As the Easter season drew to a close, the joy of the Resurrection continued in the priestly ordination of three men on Saturday, June 4, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Surrounded by family members, friends and fellow priests, Deacon Lee Allen Fortin, Deacon Brian Isenbarger and Deacon Mark Hellinger were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Bishop Rhoades’ homily focused on the Gospel reading from John, the story of the Good Shepherd. Appropriately, he spoke of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

“Today, these three young men will be marvelously endowed with the same Holy Spirit. Through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination, they will be consecrated by the Holy Spirit and united to our crucified and risen Lord in a new and radical way: they will be united to Christ the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep.”

“All of us priests (and bishop) are called to live our consecration and our mission in the Church coherently. It’s incoherent if we act like hirelings, rather than shepherds.”

He went on to explain the difference between a hireling and a true shepherd. “The good shepherd protects the flock. He's vigilant against the threat of doctrinal errors that lead souls astray, into sadness and division. The hireling could not care less. He 'sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away.' The good shepherd provides for the flock, nourishing people with the Church’s doctrine, sacraments and liturgy. The hireling is careless about the Church’s teaching and liturgy, leaving the flock hungry and malnourished.

“The good shepherd knows his sheep and they know him. Whereas a hireling sees the people as clients or constituents, the good shepherd sees his people as children of God entrusted to his pastoral care. He is especially solicitous for those who are hurting, suffering or in need. No one
The soul’s most welcome guest

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Following is the homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades on Pentecost Sunday at adult Confirmations in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception:

O
n this feast of Pentecost, we remember the great event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered in prayer on the day of the Ascension of Jesus fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. We relive this event today here since 33 of our brothers and sisters will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at this Mass.

We heard in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles St. Luke’s account of the first Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, the upper room was filled with a strong driving wind. Then, tongues of fire rested upon each of them. Interioredly, they were filled with a power that gave them the courage and fortitude to go out and proclaim the Gospel to the world. They were freed from all fear and began to speak openly about Jesus with great confidence. The Holy Spirit became the courageous heralds of the Gospel, as we read throughout the Acts of the Apostles.

Some call the book of the Acts of the Apostles “the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.” On every page of that book, we read about how the Holy Spirit guided the primitive Church through the first century. The first Christians were uneducated and ordinary men could show such courage and endure difficulties and suffering, even with joy. Nothing could stop them. To those who tried to silence them, they replied: “We cannot not keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). This is how the Church was born, and from the day of Pentecost the Church has not ceased to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. Throughout the ages and today, the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, ascended to heaven. He didn’t leave them ores. He sent them another Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with them and to be with all the disciples who would come after them, to the end of time and beyond.

Today, through the sacrament of Confirmation, our candidates will receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them to live the Gospel with conviction. They will receive an increase of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us as our Advocate. For example, through the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge – He illumines our minds about the mysteries of our faith and helps us know and understand them and the Holy Spirit’s gift of counsel in which He guides or counsels us to know God’s will. Of course, it’s not enough to know God’s will. We have to do it, so He gives us the gift of fortitude, to be strong in living our faith, to have fortitude in the midst of difficulties and struggles, and even persecution. The Holy Spirit also gives us the gift of piety – He helps us pray, and inspire in us the desire to worship God and He gives us the gift of fear of the Lord so that we will resist offending God. He helps us to resist the temptation to sin.

Allow me to address for a few moments our confirmation candidates. In confirmation, you will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and receive His seven gifts. The Holy Spirit will give you the special strength to witness to Christ in your words and deeds. It will be up to you to open yourselves to the Spirit’s gifts. St. Paul encouraged the early Christians to do so. He would tell them: “Live by the Spirit” or he would say “Follow the Spirit.” When we do, we each bring our own contribution to the building up of the Church. When we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, He brings His fruits to our souls, namely: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we see these fruits in our lives, when we see ourselves becoming more loving, more at peace, more patient, more generous, etc., we know that we are living and growing by the Spirit. If we don’t see this happening, we know something’s wrong in our spiritual lives. Even then, we can call upon the Spirit to help us. He helps us in our weakness, St. Paul says. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins so that we repent and convert and it’s by the Holy Spirit that we are absolved in the sacrament of penance.

We now proceed to the sacrament of confirmation. Our candidates will receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them to live the Gospel with conviction. They will receive an increase of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us as our Advocate. For example, through the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge – He illumines our minds about the mysteries of our faith and helps us know and understand them and the Holy Spirit’s gift of counsel in which He guides or counsels us to know God’s will. Of course, it’s not enough to know God’s will. We have to do it, so He gives us the gift of fortitude, to be strong in living our faith, to have fortitude in the midst of difficulties and struggles, and even persecution. The Holy Spirit also gives us the gift of piety – He helps us pray, and inspire in us the desire to worship God and He gives us the gift of fear of the Lord so that we will resist offending God. He helps us to resist the temptation to sin.

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Confirmation brings adult Catholics into deeper faith life

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

Sisters Liliana Loredo, 17, and Fatima Loredo Estrada, 16, parishioners of Holy Family in South Bend, shared their happiness at being able to receive their confirmation. They were among the roughly 50 people confirmed at a special Mass on Sunday, May 29, the Ascension of the Lord, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates one adult confirmation Mass on each side of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend every year for Catholics who have not yet received this sacrament. He concelebrated this Mass with retired titular Archbishop Michael A. Blume of Alexanum, a native of South Bend who became a priest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1972.

Teresa Oross, Director of Sacramental Preparation at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, explained that adult confirmands are those who have already been baptized in the Catholic Church and who have typically also received holy Communion.

“I just wanted to be closer with my faith and closer to God and get a better understanding of the Church and everything,” she explained. “I feel like I haven’t been whole – I don’t know how to really explain that any better – I just feel like this will make me whole.”

After having been away from the faith from roughly age 18 to 25, Callahan attributed her return to Catholicism to her fiancé. “Knowing he was Catholic, I started going to church with him, started praying the Catholic prayers again, and I just felt so much better. I felt like my prayers were being answered when I was attending the Catholic Church. I felt like my life was getting better.”

“Confirmation is also her confirmation sponsor. “He definitely pushed me back into that direction, and yeah, I don’t regret it,” she said. She also hopes to act as a strong role model for her two young children as she raises them in the Catholic faith.

During Mass, Bishop Rhoades spoke of Christ being close to the confirmands through the Holy Spirit. “And it was only when they had received the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they were equipped with the power that they needed to go out to all the world on mission to be Christ’s witnesses… Our candidates, our brothers and sisters in Christ, will receive the same power of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of confirmation.”

