sacraments, because it is Jesus Himself. Jesus becomes our living bread. He is the Bread of Life. The new life we received in Baptism, the life of grace, is increased and renewed every time we receive holy Communion.”

His words were especially fitting as five students and one staff member received the sacraments of initiation during the Mass. Senior Cole Hatkevich was baptized. He was also confirmed and received his first holy Communion alongside junior Juan Gonzales Hernandez and Cafeteria Manager Danielle Kaidan. Sophomore Margaret Baxter and two freshmen, Itzayana Garcia and John Haigh, were also confirmed. This, said John Kennedy, the school’s principal, was what made this year’s bishop visit distinct from all the rest.
Diocesan teens discuss upcoming abortion decision

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

A handful of diocesan high school students, their youth ministry leaders and other Catholics of the diocese congregated at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, on Wednesday, April 27, to pray a holy hour dedicated to the legal protection of the unborn.

During the holy hour, one teen led those gathered in reciting the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament.

At the end of the prayer time in the church, the teens and ministry leader group departed the parish hall for dinner, where they listened to two speakers, engaged in small group discussions and had the chance for a Q&A session with Bonita Pratt, who teaches a class on pro-life apologetics to high school-aged homeschool students.

John Pratt, diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, opened the meeting by discussing the upcoming Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health case, which could reverse previous Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion across the United States. The nation’s highest court is expected to hand down its decision in June.

Pratt told those gathered that, since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, “about 62 million children have lost their lives to abortion in the U.S. alone.”

He also played the audio of a brief given by Mississippi State Solicitor General Scott G. Stewart in which the official details the reasons why the Supreme Court should uphold the Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks’ gestation.

After John spoke, Bonita talked to the teens and their leaders about approaching the issue of abortion with their peers in a college setting. Bonita is an experienced teacher of pro-life apologetics, especially in the context of university life.

Bonita continued by informing the students that, regardless of whether or not they go to a Catholic college, they will encounter students and new friends “with a whole scroll of beliefs, especially freshman year.”

“You have to be ready to calmly and gently and graciously share why you’re pro-life with them,” she explained, “and help them along their path and journey to becoming pro-life.”

The students and their youth leaders then engaged in small group discussions before the Q&A session with Bonita, discussing which abortion questions were most difficult to combat, as well as what areas they felt most confident in defending.

One student asked Bonita how to approach questions regarding alternatives to abortion, and which options are good for the child. He had discussed this previously with a group of his friends at lunch.

“The general consensus [at the lunch table] is that foster care and adoption are terrible options, and that the system is broken; it’s more child abuse than if the child just didn’t exist, and that because I’m a traditional Catholic, I don’t believe in contraceptives, and therefore I don’t get to have a say in it.”

Bonita responded in part by explaining the difference between foster care and adoption. She explained that, when a mother learns about an unexpected pregnancy and knows she will not be able to care for her child, she can choose to go into the process of adoption, not through the foster care system. The main contrast between the two systems is that foster care is not a choice by the parent: The child is removed from a home and placed in foster care. Adoption, on the other hand, gives the mother a choice in whether or not to place her child for adoption, and to which parents the child will be given.
End of Roe in Indiana?

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Pro-life advocates across the country wait with bated breath for the Supreme Court to release their decision on the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case in June or July. On the other side of the aisle, pro-abortion advocates are scrambling to push abortion legislation through state legislatures as quickly as possible to ensure abortion remains legal, and they are making headway in states such as Maryland and Colorado. Other states such as Texas and Oklahoma as well as Mississippi – who initially brought the issue to the Supreme Court – have made headway in the opposite direction, enacting laws that greatly limit abortion.

What about the State of Indiana? What could the Hoosier state look like in a post-Dobbs world?

Indiana State Senator Liz Brown, pro-life advocate and Catholic legislator from District 13, which encompasses portions of Allen County, spoke with Today’s Catholic about what Indiana could look like if Roe is overturned. “Indiana is in a very good place for both pro-life and pro-choice as we,” Brown stated.

If Roe is overturned, she explained, that would mean abortion decisions would return to the individual states and “Indiana will react well,” possibly even going so far as to ban abortion entirely.

One hundred members of the Indiana General Assembly sent a letter to Governor Eric Holcomb requesting that he call a special session on the topic. “We’re hoping and anticipating that the Dobbs decision will be sometime this summer and we don’t want to wait until January,” when the General Assembly will be in session to enact new legislation around it, Brown said. “We would like to respond to that immediately.”

Brown believes that Holcomb will sign any pro-life legislation that crosses his desk, as that aligns with his record on life issues. She expects at the very least to see a ban on abortion after 15 weeks.

There are some Catholic governors in other states who are not only signing hefty pro-abortion bills, but are urging their states to push laws that would make abortion legal all the way up until birth, rather than encouraging and assisting women in crisis pregnancies.

Brown commented, “More often than not, there are outside factors for women seeking abortion, including pressure from boyfriends and family members and issues like poverty. ‘We need to marshal all our resources to help these women’ instead of encouraging abortion, she said.”

“You do that, when you surround them with love, that choice will always be for life.”

Often, she said, pro-choice advocates will say that those who take a pro-life stance only care about the child before he or she is born, but she disagrees. The heart of the pro-life cause is serving women and providing them with the resources to help them choose to carry their child to term and raise or place that child for adoption.

Some countries are pushing abortion for children who show signs of disabilities in utero. Iceland in particular boasts about its next-to-none rate of people born with Down syndrome – achieved through abortion – as if it is a moral good for society.

“Every life has value, we have to get away from this horrible stigma,” this talking point where a child with a disability is a burden,” Brown insisted. Indeed, such a child might need more medical care and more attention than a child without a disability, but she stated, “That child will bring love to that family,” no matter what medical condition they might have.

The evolution of science and medicine have changed the reasoning behind the initial abortion case. “My own personal opinion, these issues around the original Roe decision will continue to come to the Supreme Court.” She thinks that this is not something the court would like to see coming back over and over again.

For a handful of years, the geographical area that encompasses the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend had been abortion-free, but with a clinic that recently opened in South Bend, that is no longer the case.

Even if abortion is restricted or illegalized in the State of Indiana, clinics like Planned Parenthood will simply refer pregnant women to abortion providers in states like Illinois. And sadly, too many women will listen to misguided, unsound advice and seek what they think will be the easy way out.