Bishop Rhoades also celebrated adult confirmation Mass on the Fort Wayne side of the diocese on Sunday, June 5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, confirming 33 people in their Catholic faith, appropriately on the Feast of Pentecost.
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Derby Photography

Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

Bishop Luers High School
Provided by Jenny Conrad
Fatherhood is a concept that is too often misunderstood and misrepresented in today’s society. As children of God, all Catholic men are called upon to share the love and joy of their heavenly Father in their own lives. For those ordained to the priesthood, this means embracing spiritual fatherhood – and acknowledging that it is every bit as essential as its biological counterpart.

Spiritual fatherhood, simply put, is the lifelong commitment of priests to teach, support, and lead their spiritual sons and daughters to Jesus Christ. Its equivalence to earthly fatherhood is not always an immediate revelation to men studying for the priesthood, according to Monsignor Robert Schulte of St. Jude in Fort Wayne.

“When I was a young man in the seminary, I wanted to be a father,” said Monsignor Schulte. “I was drawn to the priesthood, but I had to accept celibacy. I had to work it out with my spiritual director that a spiritual father was just as much of a father as a real father. He helped open that concept for me.”

For Father José Arroyo, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross in Columbus City, becoming a spiritual father within the Hispanic community held special meaning to him.

“In Latin America, when they call you ‘Father,’ they really mean it,” said Father Arroyo. “A priest is really a father. They come to us for everything, and not just when the office is open. They seek counsel for everything, invite you into their homes – we’re part of their families.”

The joys of spiritual fatherhood are numerous, but Monsignor Schulte and Father Arroyo both mentioned celebrating the sacraments of Mass and reconciliation at the top of the list. Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of Holy Family in South Bend, cited the gift of counsel as another treasured aspect of spiritual fatherhood.

“One of the privileged dimensions of being a priest is you can really help some people who may not have had the best experiences of fatherhood,” said Father Kohrman. “Some people are really wounded when they don’t have a father or a mother, and the whole part about being a priest is facilitating healing and trying to bring forth Jesus to them, just in your encounters with them.”

Father Kohrman admitted that this sometimes means “saying the difficult things” that an earthly father would have to say. It also carries a similar level of accountability, claimed Monsignor Schulte.

“I took it seriously when people started calling me ‘Father,’” said Monsignor Schulte. “It meant that I was responsible for leading the Church in the right direction – leading people to Christ and to salvation.”

Much like biological fatherhood, spiritual fatherhood comes with its challenges. In addition to the “false illusions” that Father Kohrman said follow the portrayal of the priesthood in media, priests also face earthly obstacles, which Father Arroyo encountered in an especially poignant manner.

“One of my most moving experiences happened when I went to a mission in Honduras, and we were running out of hosts,” said Father Arroyo. “I broke them as many times as I could, but we still ended up running out. It was the first time I had ever experienced the frustration of a father not being able to feed his children.”

In these trying moments, spiritual fathers can turn to the fatherly figures in their own lives who helped mold them and to the models of the saints who inspired them. Monsignor Schulte said he was blessed by the leadership of his biological father and by the “special love” he holds for St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests. Father Arroyo referenced his appreciation for a pair of priests who each played a role in his spiritual journey: Monsignor Emilio Toro, a Columbian priest who moved to Puerto Rico in a time of crisis and attended to the needs of his parish, and Father Benedict Groeschel, whom he cared for following an injury to the elderly priest.

Father Arroyo said he is also fascinated by and drawn to the humble service of Blessed Father Solanus Casey. Meanwhile, Father Kohrman said he was provided with strong examples of fatherhood from both his own father and his uncle, Father Don Isenburger, while also looking to St. Joseph’s quiet example.

Ultimately, fatherhood is only one half of the equation. Monsignor Schulte pointed out the importance of Our Blessed Mother working in union with spiritual fathers, and Father Kohrman echoed the significance of nurturing both paternal and maternal spiritual relationships.

“No matter how crummy our earthly father is – or mother, for that matter – God gave us a real, eternal fatherhood and motherhood in Mary and Joseph,” said Father Kohrman. “And they are truly our foster parents as well.”

This Father’s Day, take a moment to reflect on the spiritual fathers and priests who have blessed your life. Remember to wish them a happy Father’s Day, remember to tell them how much their dedication and sacrifice mean. Most of all, remember the reason behind their sacrifice: the love of the one true Father who longs to draw near to each and every one of His beloved children.
At Tulsa, Okla., Catholic hospital complex, gunman kills four, then himself

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – A Catholic hospital's campus in Tulsa, Oklahoma, became the scene of the country's 233rd mass shooting of the year on June 1, leaving four dead, including a doctor who had treated the gunman for back pain. Tulsa authorities said in a June 2 news conference that the shooter, who committed suicide after the shooting at the St. Francis Health System's Natalie Medical Building, entered the medical complex armed with a handgun and rifle and opened fire shortly before 5 p.m. inside an orthopedic clinic. Chief Wendell Franklin of the Tulsa Police Department identified Michael Louis as the suspected gunman, saying that he fatally shot himself after shooting several people, including Dr. Preston Phillips, who had treated him for back pain. “He blamed Dr. Phillips for the ongoing pain following the surgery,” Franklin said, adding that police found a letter written on the gunman stating what he was going to do and why Louis had gone in for surgery in mid-May, was released a few days later but kept complaining of pain. An hour before the shooting, police said, he bought an AR-15 rifle at a pawn shop and headed for the hospital in search of Dr. Phillips. In the process, he killed a patient, another doctor, a receptionist, and left several others injured before shooting himself seconds before police reached him.

Bishop urges Nigerian government to boost security to protect daily life

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS) – Violence in Nigeria stemming from the long-lasting Boko Haram insurgency and conflicts among herdsmen and farmers over scarce land and resources point to the failure of government to protect all Nigerians, one of the country’s leading archbishops said. Speaking during an online discussion on May 31, Archbishop Matthew Ndagoso of Kaduna called on government officials to block the influx of arms and ammunition into the country as a step to turn around the trend of growing violence across the country. Throughout the program, he addressed widespread insecurity and other concerns, Archbishop Ndagoso expressed the importance that security concerns take priority. “Banditry has taken a new dimension in the last three to four years as bandits now use sophisticated weapons to massively destroy villages and their properties, kidnapping for ransom during the day and at night,” said Archbishop Ndagoso, vice president of the Nigerian bishops' conference. He blamed the country’s porous borders for the importation of increasingly sophisticated weapons that fuel growing insecurity. He called on the government to control how arms and ammunition were being imported and to prosecute those found to illegally possess arms and ammunition. The attacks by marauding groups have caused people to flee from traditional settlements to camps established by various nongovernmental organizations, he said.

Winona-Rochester, Minn., bishop retires; Bishop Barron is named successor

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop John M. Quinn of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and named as his successor Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles. Bishop Quinn, who has headed the Diocese of Winona-Rochester for 13 years, is 76. Canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope when they turn 75. Bishop Barron, 62, is a Chicago native who has been a Los Angeles auxiliary bishop since 2015. He also is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. The changes were announced in Washington, D.C. on June 2 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester comprises 20 counties in southern Minnesota and has a Catholic population of 152,825.

San Diego bishop says he was ‘stunned,’ ‘humbled’ by being named a cardinal

SAN DIEGO (CNS) – Cardinal-designate Robert W. McElroy told reporters on May 31 that when he learned he is among the 21 new cardinals Pope Francis will create on Aug. 27, “I said a big prayer. I said several prayers because I was stunned and so shocked by this,” said the 68-year-old prelate who heads the San Diego Diocese. He is the only American in the group the pope announced on May 29. “It was prayer in gratitude for my family and the many people who have helped form me over the years and thanking to God for all their roles in my life,” he said during a 28-minute news conference held outside the diocesan pastoral center. After the consistory, he will be among 153 cardinals younger than 80 who will be eligible to vote in a conclave. The number of those older than 80 will be 97, bringing the total number of cardinals to 250. A native of San Francisco, Bishop McElroy is the sixth bishop of San Diego. He was installed on April 15, 2015. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco on April 12, 1980, he was an auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese from September 2010 until he was named to head the Diocese of San Diego in 2015. “By naming Bishop Robert McElroy as a cardinal, Pope Francis has shown his pastoral care for the Church in the United States,” said Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “I have known and have had the privilege of working with Cardinal-designate McElroy for many years.”

Okay, I am ready to answer any questions you might have. Please go ahead.
The St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne Knights of Columbus Council No. 11,353 hosted a men’s retreat on “The Four Last Things” at the St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington on May 20-22. More than forty men attended the event, which included talks and discussions on the themes of death, judgment, heaven and hell. Speakers included Father Thadeus Balinda, Father Daniel Scheidt, Monsignor Pius Ilechukwu, Father Stephen Felicichia, Father Polycarp Fernando and Christopher Lushis.

Holy Cross Jubilarians celebrate years of dedication to vocations

Eight Brothers of Holy Cross renewed their vows on Saturday, April 30, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Among the brothers celebrating jubilee anniversaries are some who contributed to the spiritual life of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

70 YEAR JUBILARIAN

Reliability, dedication to duty and cheerfulness are three descriptive terms that fit Brother Robert Dierker perfectly.

He was born in 1931 as the only child to Milton and Katherine Dierker in Columbus, Ohio. Brother Robert joined Holy Cross in 1950 on the advice of a Dominican priest and teacher who told him, “If you want to be a priest, be a Dominican. If you want to be a brother, join a community of brothers.”

In Brother Robert’s words, “What good advice!”

While working at Ave Maria Press in 1952, Brother Robert fought off the effects of polio, rallied and continued to work there for 20 years. Following a year as assistant librarian at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, he went to Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. At Saint Joseph, he worked in the attendance office, where he remained for the next 33 years until his retirement in 2006.

After living for 11 years at Riverside Place, Brother Robert retired in 2010 to Columbia Hall — a place he has always thought of as his home.

Following his retirement, he continued to volunteer at Saint Joseph High School once a week. In addition, he was a driver for the brothers in the area and maintained a rigorous exercise schedule of walking and biking until he broke a hip in November 2021.

He reflects, “My life has been a wonderful experience of service to the Church and our community.”

60 YEAR JUBILARIANS

Lawrence Skitzki was born the second of four children to Henry and Florence Skitzki in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Lawrence attributes his vocation to Brother Robert Siegel, his band director at St. Edward High School, who taught him how to play the flute.

Following graduation in 1961, he entered the Brothers of Holy Cross and received his degree from St. Edward’s University in 1965. His first assignment was Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville.

In 1971, he earned a master’s degree from the University of Notre Dame. After a year at Bishop David High School in Louisville, he returned to Evansville as Comptroller for Southwestern Indiana Mental Health Center, serving for six years, volunteering in special education for the Diocese of Evansville.

In 1975, he transferred in 1978, Brother Lawrence Krupp, Provincial, appointed him Provincial Steward for the Midwest Province. He served until 1994 and again from 2005 to 2009. He was a board member of the National Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutions (NATRI) from 1989 to 1990 and served on its executive committee from 1993 to 1995.

After a sabbatical year, he went on to work as the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame, then moved to California to work at high schools there. He served as a founding member of the California Private School Self Insurance Group (CAPS-SIG) Board, and is a member of the Midwest Province Finance committee and trustee of the Life Development Trust.

In August of 2016, he “retired” and inherited the job of guest master and accountant for the local community in Sarasota, Florida.

Brother Roy Smith was born the eighth of nine children to Archie and Bettie Smith on Aug. 25, 1943, in Indianapolis. From an early age, Brother Roy wanted to follow his two older brothers and attend Cathedral High School. What he did not know at that time was that he would meet the Brothers of Holy Cross, who impressed him as very demanding and caring teachers. He thought he would like to do the same for other people as the brothers did for him and his classmates. While at Cathedral, Roy was recognized for his athletic abilities and was named to the all-state team in football.

Upon graduation, Roy entered the Brothers of Holy Cross and was first professed on Aug. 16, 1962. Brother Roy is grateful to Brother James Everett and the other brothers at Cathedral who encouraged him in his religious vocation. After two years at St. Joseph’s High School he was transferred in 1967 to St. Charles Boys Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While there, he earned his master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Through his ministry in social work, he has served at Boysville of Michigan, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Holy Trinity High School in Chicago.

Currently, Brother Roy is the Director of Development for the Midwest Province. “The best part of this job is hearing the many stories from grateful donors about the brothers,” Brother Roy said. “After 60 years of religious profession, God has been so good to me and keeps doing good things for me. He has blessed me with a wonderful family, great friends and a wonderful brotherhood.”