The state of California removed a statue of the saint from the State Capitol in 2021.

San Francisco (CNS) – A trio of young adults and their dog Laika walked more than 800 miles in the footsteps of St. Junipero Serra on a Lenten pilgrimage to pray for California in the 46 days from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil.

Hope Waterman, 27, Matthew Geier, 27 and John Paul Hanson, 24, began walking after the 7 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at the first mission, Mission San Diego de Alcalá in San Diego. They concluded in time for Easter Vigil in Sonoma, north of San Francisco, where the 21st and northernmost California mission was founded by the Franciscan friars.

“I wanted to do something for several years to pray for California,” said Waterman, who was inspired to make the pilgrimage to ask the intercession of St. Junipero Serra, who founded California’s mission system.

The idea came to Waterman as she was praying with 40 Days for Life in October 2020 in Lander, Wyoming, as the widespread desecration and vilification of St. Junipero Serra’s statues and reputation in California was making headlines. Statues in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Rafael were among several that were vandalized and the saint’s reputation criticized.

The state of California removed a statue of the saint from the State Capitol in 2021.
Newly found Maryland site reveals clues about Catholic colonists

BY ZOEY MARAIST

ST. MARY’S CITY, Md. (CNS) – While English colonists who arrived in the New World were looking for greater opportunities, many of the Catholic colonists who arrived in Maryland also were looking to escape religious persecution.

Historic St. Mary’s City, a living history museum in southern Maryland, keeps the story of those Catholic colonists alive, while its archaeologists are still digging up clues to the past.

In 1634, the ships Ark and the Dove landed on the shores of Maryland carrying more than 100 English Catholics and Protestants, led by the Catholic Leonard Calvert. The newcomers settled in a fort before gradually building up St. Mary’s City, a metropolis in southern Maryland that would serve as the colony’s first capital.

For decades, religious tolerance for Christians was the law of the land. But the colonists weren’t free of the political and religious strife that rocked society in Europe. In the late 1680s, the staunchly Protestant King William and Queen Mary. Soon, the colonists were in the line of fire.

In 1695, Francis Nicholson, the St. Mary’s City sheriff, and the site of that original fort was lost to history. Fortunately, archaeology has helped uncover much of the old city’s mysteries over the past few decades. “There was no map of St. Mary’s City, other than one map with no street layout, no buildings, no nothing,” said Peter Friesen, Director of Education at the living history museum. “It’s through the 50 years of archaeology that we were able to figure out where a lot of these buildings are that we’ve reconstructed.”

One of those buildings is a Catholic church. The first group of colonists to come to Maryland included Jesuit Fathers Andrew White and John Altham, and other priests followed over the years. At first, they used an old witchott, a type of Native American dwelling, to celebrate Mass, then a wooden chapel, then a cruciform brick chapel with windows and a stone floor. But the building survived for only a few decades.

In 1704, the Maryland legislature passed the “Act to Prevent the Growth of St. Mary’s City by banning Catholics from voting or holding office, taxed them twice and only allowed them to work in their homes.”

The St. Mary’s City sheriff locked the brick chapel so that it could no longer be used for worship. “Then the Jesuits (took) the chapel apart brick by brick and used the bricks to rebuild a different chapel on private property that they owned at St. Inigoes, which is five miles south of St. Mary’s City and is now part of a (military) base,” said Friesen.

To replace the loss of churches, Catholics began to add “Mass rooms” to their homes, and several are still in existence, including one at the Doughoregan Manor near Ellicott City.

The foundation of the original brick chapel was discovered in 1958 and more than 50 years later was extensively excavated by archaeologists. The chapel was rebuilt in the style of other Jesuit churches of the time.

Though the historians were learning more about the colonial town, one thing remained elusive: the location of the original fort.

Their more than 50-year search often was sidetracked by other discoveries, such as the uncovering of three lead coffins buried in one of the transepts of the brick chapel. But last year, Historic St. Mary’s City announced they had finally found the fort after a geophysicalist used magnetometry, ground-penetrating radar and other technology to identify the post holes of the fort’s walls. Excavation has helped them learn more about life inside the fort, and has uncovered Catholic artifacts.

A silver crucifix, rosary beads and a medal of Aloysius Gonzaga, a future Jesuit saint, were all discovered at Historic St. Mary’s. Two identical medals were found, one inside the fort, of five saints who were canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622: St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Philip Neri and St. Isidore the Farmer, who stands in the center holding a farming tool.

“Medals like this were becoming popular in the 17th century as a consequence of multiple things,” said Jennifer Ogborne, curator of collections. “People wanted items of devotion they could carry with them as part of the Counter-Reformation. It became much easier to make them in the late 16th and early 17th centuries so they could be produced for a wider audience.”

One of the latest discoveries from the fort site is a small metal piece of the true cross. The relic is displayed in a cross with two horizontal bars, and the artifact has the same shape. There is still much to learn about the tiny devotional object that was plucked from the Maryland dirt, said Ogborne. “We are very excited about that cross.”

Historic St. Mary’s City explores more than just religious history. Visitors can see a tobacco farm, a replica of the Dove, the ship that brought the colonists, and models of period Native American homes.

But for Catholics and other people of faith, St. Mary’s City is notable for its radical commitment to religious tolerance. The ideals the early colonists espoused lived on. Within 100 years of Maryland’s legal penalization of Catholics, the First Amendment enshrined freedom of religion as a fundamental American right.

Maraist is a staff writer at the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington.
Catholic immigration advocates push for reform on Capitol Hill

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Leaders in Hispanic Catholic ministry who gathered in Washington, D.C. from April 26-30 for a national meeting used the occasion to head to the halls of Congress in between meetings to push lawmakers on some form of relief on immigration.

“Citizens and noncitizens alike, we are brothers and sisters in the eyes of Jesus Christ, and our current immigration system is burdensome, expensive, inef-ficient, and far too far from human suffering,” said Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, D.C. on April 27 on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol.

Along with other bishops and leaders in ministry gathered for the sixth Raíces y Alas (Roots and Wings) national conference in Washington, D.C., Bishop Dorsonville asked lawmakers to use their political power and responsibility to “address these issues” that force millions to live in hiding, except when it comes to contributing their work to the welfare of the nation.

Bishops and other people of goodwill in the United States have been advocating for a just and comprehensive immigration reform but to no avail, he said.

“We come in prayer to ask members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to work together to create solutions,” he said. “Immigration reform cannot wait any longer.”

Representatives Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., and Salud Carbajal, D-Calif., joined the Latino Catholic leaders at the event at the Capitol.

Both politicians have worked on the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which seeks legal status for farmworkers, seeks reforms to the H-2A agricultural guest worker program and “creates a first-of-its-kind, merit-based program specifically designed for the nation’s agricultural sector.”

But each approached it from a different point of view.

“We need a system that stops rewarding illegal behavior,” Newhouse said, who also seemed to support some type of immigration help for “children, who through no fault of their own,” were brought into the U.S. illegally as minors.

But any bill would also have to support measures to strengthen national security and secure the southern border, he said.

“I’m tired of empty promises and I’m sure you are tired of that, too,” he said. “We have to have a system that works for the business (sector), farmers and ranchers ... and for our immigrants.”

Carbajal said that while the two had differences in certain areas of policy, they agree on the importance of finding solutions.

“We might have a few differences coming from different parties, but I think we have more in common than differences on immigration reform,” he said. “I think we have found common ground and believe that certainly it’s appropriate to secure our borders, but we should also fix our broken immigration system.”

Channels that previous immigrants, “our forefathers and mothers who came to this country,” had used are broken, creating a bottleneck, Carbajal said.

He thanked the Catholic minis-ters for organizing a day of advo-cacy between meetings, urging them to reach out to lawmakers from both sides of the aisle.

“This shouldn’t have to be a partisan issue,” Carbajal said.

“We should be able to work together.”

Andrea Anaya-Sandoval spoke about the urgency she feels when it comes to immigration reform.

Though she’s temporarily protect-ed as a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals immigration policy, she said there’s no permanent solution in sight for what will happen when she graduates from college in a couple of years.

“It’s been disheartening for young people like me to see how little has been done” when it comes to immigration reform, she said. “I stand before you today because I’m tired of the promises ... I’m exhausted from waiting around for legislators to decide whether I am good enough.”

Also present at the event, Emilee Cada, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, said “immigrants are not tourists,” but rather they contribute to countries as workers and shouldn’t be discarded by society.

Elisabeth Román, president of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry, which orga-nized the Raíces y Alas gathering, said the organization picked Washington, D.C. as the site of the event so the more than 400 members from more than 38 states could advocate for matters of social justice, which includes immigration reform, to speak for essential workers who kept the country moving during the pan-demic.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Pope Francis canonized the saint during his visit to Washington, D.C. in 2015.

The 21 missions, beginning with the first one founded by St. Junipero in San Diego in 1769, are integral to the state, Geier said.

“It’s to try to restore a proper appreciation for the missions as a foundation of California. This place was such a deeply Catholic place. The whole society of our state has grown up around these missions,” he said.

Because of his commitment to the reputation of the saint and to California’s Catholic heri-tage, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone met with the trio soon after they arrived in San Francisco on Holy Thursday. He blessed their pilgrimage, their banner and various religious articles, praising the initiative which he called “blazing the trail for what I think we should be doing here, a Cali-fornia pilgrimage.”

For Hanson, Geier and Waterman, it was quite a jour-ney: sun, rain, sore feet and a rosary together every night.

“Unless we fall asleep during the rosary,” said Hanson.

Most nights they camped out, but in a few cases, mem-bers of the informally organized California Mission Walkers put them up, and several nights they stayed in hotels.

The three walked everywhere, refusing rides because Father Serra always walked. They also only stayed indoors at places that would allow dogs.

“It’s really fun,” Geier told Catholic SF, the magazine of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

“The three of us have been on the road for six weeks. Both John Paul and I had never been back-packing before.”

He said people have offered them a lot of things and although it was humbling to be on the receiving end, he said it was “encouraging to see so much kindness and generosity and hospitality.”

At the journey’s end, Hanson described California as “a beautiful place with lots of nice people.”

Schmalz writes for Catholic SF, the magazine of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.
Catholic leaders thankful for Melissa Lucio's stay of execution

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Catholic leaders were thankful that death-row inmate Melissa Lucio was granted a last-minute stay of execution on April 25, but they also said her sentence shows a failure in the use of capital punishment in this country and stressed that they would continue to pray for Lucio and her family and advocate on her behalf. Lucio, 53, a Catholic mother of 14 and a grandmother, was scheduled for execution on April 27 for the 2007 death of her 2-year-old daughter. Mariah, that Lucio has maintained was due to her daughter's accidental fall down a stairwell. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which issued a stay of execution, ordered the 138th Judicial District Court of Cameron County to consider the new evidence presented by Lucio's legal team. Lucio will remain on death row while her case goes back to trial court to examine new evidence her attorneys say shows that the toddler's death was an accident caused by an undiagnosed injury sustained after falling down the stairs two days before she died. "I am grateful the court has given me the chance to live and prove my innocence. Mariah is in my heart today and always," Lucio said in a statement through her attorneys. "I am grateful to have more days to be a mother to my children and a grandmother to my grandchildren." Lucio heard the news of the stopped execution in a phone call with state Rep. Jeff Leach, a Republican, and began sobbing, then she spoke to him, attorney told reporters in an April 25 Zoom call.

Judge threatens to block Biden's plan to end pandemic border restriction

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – A federal judge at an April 25 hearing said he would grant the requests of three states to force the federal government to keep in place a public-health order at the U.S.-Mexico border that has interrupted the number of expulsions of immigrants trying to cross into the United States. The public-health order, known as Title 42, allows the United States to bar entry of persons who have recently been in a country where a communicable disease was present. It was applied by the Trump administration in March 2020, soon after the coronavirus pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization. U.S. District Judge Robert R. Summerhayes of the Western District of Louisiana, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, said he would sign an order to keep the policy in place, and to order the federal government to certify that it is not acting ahead of its announced

Drought in Ethiopia worsens humanitarian crisis in region

A malnourished child is held by his mother at a camp for people displaced by drought in Gode, Ethiopia, on April 26, 2022. The United Nations reports Ethiopia's eastern Somali region has been hit by three consecutive below-average rainy seasons, worsening the already deteriorating humanitarian situation for more than 5 million people, more than half the local population.