Reminiscing about home

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited with Sister Joan Arnold, OLVM when he came to celebrate Mass with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters at Victory Noll in Huntington on May 24. The two of them shared a common home parish of St. Mary in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Sister Joan passed from this life to the next on June 6.
Storey Family Farm is a sustainable organic farm in South Bend run by Stephen and Raquel Storey, who met while working on an organic vegetable farm in the summer of 2019. Their website says, “It was on that farm, amidst hours and hours of gardening, that Stephen and Raquel became friends, fell in love and began dreaming of farming together for years to come.” Stephen and Raquel are both passionate about sustainability and their Catholic faith.

Both Stephen and Raquel came from Catholic families who fostered their faith. While growing up, Stephen envisioned himself becoming either a priest or a farmer, and his parents always encouraged his pursuits. In high school, Stephen felt a tug to follow a career in farming. This was difficult because he did not come from a farming family and farming is expensive, so he entered college to pursue a different career.

During his years at Holy Cross College, Stephen became acquainted with the Franciscan Friars Minor, a community into which he entered discernment. While begging for food, a part of the poverty the Franciscans embrace, Stephen’s desire to grow and cultivate his own food nagged at him. Stephen discerned out of the community after two years and started a job with Catholic Charities. Stephen kept finding ways to work the land, to keep his hands in the dirt. It was during his stint on an organic vegetable farm in South Bend where he met Raquel.

Raquel was not born into a farming family. She received her Masters’ of Divinity from the University of Notre Dame and worked in different ministries through the Church for nearly a decade before entering farming full time. One of her major influences to follow the agricultural path was Dorothy Day. Raquel agreed with Day’s idea that food should be grown locally and provide for the community. She spent time working with the Catholic Worker farm in South Bend where she became acquainted with farming techniques. Raquel continued pursuing farming as a passion and was working on the same organic vegetable farm as Stephen when they met.

When Stephen and Raquel were married, starting their own farm sustainably and organically was never in question. Some large farms frequently only grow one crop, which depletes the nutrients in the soil. Storey Farm grows more than 40 different varieties of fruits and vegetables. Stephen said, “I was so amazed and inspired by the reality that nature is an intelligent design!” He continued, “In my opinion, the brilliant coherence that one finds in natural systems is a great argument for the existence of God.”

Through proper agricultural practices, Stephen and Raquel cooperate with God’s design for nature and produce healthy soil and flavorful produce.

“I think regenerative farming is ultimately the practice of humbly observing the way nature functions optimally and imitating that on the farm. It’s collaborating with nature (and, of course, brings our own ingenuity to the table) rather than trying to overpower nature.”

Storey Farm developed using the ideas of Dorothy Day’s urban farming techniques. The farm consists of seven urban lots that are around three-quarters of an acre each. Making these spaces suitable for farming was a challenge. They had to remove the concrete and gravel in order to reach the soil. It is also challenging because the lots are not contiguous; instead, Stephen has to drive to and from each lot to check on them.

Despite the rewards of this profession, Stephen and Raquel still face numerous challenges. Being able to spend hours on the farm is a peaceful part of the job, but at the end of the day, the farm is still a business. Every day, something could go wrong.

Stephen remarked, “If I’m not diligent, our plants don’t thrive and the farm might not be able to support our family. That’s stressful. We don’t have automatic doors on our chicken coops anymore because they didn’t always work. They wouldn’t close on time and chickens would be eaten by predators. That was stressful. Our exhaust fan on our greenhouse burnt out and hundreds of dollars of microgreens began overheating. If I checked a few hours later, they all would have died. That was stressful.”

Because of the uncertainty that comes along with owning a farm, Raquel says that it is a constant exercise in trusting God and discerning what He is asking of them. Although the unknowns are frightening, the future is exciting. Raquel said, “I am reminded every day what a privilege it is to grow food sustainably for our community.”
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The farming lifestyle forces the Storey family to deepen their faith and trust in God. Farming in such a way deepens the personal connection Stephen and Raquel feel towards the sacraments — especially the Eucharist, which is the summit of a Catholic’s life. Through farming, Stephen is able to see the sacrificial nature of life and carry a cross in a personal way. Witnessing the seasonal progression of plant and animal life, he is able to connect with the seasons of life and understand how sacrificing some things leads to greater goods. Stephen spoke of Father Edward Leen, who said: “The heart of religion is two things: communion and sacrifice.” Storey Farm embraces this in how they pursue Christ in their lives and especially in their faith.

Pope Benedict XVI said, “More than a few young people have already chosen this path; also many professionals are returning to dedicate themselves to the agricultural enterprise, feeling that they are responding not only to a personal and family need, but also to a ‘sign of the times,’ to a concrete sensibility for the ‘common good.’ This is how Stephen and Raquel truly approach this professional pursuit. They have a belief that through their work, they will be able to impact the community around them — both now and into the future. With so much in the world being stripped of personal interactions and truth, Storey Farm looks to participate in the world more simply. They are excited to work together as husband and wife, build a community in South Bend and that their son, Maximilian, will grow up “surrounded by nature and real things” rather than television screens.

Raquel and Stephen attend St. Matthew Cathedral where they have a great community. They encourage others to come and visit the farm and see all work they are doing in their community. A shift toward the methodology Storey Farm embraces could lead to a stronger local farming community, particularly for those who would like to begin their own urban gardens. For those considering starting a farm or learning about farming, the Storey family is happy to share the passion they have for farming to anyone who will listen. For more information, or to subscribe to their newsletter, visit storeyfamilyfarm.com.

Raquel shows off one of the fruits of the Storey Family Farm harvest.
is excluded from his pastoral love.”

He concluded his words to the priestly candidates by saying, “My sons, I pray that you allow the energy of Christ the Good Shepherd to seize your whole being. This means total surrender to the exigencies of the mission. In a word, it means laying down your lives for the sheep.”

Thus, the three men did so symbolically, laying facedown before the altar during the Litany of Supplication. Then each candidate knelt as the bishop and the entire body of priests laid their hands on their heads. With the prayer of ordination spoken by the bishop, they were officially received into the sacred order of the priesthood. To symbolize this transition, the three men were vested with a priestly stole and chasuble.