Advocate Deirdre McQuade, 53, helped communicate bishops pro-life message

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (CNS) – Longtime pro-life advocate Deirdre McQuade, who for more than a decade shared perspectives of U.S. bishops and the Catholic Church’s teaching on the sanctity of life, died on April 21 after a bout with metastatic breast cancer. She was 53. From 2005 to 2018, the time she was Assistant Director for Pro-Life Communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, McQuade was interviewed by various media and spoke at numerous events, offering views on palliative care, abortion and alternatives to physician-assisted suicide. Friends recalled McQuade as someone whose strong faith helped her staunchly uphold the value of human dignity in her work. “She was very serious about her faith and incorporating faith in life,” said Dawn Eden Goldstein, an author and theologian, who met McQuade in 2007 and became close friends with her over the years. Goldstein recalled McQuade as an advocate for a consistent ethic of life in both her professional and personal life and said her values were reflected when she chose Sister Thea Bowman, a candidate for sainthood who was the first African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, as her patron. Years-long friend Colin O’Brien described McQuade’s rich sense of warmth, friendship and hospitality, which led to her “really being there for other people.”

Embracing vulnerability, sisters hope to draw strength, help others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Superiors of women’s religious orders from around the world gathered in Rome or online to look at their areas of vulnerability and find ways to “embrace” them so that together they are stronger and can be signs of hope for other vulnerable individuals and communities in the world, said Claretian Sister Jolanta Kafka. “We have often placed ourselves on the side of the needy, but from a position of power,” said Sister Kafka, president of the International Union of Superiors General. The challenge is “to recognize more consciously that we too need compassion, mercy, conversion, to be aware of our wounds, our sins.”Nearly 700 superiors general — 520 attending in person — participated in the UISG plenary assembly from May 2-6 in Rome under the theme, “Embracing Vulnerability on the Synodal Journey.” Sister Kafka and other leaders of the organization previewed the assembly on April 29 for journalists at the Vatican press office. As the sisters acknowledge their vulnerabilities, she said, “we feel the need for a new view of life, of the observance of religious life and of the evangelical counsels” of poverty, chastity and obedience and how leadership and apostolic work can be exercised in a more “evangelical, synodal spirit.”

Ideology obstructs beauty of family, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Families play an important role in a society’s development when ideologies are not imposed upon them, Pope Francis said. The family is the “primary planter of the tree of gratuitousness,” and when civilization “uproots” that gift, “its decline becomes unstoppable,” the pope said on April 29. “I believe that there are certain conditions for rediscovering the beauty of the family. The first is to remove from the mind’s eye the ‘catastrophe’ of ideologies that prevent us from seeing reality,” he said. Pope Francis addressed members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, who were holding a plenary meeting from April 27-29 at the Vatican on the role of the family and “the challenge of love.” The family is “almost always at the top of the scale of values” for people around the world, the pope said, because “it is inscribed in the very nature of woman and man.”
Father Jewel Aytona, CPM, ‘refocuses’ members on God at parish mission

“The parish mission has been very inspiring. Father Jewel is a great speaker, and the opportunity to pray a holy hour every day has been wonderful.” — Kathy Henderson

In 1922, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in New Carlisle had a parish mission focusing on the crucifix. The theme of that mission was “Save Our Souls.” One hundred years later, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish invited another mission speaker, this time Father Jewel Aytona, CPM, of the Fathers of Mercy in Kentucky for their parish mission from April 24-28. The theme of this year’s parish mission was “Thy Kingdom Come.” Father Aytona preached at the parish’s Divine Mercy weekend Masses, reminding the parishioners that a parish mission is intended to help refocus the faithful’s lives back on God. Over the course of the week, from Sunday night through Thursday night, there was adoration, an opportunity for confession, and then Father Aytona’s presentation. The final night also included the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Father Aytona’s parish-led retreat focused on the following themes: God’s divine mercy, confidence in God and St. Joseph, the Four Last Things, lukewarmness is the devil in disguise and humility: the path to heaven. During the week, Father Aytona stressed the importance of faith, trust, confession, the Eucharist, prayer and fidelity in striving to lead a holy life. He gave very practical advice and repeatedly stressed to those who attended the mission to increase their prayer life, increase adoration, frequent confession at least once a month and attend weekly Mass.

Father Bob Garrow, the current pastor at St. Stanislaus Kostka, stated that this year’s mission is part of a larger mission in which the parish is participating. Last year, the parish created a three-year plan with priorities involving catechesis and faith formation, evangelization and addressing the parish facilities. The parish mission was one goal of the faith formation and catechetical priorities. Another goal was to celebrate and focus on the crucifix in daily life during the 2022 calendar year as a way to commemorate the mission from 100 years ago.

Father Garrow looks forward to the many graces that will come from this parish mission. He is praying that hearts will be changed, that there will be a deeper love for the Eucharist and confession and that faith is strengthened. Coming out of the pandemic, the parish was in need of a spiritual renewal, as are many parishes and individuals throughout the world.

The Fathers of Mercy offer these retreats or parish missions at no cost, aside from a free-will offering on the final night of the mission, as well as through nightly sales of CDs to support their apostolate. Father Garrow highly recommends these mission priests for those discerning to host their own parish mission. There are other mission speakers who cost extraordinary amounts of money, some costing more than $20,000 for a three-day parish mission. For a parish desiring a mission focused on the Eucharist, confession and the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, Father Garrow highly recommends the Fathers of Mercy. Many parishioners at St. Stanislaus Kostka would agree.

Parishioner Kathy Henderson said, “The parish mission has been very inspiring. Father Jewel is a great speaker, and the opportunity to pray a holy hour every day has been wonderful.”

Sue Gadacz said, “The whole mission was great, he (Father Aytona) kept my attention. What he said spoke to my heart.” Other parishioners expressed similar sentiments, including professing that Father Aytona was “inspiring,” “refocused me to God,” and “strengthened my faith.”
The Blessing of the Bikes
Motorcycle event supports service, community outreach

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Hogs, choppers, supersport motor bikes, or whatever other names they may be called, dozens of these motorcycles filled the parking lot of St. Patrick Church in Arcola on April 30. Back after a two-year hiatus, the 33rd Blessing of the Bikes took place on the last Saturday of the month in anticipation of the warmer weather and peak motorcycle-riding season. For years, the parish had hosted the event on the Saturday after Easter, pastor Father Thadeus Balinda explained, but with Easter sometimes falling earlier in the spring and the unpredictable weather, they chose to move it to the last Saturday in April.

As is typical of Indiana, the weather continued to be unpredictable, with snow one year and rain threatening in the dark clouds looming over this year’s blessing. Fortunately, Father Balinda was able to bless every bike that came through the parking lot before the sky opened in a short but earth-shaking thunderstorm.

The variety of bikes that filled the lot and the street in front of the church were as varied as God’s own children. Harley-Davidsons, Yamahas, three- and four-wheelers and even dirt bikes and a couple of bicycle-like all made appearances at the ceremony.

It might sound odd for a Catholic church to sponsor a motorcycle event, but with the amount of motorcycle riders who frequently travel the backroads around the tiny town east of Fort Wayne near the Whitley County border, it made sense to organizers more than 30 years ago. Patricia Denihan, the parish secretary, explained how the Blessing of the Bikes began in 1989 with only eight bikes. This number grew each year, with the highest attendance reaching 2,000 riders one year. This year’s count totaled roughly 200. “It started purely as a blessing at the parish,” she said, but grew into something greater.

While the event is intended to pray for the safety of those who ride their motorcycles – either across the country or across the county – it also raises money to help the parish youth group attend service trips.

Originally, organizers had simply asked for donations; now they sell concessions and hold a 50/50 raffle to raise money. The first big trip the youth group took with funds raised at the Blessing of the Bikes was to World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002, when St. John Paul II was pope, according to Lila Park, one of the organizers. “It’s just an exciting thing to bring people in,” she said.

Bringing people to the church is more than a monetary goal, it is community outreach. The Blessing of the Bikes brings people together from within the parish, the town and far beyond.

“Something beyond the blessing is that we have the Eucharist here,” Park added. She feels that people are drawn to the church because “we have Christ here.” And that is the greatest outreach that they could provide.

The youth group also added another spiritual element to the blessing this year – a prayer table where participants could write down their intentions and youth group members would meet later to pray for those intentions. Denihan said that she even saw one of the participants take time to light a candle in the small Gothic-style church before the blessing.

Motorcycle riders tend to be painted in a negative light, but more often than not, they simply enjoy the freedom found in the open road. “The people that come are magnificent,” Denihan remarked. Others agreed with her. “They’re coming here to get a blessing, not coming to start a brawl,” one parishioner commented.

And indeed, those present seemed a cheerful lot, greeting old friends, laughing and enjoying the company of other bikers, passing out flyers for other upcoming charity bike rides and buying t-shirts and food to support the youth group.

Father Balinda welcomed back many of the riders who had attended in previous years. Prior to the blessing, a short prayer service commenced outside of the rectory, which included two readings and blessing of the water that Father Balinda sprinkled on the bikes as they rode past him. In his opening remarks, Father Balinda said, “This is our pride.” He spoke of how happy he was to be able to host the event again and to see the many people flock to his parish.

Lisa Van Allen, another parishioner and volunteer, expressed her gratitude toward those who helped make the event possible and those who attended. “We feel so happy today that so many people came.”

Denihan shared how one of the participants had even told her he had been present at the very first one.

In a nod to the parish’s Irish roots and appropriate for the wanderlust biker lifestyle, those present recited the Traditional Irish Blessing before the riders began the procession past Father Balinda to receive their blessing:

“May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

Photos by Jennifer Barton
Montessori style of catechizing Catholic youth

BY LISA EMRICK

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - Matthew 19:13-15

Many Catholics began their faith education at home during infancy, continuing through Catholic school or Sunday school. Over the years, the manner of catechizing Catholic youth has changed, however. In Rome, Italy, in the year 1954, Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi started a Montessori-based way to bring the Gospel to children that has had an impact all over the world.

According to the CGSUSA.org website, Cavalletti was a biblical scholar who held a doctorate in Hebrew and Comparative Semitic Languages. Her education gave her the ability to help the children she taught feel the flame of passion for God’s Word. Gobbi, who had 15 years of classroom experience as a Montessori teacher, was introduced to Cavalletti by a mutual friend.

They began their teaching by creating an atrium, or prepared environment, with a model altar and articles from Mass to help erect a model altar for the atrium. Every piece in the environment is meant to inspire awe in the child.

Here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, a handful of parishes and schools offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

The system

The CGS approach is divided into three levels. The Level I atrium consists of children who are 3 to 6 years old. Level I is where children become more familiar with Jesus. Jesus is the Good Shepherd; He calls each by name. The focus in Level I is the mystery of the Eucharist and what takes place at the altar by learning names and gestures.

Level II atrium is for children ages 6 to 9, where they learn about the True Vine and what it takes to have a relationship with God and the larger community. The children study the parables and learn how they can relate to the readings. The Mass is also brought to the forefront as one long prayer broken into smaller prayers. In their journey toward making their first Communion, by learning meditations that focus on Jesus and making personal missals, they are strengthened in their understanding and love for the Eucharist.

Level III atrium allows children age 9 to 12 to learn about their place in God’s kingdom and their seat in it. Children are given the history of salvation and are anchored in knowing that humanity is all connected, being made in God’s likeness and image. Materials on the prophets of the Old Testament, the gifts of God, the miracles of Jesus, and expanded presentations on liturgy and Scripture can also be found in the Level III Atrium, according to CGSUSA.org.

Training the teachers

Yoya Teusch, a Level I instructor at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne, was blessed to have the parish sponsor her certification. Between two summers, she spent 90-plus hours training on the knowledge of child development and the religious characteristics of 3- to 6-year-olds. She also deepened her ability to facilitate meditation on Scripture. Teusch stated: “The biggest blessing of this program is in the way it carefully and gently nurtures the sense of awe and wonder in a child of the concept of the kingdom of God through parables and reflections. … In CGS, a relationship between a child and God is the root of a spiritual formation.”

During training, the catechist will learn about Montessori-style education, CGS, how to build an atrium and how to present the elements of formation. There are scholarships and grants available to offset the cost of training. Many who have gone through this training have stated that the process has helped deepen their faith life as well.

“Through the training and guiding the children in the atrium, I firmly believe that God has revealed Himself to me in many different ways. He is the loving Good Shepherd, who will leave the ninety-nine to find me and lay down His life for His sheep,” Teusch said.