After this, Bishop Rhoades anointed the new priests’ hands with sacred chrism. According to the USCCB website, this is done to signify the sacred duties of a priest: namely, consecrating the Eucharist, anointing the sick and bestowing blessings upon the faithful. As the Eucharist is the heart of a priest’s ministry, the newly ordained were then presented with a paten and chalice before being welcomed into the priestly life through the kiss of peace, bestowed again by Bishop Rhoades and all priests present. Then Fathers Fortin, Isenbarger and Hellinger joined their fellow priests behind the altar, taking part in concelebrating the Mass for the first time in their priestly lives.

On the cathedral plaza after Mass, it was Bishop Rhoades’ turn to kneel before the new priests as one by one, each of them bestowed their first priestly blessing upon him, after which he kissed the hands that he had so recently anointed with chrism.

In the course of the ordination, Father Hellinger was overcome with emotion. He explained afterward that “I tend to cry a lot in the face of beauty” and stated that he was “reflecting on what it means to be a priest in terms of bishop’s homily, kind of pouring myself out for the people of this diocese.” He will be doing so through the summer at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola and St. Joseph, LaGrange before returning to Rome to complete his degree.

Additionally, he thought of his father, also named Mark, who passed away the summer before his ordination to the diaconate last year. “I was thinking of him, several other family members who passed away and just being also surrounded by the living family members in the cathedral and lots of friends. It was just years of various people

“‘It’s exactly where I’m supposed to be’
— Father Brian Isenbarger
After the Mass, the three new priests bless Bishop Rhoades and he kissed each of their hands.

who had supported me and helped raise me, basically, so seeing that both on earth and in heaven.”

Father Fortin’s family came from South Dakota to witness his ordination. He recalled how he felt during the ordination, particularly at the words spoken by Bishop Rhoades. “He looked at me when he said, ‘living waters of the Holy Spirit’ – that’s a major theme in my spiritual life – as well as the last words of his homily, when he spoke of the surrender it takes to be a priest.” Father Fortin has been assigned to St. Mary of the Assumption in Decatur.

For his part, Father Isenbarger confessed that “I was more nervous last year than this year.” At the end of the ceremony, he said he felt “Extraordinary. Joyful. It’s exactly where I’m supposed to be. It’s great.”

More than anything, he professed himself ready to finally take on the role that God has called him to – shepherding God’s children, now his children. He will begin his priestly ministry as Parochial Vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.
St. Charles parishioners participate in ‘welcoming the tabernacle’

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The reactions of members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne varied from awe to wonder as they walked into the bright, fresh space of their newly renovated church on May 31, the day Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades came for Mass and to bless the space. Audible gasps and exclamations of delight about the church’s beauty spread through the crowd. Many people stopped to take everything in or snap photos before Mass began. One woman remarked how she could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit immediately upon entering.

Father Tom Shoemaker, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, spoke of the renovations and the steps to “Welcoming the Tabernacle,” as he titled the project. He said, “Ever since I’ve arrived, the tabernacle was not in the church, so that was the driving force behind everything.”

Those unfamiliar with the church before the remodeling might not have even realized that there was a tabernacle, as it previously rested in a chapel behind the altar, unfortunately hidden behind oak slats. In addition to bringing the tabernacle inside the sanctuary, Father Shoemaker desired to beautify the church and make needed repairs to the leaking roof and the church and make needed repairs to the leaking roof and the church.

Father Lee Allen, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, spoke of the renovations and the steps to “Welcoming the Tabernacle,” as he titled the project. He said, “Ever since I’ve arrived, the tabernacle was not in the church, so that was the driving force behind everything.”

Those unfamiliar with the church before the remodeling might not have even realized that there was a tabernacle, as it previously rested in a chapel behind the altar, unfortunately hidden behind oak slats. In addition to bringing the tabernacle inside the sanctuary, Father Shoemaker desired to beautify the church and make needed repairs to the leaking roof and other areas. There had been talk of such a project for four of the five years he has been pastor, with construction beginning immediately after Christmas.

On May 31, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne to bless their newly renovated church interior. Father Tom Shoemaker, Pastor, was pleased to welcome the tabernacle back into the sanctuary, as well as the parishioners who helped accomplish the renovations.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY, Father Lee Allen, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, welcomed parishioners back into the church.

“Welcome to the Priesthood!”

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

“The Serra Club of South Bend offers heartfelt congratulations to Father Mark Mollinger, Father Brian Isenbarger and Father Lee Allen Fortin as you are ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations also go to newly ordained deacons Brian Flinn, Bobby Krish, David Langford, Jake Schneider and Ryan Timossi.

The Serra Club of South Bend
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Danielle Meyer, a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo, shows her daughter the new painting of the Virgin Mary after the Mass of blessing.

this altar are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the true Body and Blood of Christ. The altar is holy and should be beautiful."

He commended parishioners on beautifying the spaces surrounding the tabernacle – the decorated valance above and carved Italian marble used for the altar, ambo and tabernacle – an area more sacred even than the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem, Bishop Rhoades stated.

Bishop Rhoades and the parish’s priests were not the only ones in attendance. Some priests who had previously served there – Fathers Tony Steinacker, Thomas Zehr and Jacob Meyer – and sons of the parish – Father Nathan Maskall and Deacon Jacob Schneider – aid the bishop in the celebration of the Mass. Father Polycarp Fernando also visited from nearby St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

After the Mass, dozens of people wandered around the church, admiring the new paintings and taking photographs before the altar. Melissa Bullerman and her husband both teach middle school at St. Charles Borromeo. She brought her sons to the Mass where her youngest remained mesmerized by the crucifix and the painted angels circling it. “He really likes that the angels protect Jesus,” she said. As a teacher, Bullerman handled the months of school Masses in the gymnasium with grace, but said, “it was totally worth it, completely worth it. It’s turned out so nice.”

She described her initial reaction, stating: “It didn’t feel like I was in Fort Wayne anymore; you just kind of felt like you were taken somewhere else.”

More than the artistry of the church, she was happy to see the united parish community. “It was really neat seeing everyone come together today for us, for the parish — all the fathers and Bishop Rhoades here, that was neat. It made it even more special than it already was.”
Men led to virtuous lives at Bishop Rhoades’ talk

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

The Armor of God movement, which was born out of a desire to lead men toward deeper holiness, asceticism and fraternity, strives to respond to the crisis of sanctity in the world today. In addition to bi-annual retreats, they also offer monthly Spiritual Briefings to educate and inspire men to become better leaders and Catholics.