Tessa Mammolenti helps with CGS at Christ the King Church in South Bend. Mammolenti says that each level has two parts of training; Level I is the most extensive. The training is arranged in a retreat-style method. CGSUSA.org states: “It has a holistic approach for the adult, enriching the adult in a background of scripture and liturgy, theology and prayer, as well as the pedagogy of the young child, helping the adult to see what face of God the young child most needs in order to enter into a relationship with God.”

Faith in action

St Pius X Church and School in Granger began their CGS in 2004 with Level I. Theresa DePung, Director of CGS, said that the parish has all three levels, and on average, 420 students go through the program each year. DePung explained, “Young children have a deep religious capacity and hunger to experience the most essential mysteries of our faith. CGS is like a weekly guided retreat in a deeply contemplative environment. During this time, the children are able to immerse themselves in age-appropriate, hands-on materials in a beautiful space to help them ponder more deeply these mysteries.”

St. Pius X has eight catechists trained in Level I, and four trained for Level II. Of those four, two are also trained in Level III.

The Director of Religious Education for Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Kelly Ley, stated, “The atrium model is not divided up by grades: it is a combined group. Level I is ages 3 to 6, Level II is ages 6 to 9. So, what is beautiful is the children that have been in there for two to four years are really helping the other ones to learn as well. Once a lesson is presented, freedom is given to the children to choose the work they want to do for the rest of that work cycle. A work cycle normally only lasts about an hour and a half.”

Ley said that Our Lady of Good Hope has two rooms dedicated just for the atriums, which serve not only the school but the parish community and area homeschool families. They began by introducing the program into their Sunday school. After the school opened in 2016, students were able to use the atrium. It has been six years since Our Lady has incorporated the program with pastor Father Mark Gurtner’s blessing.

When teaching her students, Teusch remarked that, “It always touched me deeply when the children made a connection between the sheep and us! Their eyes lit up and they joyfully declared: ‘we are the sheep and Jesus is the Good Shepherd!’”

Members of Our Lady of Good Hope’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program sit in the Level I atrium where they teach the younger students. From left are Kelly Ley, Director of Religious Education, Debbie Hillman and Anne Guzman.
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic school is seeking a qualified candidate for **Preschool three-year-old teaching position**. The position is part-time with a focus on classroom instruction. Looking for individuals with a strong background in early childhood education along with a desire to inspire students.

- Plan and teach lessons using the Diocesan Curriculum and State Standards along with the NAEYC.
- Plan and conduct activities for a balanced program of instruction.
- Attend staff meetings and serve on committees as needed.
- Establish and enforce rules for behavior.
- Attend professional meetings, educational conferences, and teacher training workshops in order to maintain and improve professional competence.

The school is also seeking a qualified **Preschool four-year-old teaching position** to prepare small children by easing them into organized education. You will teach them important elements that they will encounter soon after they enter school life.

- Develop a careful and creative program suitable for preschool children.
- Employ a variety of educational techniques (storytelling, educational play, media etc.) to teach children.
- Observe each child to help them improve their social competencies and build self-esteem.
- Guide children to develop their artistic and practical capabilities through a carefully constructed curriculum (identify shapes, numbers or colors, do crafts etc.).
- Organize nap and snack hours and supervise children to ensure they are safe at all times.
- Track children’s progress and report to parents.
- Communicate with parents regularly to understand the children’s background.

Questions can be sent to Principal Lois Widner lwidner@seascsfw.org - 260-432-4001
Apply at diocesefwsb.org/careers

Preferred qualifications include two or more years of teaching experience at the early childhood level. Teacher must have or be working towards an early childhood degree and possess excellent communication skills. An outstanding candidate will have a deep desire to work as a Catholic school educator.
A pro-life witness from the young ones in the roost

O nce again this spring, our family is blessed to be preparing to welcome another member. As we get closer to D-Day (B-Day?), every “third child” stereotype is playing out in our home. The nursery isn’t ready; no tiny clothes have been washed and neatly folded in drawers; no diapers have been purchased; the infant car seat remains in the attic. The list of things we still need to do goes on and on.

Some of it has to do with experience. Before we bought 10 packs of newborn diapers, let’s make sure our kid isn’t going to grow right into size ones, as our daughter did. And, comforting though it may be, there’s really no need to drive around with the infant car seat taking up valuable space for two months before the baby is born like we did before our son came along.

But most of it has to do with the two little ones who already rule the roost. There is less time to get prepared. There’s less time to think about getting prepared. And we’re perhaps just a little more tired and spread thin than we were five and three years ago.

While our two darlings have perhaps been a bit of a barrier to efficiency or productivity as we prepare to welcome Baby Three, they are also the reason why this pregnancy has been the most joyous yet. When we told them last fall that a baby brother or sister would be born in the spring, they were thrilled and so excited to be closely on board. Like the angels on Christmas night, they heralded the good news to both sets of grandparents, and to their aunts and uncles. They understood their enthusiasm from the first moments they found out mama had a baby in her tummy has only grown along with their sibling. These kids love their baby, and it has been one of the most remarkable and positive witnesses to life in the womb that I have ever experienced.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the kids know that there is new life growing in my womb, and that it is the best thing ever. They talk to Baby. They give him or her hugs and kisses. They say “I love you” and that they can’t wait to meet him or her. Our son especially loves to wrap his arms around my waist and wait to feel the baby kick. When it happens every time it happens — he gasps and looks at me with pure delight and joy. He says the baby is talking to him, telling him that he or she can’t wait to meet him. They also love looking at the ultrasound photos and fawning over the tiny onesies and little hats. They talk every day about how they can’t wait to hold and snuggle the baby. Oh, and my son has given Baby Superpower: the power to chew. (Apparently we have talked a lot about what teething will be like.)

Now, I am not completely naïve, I know that a new baby, even highly anticipated and much-loved, brings a significant shift in home dynamics. I know there will be “rules” where the new baby might be more respected than loved by its older siblings. I know that the snuggle-fests will start when one of the crawling baby knocks down an older sibling’s LEGO creation or puts teeth marks in a favorite toy. Those days will come, and that’s ok. That’s life.

But, thanks be to God, so is this: our kids’ true and total joy and awe this newest miracle in our family, before that miracle has even been born. What a wonder; what a gift. What a lesson for us all.

GRETCHEN CROWE

Digital detox: how to guard the mind and slow the pace

I t was time. Time to get away, to unplug, to finally write that novel. Time to prove he could resist the barrage of texts and tweets, news and notifications in order to focus his attention on a worthy endeavor.

So the journalist Johann Hari booked a little room by the beach in Provincetown, on the tip of Cape Cod, and made plans to go offline for three months.

He left his electronic devices at a friend’s, printed a map of his destination since he would no longer be able to use phone navigation and boarded a ferry. He felt a twinge of panic, but it vanished when he arrived and gazed into the ocean.

“I felt then a sudden certainty— you only get these feelings a few times in a lifetime— that I had done absolutely the right thing,” Johann wrote.

He strolled along the beach and through the streets, wandering into a pub where a group was gathered around a piano singing showtunes.

They ended, fittingly, with the Aladdin song “A Whole New World.”

It took a couple weeks to orient, for his mind to stop composing witty tweets and imagining their warm reception. Johann felt suddenly incredibly open.

Then the words pored out of him. In three months, he wrote 92,000 words of his novel. He also finished “War and Peace,” which he read for hours-long stretches on the beach.

“It came back!” he realized. “My brain came back!”

“Digital detox compels him to dive into neurosci- ence, interviewing experts on attention and flow. He learned about the value of meandering, of play and of natural sleep rhythms. He compiled his findings into a new book called ‘Stolen Focus: Why You Can’t Pay Attention — and How to Think Deeply Again.’

It is a cultural indictment and a call to action. For those of us who believe in the interconnection of body, mind and soul, the book is a spiritual summons.

When I think about these three dimensions of self, one appears sorely neglected. Discussion of physical health and spiritual wellbeing — both mighty important — far outweighs the question of our mental health. Do we guard our minds? Do we understand the way screens are thwarting our ability to think, to contribute to

GUEST COMMENTARY

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MRG. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday Of Easter
John 10:27-30

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading. It gives a glimpse into the modus vivendi of St. Paul as he moved across the cultural and religious sea of the time. He was well-educated in the Jewish descent and background, and he would have been comfortable, but also more likely to be heard, but this is also clear.

Jesus is with us still’

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

SOMETHING TWIN

DETOX

DIGITAL

THE SPiritual OVERVIEW

CAPECCHI, page 13

READES

SOMETHING TWIN

DIGITAL

THE SPIRITUAL OVERVIEW

CAPECCHI, page 13

READING

SUNDAY: Acts 13:1-12; 46-52 Ps 100:1-2, 3.5b 76, 14-17 Jn 10:22-30


TUESDAY: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-7 Jn 102-20

WEDNESDAY: Acts 12:2-12—13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Jn 12:44-50


May 8, 2022

12

COMMENTS
Why did Christ’s glorified body still have wounds?

S

everal of the Resurrection accounts stress that Jesus showed the disciples His wounds. On one level, we can understand that He was trying to make clear to them that the same Christ who was crucified stood before them; He was not a ghost or an apparition or simply someone who looked like Jesus. When Christ rose He looked up His same, true body, but it now manifested a perfected glory. When we rise on the last day, the same will be true of our bodies.

Why, then, were Christ’s wounds visible in His glorified body? Are not wounds and scars inconsistent with a glorified body?

St. Thomas Aquinas provides five reasons that Christ’s wounds are fitting in His glorified body. His reflections, from the Summa Theologicae III, Q. 54, Art. 4, are beautiful and poignant. His reasons are presented below.

Reason one: “It was fitting for Christ’s soul at His Resurrection to resume the body with its scars. In the first place, for Christ’s own glory. For Bede says on Luke 24:40 that He kept His scars not from inability to heal, but to wear them as an everlasting trophy of His victory. ... Perhaps in that kingdom we shall see on the bodies of the Martyrs the traces of the wounds which they bore for Christ’s name: because it will not be a deformity, but a dignity in them; and a certain kind of beauty will shine in them, in the body, though not of the body.”

Christ’s wounds are a dignity, not a deformity; a sign of love not of loss; an indication of obedience not of onerousness. Through His wounds the Lord will shine in them, in the body, to testify tenderly and clearly of His love and of the price He was willing to pay for us. His wounds are more eloquent testimony than any words could be. Is God merciful? Does God understand or care at all about our condition? Look to the wounds of Christ; dwell in them.

Lose your cell phones? We touch our phones on average 2,617 times a day – reaching around little ones on our lap, ignoring the people across from us at the dining room table to scroll pictures of other people’s kids and dinner plates. What does this mean for Catholics?

If we believe our mind is a gift from God, we honor him by guarding it. The Catholic Church should take the lead. Our teachers, our guidance counselors, our youth ministers and our priests must shine a light on mental health. They should provide guidelines for healthier habits and then make real changes: assigning less homework, rescheduling school days to allow for more unstructured outdoor play, restructuring programs to allow for earlier bedtimes, reminding teens how to interact face-to-face, urging us all turn off our phones. When I ask Catholic school teachers how much sleep their teenaged students get, they tell me it’s bad.

"Can you assign less homework?" I ask.

"It’s not that simple," they say.

But we must make a leap, adjusting our screen time and the structure of our days to establish more natural rhythms. Workplaces that make fundamental shifts, such as implementing a four-day work week, reap huge benefits. Their employees are more rested, more connected to their families and more productive.

I don’t have all the answers. I’m as afflicted as the next person. But I know there is a better way. I bet you do too. We can start by asking the right questions, swapping strategies and holding each other accountable. The stakes are high.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.
Horvath achieves NFL draft dream

BY ERIC PEAT

Zander Horvath is headed to the National Football League. And much like his entire football journey, his selection in the NFL Draft required a great deal of patience and perseverance.

The former Marian High School standout and Purdue University walk-on was selected by the Los Angeles Chargers in the seventh round of the 2022 NFL Draft on April 30. Out of 262 overall picks, Zander was number 260 – the third-to-last player selected in the draft. That amounted to plenty of anxiety-building among his family and friends who were gathered with him to watch the draft on TV.

“I think towards the end, people were kind of getting anxious; I think people were more anxious than me at times,” said Zander. “But it was quiet for the longest time towards the end. We all thought it was over.”

Round after round passed by, minute after minute ticked off the clock. Zander, who was projected by his agent as a late-round selection or an early signee in free agency, kept checking his phone. He had already begun fielding calls from NFL teams discussing signing him as a free agent after the draft. His mother, Zita, recalled her thought process as she prepared herself for what seemed to be the inevitable.