Rob Gregory, Chairman of the Armor of God Board of Directors, shared his enthusiasm for their most recent guest speaker, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Gregory exclaimed, “When I met with Bishop and updated him on our movement, he immediately got up, grabbed his calendar and asked when he could come to be a part of our next spiritual briefing. The topic of ‘Arming Men on the Power of Virtue’ quickly arose from our discussion.” More than 115 men from parishes across the diocese gathered to listen to the bishop’s presentation at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, on May 18.

In his talk, Bishop Rhoades emphasized that “to be an authentic man of God is to be a man of virtue. A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good and to give the best of oneself. The virtuous person pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” He reminded those present that living with virtue is more than simply having “right values” or correct thinking, but also choosing and acting in accordance with the good. Following through on these actions requires commitment, courage and perseverance, which is why it is so important to be immersed in Scripture and frequently reflect upon the lives of the saints. He said, “I am especially inspired in my vocation by saints who were bishops. You can be inspired by saints who were lay men, husbands, fathers or those who were in your line of work or had similar passions.” He said the secret behind the saints’ sanctity was that they willingly chose and lived out holiness daily, and that the same must be true for those who hope to become saints today. The action plan Bishop Rhoades presented for walking the way of holiness was founded on the cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. However, he first highlighted the importance of humility, which he called “the foundational virtue of the Christian life.” He stressed that “there is no holiness without humility because humility is the way of God. Our Lord humbled Himself in the Incarnation to become man, He accepted death on the Cross, He gave us Himself in the Eucharist. When St. Francis of Assisi would speak about the Eucharist, he would say ‘behold the humility of God!’ You can’t name a saint who didn’t have humility.”

He then defined the virtue of prudence as “right reason in action.” He continued, “it disposes us to discern our true good and choose the right means of achieving it. Prudence is the charioteer of the other virtues. It is responsible for determining how to be just, how to be courageous, how to be temperate; it gives knowledge of what must be done, when and how. It is not to be timid or fearful, but how to...
Barrett McNagny congratulates Father Mark Hellinger, Father Brian Isenbarger and Father LeeAllen Fortin on their ordination to the priesthood.

“Bishop Rhoades was thought-provoking, easy to understand and inspiring. It is a joy to be part of this diocesan family.”

Thirdly, he emphasized the importance of fortitude, which ensures firmness and constancy in the pursuit of good. Bishop Rhoades recounted that when he faced difficulties during his seminarian studies in Rome, the Italians would say “coraggio!” — meaning to have strength and to stay firm. Fortitude gives one the strength of will to conquer fear. Jesus often said, “be not afraid” and St. John Paul II frequently repeated those words. Fortitude is not recklessness, but the strength of spirit to overcome obstacles and courageously do what is right.

Finally, he spoke on temperance as the moderation of pleasure and balanced use of created goods. “Temperance controls our passions and desires, particularly for food, drink and sex. Just as fortitude moderates inordinate fear of pain, temperance moderates the attraction to pleasure. Both are necessary for self-control. Once one has mastery over their passions, the giving of oneself in love becomes possible. One who is weak will be overcome by their passions and surrender to them, whereas a virtuous man has the strength to rule them. The virtues give us the strength to endure the storms of life!”

After the talk, Gregory shared, “Bishop Rhoades coming to speak to these men from his heart and fulfilling one of his roles as a teacher in the faith is an incredible testimony of his commitment to walking with men in our diocese and empowering them to reclaim the priestly authority of their homes and arm them to be the spiritual leaders that God has called them to be.”

Dennis Wiegmann, parishioner of SS. Peter and Paul, Huntington, and Principal of Queen of Angels School, Fort Wayne, shared the inspiration he gained from the bishop’s talk. He said, “it immediately made me think of how I should be incorporating the virtues into all of our decision making, especially with student discipline.”
A perfect storm on abortion

A leaked draft opinion in the Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization has prompted reactions that are extreme, ill-informed and sometimes abusive. We are seeing a “perfect storm” preventing discussion of the opinion on its merits. That storm has at least four causes.

First is our overall political climate. “Polarization” is too nice a word for it. American politics has always seen sharp disagreements. What we now have is mutual demonizing: Denouncing one’s opponent comes first, and engagement with opposing views is secondary or absent.

These hair-trigger emotions have been aggravated by our anxiety and isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Second is the divisiveness of the abortion issue itself, called the “third rail” of American politics even in less fraught times. It is the ultimate clash of human rights claims. If the unborn child is one of us, abortion on demand is unthinkable. If it is not, then a woman’s right to make decisions about her own body is. It is difficult to find a middle ground.

In 1973, the Court pretended to find that middle ground, acknowledging a legitimate interest in “potential life” in the womb. But it then insisted that abortion for any reason must be allowed up to “viability.”

Even in the last weeks of pregnancy, when a child could survive outside the womb, abortion must be allowed for what a doctor claims is a woman’s “well-being.” By this stroke, the court invalidated abortion laws in all 50 states.

Pro-life advocates have often been more willing than their opponents to seek common ground – proposing that women seeking abortions should be provided better options that ensure their informed consent and their safety, that taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize it or doctors and nurses be forced to provide it, that we should forbid the killing of a partly born living child and respect the child born alive from an attempted abortion.

Abortion opponents have opposed all these measures as attacks on the expansive constitutional “right” to abortion.

Third is ignorance about the Supreme Court’s role. People praise or attack the court for pronouncements they do not understand. Those who disagree with me can do so as finely as those who agree with me.

Fourth, the court’s 1973 decisions have been around so long that, tragically, “people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society” relying on abortion.

The court said that in 1992 to justify reaffirming what some justices knew was a deeply flawed decision. The result was more decades in which more people were lulled into believing and acting on a lie.

Helping those women and men to see that a different way of life is possible – one that could involve greater respect for women and children, as well as greater individual and social well-being – is the greatest challenge now for pro-life Americans.

Catholics committed to the equal dignity of each and every person, regardless of their place in society” are where the middle ground should be in the forefront of meeting that challenge.

Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The holy Trinity reveals the love of God

Trinity Sunday John 16:12-15

The Church celebrates Trinity Sunday this weekend, and it uses the celebration to teach us about the Holy Trinity, the mystery of three Persons in one God.

For its first reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is one of a series of books in the Old Testament, the series being called “the wisdom literature.” The purpose behind the writing of all these books was to reassure pious Jews that their belief in the one God of Israel, a divinity of mercy and eternal faithfulness, was not in the least contrary to sound human reasoning.

This reading reveals the essence of God and the quality of wisdom. Wisdom is of God. “The Lord begot me,” Wisdom declares in the reading. “From the beginning of the earth, I was poured out upon the earth.”