“I thought, ‘Oh well, it’s ok. There’s a lot of people that get [signed in free agency], so he’s got other options.’ If not, that has a career in his life,” said Zita.

That’s when Zander received a phone call from Los Angeles. He returned to the room moments later, just in time to see his name appear on the TV screen and pure pandemonium erupt around him.

“That’s when Zander received a phone call from Los Angeles. He returned to the room moments later, just in time to see his name appear on the TV screen and pure pandemonium erupt around him.

“It was really nice to hear his name,” said Zita. “Just some small guy from Mishawaka!”

Zander spent the rest of the night hanging out with the friends and family members he hadn’t been able to see for several months due to his training schedule. Almost all of them had watched and waited with Zander for nearly seven hours in order to see his NFL dreams become a reality.

“We had a good time,” said Brian. “It was long, but it was well worth the wait, believe me.”

“Special teams is going to be the number one priority,” said Zander, who also earned his first career touchdown a year ago, and Pro Bowl quarterback Justin Herbert. Zander’s parents both plan to be in Los Angeles for an official in-person visit, as opposed to a virtual call. From his discussions with the Los Angeles coaching staff, Zander said they can see him making an impact in multiple ways, thanks to his versatile skill set.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING?  

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

WYD 2023 information nights
MISHAWAKA — WYD 2023 Info Nights are open to youth, parents, clergy and young adults wanting to learn more about our diocesan pilgrimage to Portugal in 2023 for World Youth Day. Info nights will be offered on Wednesday, May 11, at Marian High School, 1311 S. Logan St. and Thursday, May 12, at Bishop Dwenger High School, 1300 E Washington Center Rd. These nights will answer questions you may have, share ideas for fundraising and hear from travel partners at Verso Ministries. Contact John Pratt at john.pratt@diocesefwi.org for more information.

Planning Today to Secure a Peaceful Tomorrow: Life Planning Workshop
FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist Parish will present a free life-planning workshop for individuals and couples of all ages to learn about how they can start to get their affairs in order now to remove burdens from their loved ones later. Join others on Thursday, May 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the church at 4500 Fairfield Ave. The night will consist of four 15-minute presentations from each presenter plus three breakout Q&A sessions of participants’ choice. Presenters will be Divine Mercy Funeral Home (funeral planning), Father Andrew Budzinski (Catholic approach to death and funeral Masses), Catholic Community Foundation (endowments), and lawyer Charlie Heiny (estate planning and wills). This event is meant to be informative and empower you to start making these decisions. There is no obligation to utilize the services the vendors provide. They are generously coming to inform, not to sell. For more information, contact Stewardship@SaintJohnFortWayne.com or Jeff Krudop at 260-744-4393.

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 conferees, 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 events.

Required Skills/Qualifications:
• Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent in Theology or related field preferred
• 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
www.setoncarmel.org

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A student in the Lead the Way Program, a national STEM initiative that Saint Joseph High School participates in, gives a presentation on what he has learned in his Biomedical Sciences class.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades poses with the students and a staff member who received one or more sacraments of initiation at his pastoral visit. From left are Cafeteria Manager Danielle Kaidan, Juan Gonzales Hernandez, John Haight, Bishop Rhoades, Itzayana Garcia, Cole Hatkevich and Margaret Baxter.

Saint Joseph High School, from page 1

Kaidan expressed her excitement in receiving her first holy Communion, as she was then able to participate with others in receiving it every Sunday. Hatkevich spoke about Saint Joseph High School’s impact on his entrance into the Church.

“When I first came here, I didn’t really know anything about the Church, but through the theology classes and all the teachers, I slowly began to learn how everything works. And then eventually my senior year, it just was getting involved in the Masses and liturgies and prayers that we had,” he said.

Hatkevich said that in the future, he will look back on his baptism as “one of the most important things that I’ve ever done – I’ll just always remember it.”

The school celebrated more of its students and staff members after Mass. Community Award Winners were announced. These awards are bestowed every month to one male and one female senior student, as well as one faculty or staff member, explained Kennedy. Winners “build community and foster a positive, joyful, welcoming, supportive and inclusive school climate,” he said. April’s student winners were Katie Lavelle and Joshua Culver. Faculty awardee was Test Coordinator/Data Specialist Ginny Weaver.

It is also a monthly tradition in the school for one group, club, team, etc. to issue a service challenge to another group, club or team. This initiative is called “Aidan’s Masterpiece,” and it is a service-based club named after Saint Joseph student Aidan Short, who passed away in 2018 in his junior year, explained Kennedy. The club was created in memory of “Aidan’s desire to serve when he was with us,” he continued.

So, to continue Aidan’s mission of serving, as the school’s website put it, the boys’ tennis team, challenged with service in April, called on the boys’ football team to carry this torch throughout the month of May.

Forty-seven Saint Joe Scholars were also announced. These were seniors who, for their first seven semesters, maintained a 4.0 GPA or above. Brendan Gonzales and Samuel Thomas were named as the 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively.

The school then gifted Bishop Rhoades with a St. Michael the Archangel original print. Its artist, Tess Cassady, a 2008 graduate of Saint Joseph, also signed it. “Through her artwork,” said Kennedy, “she is raising funds for the Ukrainian relief effort.”

Afterward, the bishop joined a group of student representatives for lunch. He was curious as to which parishes the students belonged to, and they all discussed school events, such as the girls’ soccer team reaching semi-state and the school’s production of “Hello, Dolly!” from which many of its cast members were present during the lunch.

Bishop Rhoades also paid a visit to Andrea Smolinski’s Creative Writing class, where he enjoyed brainstorming ideas with students to come up with a story. They were instructed to visit a website that prompted them with nine random shapes which they had to use to create a story.

Smolinski, a Saint Joseph alum who has taught in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for 13 years, was the 2021-22 Christ the Teacher Award winner. Her students commended her “compassion that never leaves,” as well as the way she “makes kids want to come to class and learn.”

Kennedy praised his students for acting Christ-like “in the way they treat each other, in the way they spread joy to others and in the way they serve.” He also applauded his faculty and staff for imitating St. Joseph, the school’s namesake, through their hard work and in how they aim to inspire students to live “a faith-filled and a moral life.”