In other words, God gives us wisdom, another gift of divine mercy and love. Without this wisdom, we cannot fully understand reality. The Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. As so often appears in the writings of the Apostle Paul, the realities of Jesus, and of life in Jesus, are majestically presented. Through the Lord Jesus Christ and through the sacrifice accomplished by Jesus in the Incarnation and in the Redemption, humans are at peace with God.

God’s love comes to us through the Holy Spirit. This statement affirms the Spirit’s divine identity and also its dynamic. It is not a commodity. Love is something essential to the lover. It is not incidental. St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. As is typical of all the parts of the fourth Gospel, the reading literally glows with eloquence and grace.

This passage is a direct quotation from Jesus. In it, the Lord powerfully explains that the Apostles that the Holy Spirit will come to strengthen and empower them. “He will guide you with all truth,” the Lord tells the Twelve.

So, the reading establishes the place of the Apostles in the unfolding of salvation. It testifies to the esteem in which the Church holds the Apostles and their successors.

The reading also reveals the Trinity, albeit obliquely. The Holy Spirit will convey to the Apostles God’s truth. As with love, truth is not a commodity. It is an awareness of what actually is. Only God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, possesses this unobstructed view of what actually is.

Finally, the reading reveals the place of Jesus in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit will convey to the Apostles God’s truth. As with love, truth is not a commodity. It is an awareness of what actually is. Only God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, possesses this unobstructed view of what actually is.

The Church teaches that the Holy Trinity is one of the greatest revelations of God. As such, the Church presents this teaching in its pronouncements and in prayer, and on this great feast. The Church will never compromise the teaching. It is at the root of Catholic belief.

From the moment that Catholic parents teach toddlers to make the Sign of the Cross all the way through studies at the highest levels of institutional education, Catholics hear of the Trinity. It is basic to the Catholic Tradition.

Even so, even for believers, it can be quite dry, academic, a statement with little relevance. To the contrary, it is relevant to everything that we are, and to everything that we do. It explains creation. It explains salvation. It explains God. It explains who and what we are. It explains our purpose in life.

God is love. We choose to follow the Lord. Therefore, we must share God’s love with all, just as Jesus shared God’s love with all.
Disappearance of balanced Catholic media is loss for immigrants

The announcement early in May 2022 that Catholic News Service would cease operations in the United States at the end of the year took many by surprise. I was flabbergasted and saddened. I still am.

For many years, I have been an avid reader of CNS’s good quality articles, news analyses and columns. For more than five years, I have written this award-winning column via CNS.

Many are the appellatives associated with this news and media service sponsored by the Catholic bishops of the United States. One that has always caught my attention is “balanced.”

What is balance in the Catholic Church in the United States these days? I don’t want to enter into controversies about what groups or perspectives are “more Catholic” or “less Catholic” than others. I find that type of argumentation exhausting.

Let me define balance in simple ways: that which invites into a deeper, critical and yet faithful understanding of one’s reality, both as individuals and as members of larger communities.

Balance for Catholics is an invitation into engaged discipleship. Balance is the acceptance that reality is rarely either/or, but rather, both/and most of the time. Balance is naming that which is of value to us as people of faith without falling into ideological partisanship.

Being balanced does not necessarily mean being perfect. However, balanced Catholic media should always be at the service of communion while nurturing the souls of those who access it. Many Catholic diocesan papers and news venues have closed or merged in recent decades. Many served local communities providing precisely a balanced reading of what was happening.

The loss of local sources of news and analysis is a phenomenon that has also affected non-religious venues. The vacuum created by this loss is being filled by a mixture of media emporia that often appear as serving particular ideological and partisan interests, and the unrestricted universe of opinion that finds its way through the internet and social media.

The loss of balanced Catholic sources of news and analysis is a loss for everyone. In particular, the disappearance of such sources is a major loss for immigrant Catholic communities.

About 20.4% of Catholics in the United States are immigrants. In 2006, that percentage was 29.7%, according to a consultation I did with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The percentage may rise again.

Catholic immigrants are largely concerned about finding communities to belong, adjusting to the new realities in which we live and meeting basic needs: jobs, education for our children, safe spaces. The culture wars of the larger society are not our immediate priority. As Catholic immigrants settle in our society and in our churches, we need to be informed. We seek sound analysis that helps us with our own lives and our own faith.

We also need venues to discuss our most urgent questions without fear of politicization (e.g., immigration policies, access to basic services). We want spaces to share our own voices.

I remember once publishing an article favoring immigration reform that promotes family reunification and creates pathways to regularize the status of undocumented immigrants. I received several letters from what I surmise were upset Catholics.

Some interlocutors accused me of being “too conservative” for tying my argument to family values. Others accused me of being “too liberal” for speaking in favor of humane treatment of undocumented immigrants.

To both I answered that I am neither. I am just Catholic. Hence the need for balanced venues in the world of Catholic news and analysis to have authentically Catholic conversations.

Hosffman Osipno is a Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College.
Pilgrims trek days to join Uganda’s Martyrs Day observance

BY TONNY ONYULO

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) – Thousands of pilgrims from across Uganda and neighboring countries converged on Namugongo, a Kampala suburb, after walking for days to join the country’s annual Martyrs Day observance.

The day is observed on June 3 at Namugongo Shrine, built on the site where 45 people, including 22 Catholics, were burned to death on orders of the king of Buganda from 1885 to 1887.

This year, pilgrims have focused on praying for peace and the end of human rights violations, especially against political opposition leaders and teenage girls undergoing female genital mutilation.

They have also been praying for Uganda’s economy, which has seen fuel prices spike because of the war in Ukraine and the cost of basic necessities such as bread, sugar and cooking oil rise proportionally.

“We pray with the Uganda martyrs to help us overcome the problems that have been brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war,” said Lilian Akumu, a parishioner from eastern Uganda, said he walked for days, a distance of 180 miles. Akumu, 43, said Russia and Ukraine had been major producers of commodities used by Ugandans. However, the conflict has led to disruptions of supply, causing global prices to soar, especially for oil and natural gas.

“We have been praying along the journey to this place for God to intervene and help our country,” said the mother of four. “People are suffering and sleeping without a meal because of the consequences of the war. The coronavirus outbreak resulted in the loss of jobs and incomes of millions of people.”

Wilberforce Okello, a pilgrim from eastern Uganda, said he dedicated prayers for peace and tolerance. Uganda, he said, has experienced growing violence, including arrests and torture of government opposition leaders, corruption, and land wrangles.

“We want to take this opportunity to pray for peace in our country. We don’t want people to continue dying because of their divergent political views. The government should be tolerant and allow critics and freedom of speech,” he said.

Bishop Robert Muhirwa of Fort Portal, Vice Chairman of the Uganda Bishops’ Conference, arrived at the shrine with more than 2,000 pilgrims. He said this year’s celebration is focused on the theme “Baptized and sent to witness Christ with love and hope.”

“We are grateful to God for bringing us this far,” he told Catholic News Service. “We are not celebrating a social event but a spiritual event that’s supposed to strengthen our faith, and on this day, people died for the love of Jesus Christ and let everyone do likewise.”

Father Joseph Muwongo, who served on the Liturgy Committee for the celebration, said clergy from within Uganda and neighboring countries as well as government officials were invited to attend. However, he noted, the number of pilgrims who arrived at the shrine by June 3 was much less than in 2019 before the pandemic.

The celebration also marks 58 years since the martyrs’ canonization, Father Muwongo said.
Central Catholic High School 50 year all-class reunion
FORT WAYNE — 2022 marks 50 years since Central Catholic High School Fort Wayne closed. There will be a celebration for all students, staff, faculty and anyone affiliated with CCHS at the CC Memorial Plaza on East Lewis Street on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food and beverage trucks will be available to purchase lunch or you may bring your own. Email CCjubilee2022@gmail.com for more information.

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Qualifications:
• Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
• Bachelor’s or equivalent in related field preferred; other qualifications or experience also considered
• Candidates must be fluent in English and Spanish
• Ability to work independently
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St. Michael Catholic School
Principal Job Opening
St. Michael Catholic School Muncie, Indiana

St. Michael Catholic School is seeking a leader to serve as Principal beginning July 1, 2022, to lead our dynamic preschool through 8th grade program. Applicants must be active practicing Catholics committed to the educational mission of the Church.

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Catholic artist infuses faith into painting

BY SAMANTHA ROHLOFF

Elegant portraits, flowers and animals painted on various forms of porcelain, such as lamps, vases, framed pieces and other antiques line the walls and fill the shelves of Barbara Bougher’s nearly 150-year-old home in Fort Wayne. Aside from what she has collected over the years, she painted most of this artwork herself.

Bougher, age 86, has been Catholic her whole life. As an artist, she has painted countless subjects, but the Blessed Virgin Mary has been one she is drawn to over and over again. “She’s beautiful,” said Bougher. Raising with Mary’s motherhood because of her own motherhood, Bougher noted, “I took to the Blessed Mother because she was a mother.”

Other religious figures have also been instrumental in her life. St. Anthony de Padua’s patronage has been especially prominent as she has found many a lost thing through his intercession. She has also gifted some of her grandchildren who have fallen away from the faith blessed medals of the saint in the hope that he will lead them back to the Church. Most recently, the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been close to her. An image of the Sacred Heart hangs on a wall next to a door in her house, but when asked if she had painted it, she shook her head. “He’s too precious to paint,” she replied.

Bougher expressed the importance of her Catholic faith when it comes to her art. “I don’t think I could do anything without my religion. Everything’s based on religion with me.”

Monsignor Robert Schulte, Pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne where Bougher is a parishioner, noticed her artistic abilities and asked her to paint portraits of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, patron saint of ecology and the environment, and St. Martin de Porres, patron of public health workers, mixed-race individuals, barbers and innkeepers. These portraits now hang in St. Jude School and took about three to four months to complete, she said.

“I didn’t know I had any talent,” confessed Bougher about her artistic gifts. While attending a summer camp as an elementary school student, she explained that she was surprised when she won a trophy in crafting art. Sadly, her artistic skills remained unpracticed during the many years after that, and upon entering high school, she took a “typing, shorthand, bookkeeping” course to follow in her six older sisters’ footsteps, who were mostly secretaries. However, after a year of working for an insurance company, she knew she had to move on; that that was not the life for her. Instead, she received her beautician’s license.

She shared 61 years of marriage with her husband Bill, together raising eight children. Bill passed away last year. Her artwork, Bougher said, was a creative outlet from her days of raising rambunctious youngsters. She dove into crafts, teaching herself to crochet and knit. While attending a ceramics show one day, she saw a company selling molds into which porcelain could be poured. The company was also exhibiting finished and painted porcelain pieces. “And I was just taken with it – the beautiful, delicate statues,” said Bougher. “And that just fascinated me to no end.” That very day she purchased a kiln – a furnace used for heating, or firing, various art mediums, including porcelain. This quickly became her lifelong passion.

Bougher traveled the world – Fatima, the Vatican, Ireland, to name a few places – to learn from the greatest teachers. Her artwork, Bougher said, has been close to her. An image of the Sacred Heart hangs on a wall, but when asked if she had painted it, she shook her head. “He’s too precious to paint,” she replied.

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Bougher traveled the world – Fatima, the Vatican, Ireland, to name a few places – to learn from the greatest teachers. She began traveling across the country teaching china painting. In the late 1970s, she began teaching adult night classes at Lakeside Middle School in Fort Wayne and later taught this craft inside her own home, continuing to this day.

Bougher teaches a porcelain-painting class in her home. Here, a student from one of Bougher’s classes creates an artistic floral design on a plate.

Artist Barbara Bougher, a member of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, spent months painting portraits of St. Martin de Porres and St. Kateri Tekakwitha at the request of Pastor Monsignor Robert Schulte. The paintings now hang in the hallway of St. Jude School.

“You learn something new every time,” said a student of Bougher’s home class. “It just depends on what you’re painting.”

Bougher has won multiple ribbons for her china painting and has appeared in at least twenty magazines, including International Porcelain Artists and Teachers, Inc. and the World Organization of China Painters, both of which she has been a member.

Additionally, she said she has been working with porcelain for almost 50 years and estimated that she has taught porcelain painting for about 25 years. She also composed two journal-like books that teach artists how to paint roses and portraits on porcelain, aptly titled “Roses” and “Portraits.”

Bougher estimates that she has produced hundreds, if not thousands, of pieces of artwork throughout her life. She has six kilns, four of which are in her basement where racks upon racks of plain crockery, vases and more all rest, waiting to be painted.

Last year, Bougher painted portraits of all her 22 grandchildren. Now, she is working on a portrait of St. Joseph and the child Jesus for St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne. It remains to be seen which saint she might paint next.

“Whatever you do,” she said, “you’ve got to love it.”