



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

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Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

The Catholic faith is alive in areas of Nigeria, an African nation located along coast of the Atlantic Ocean, the homeland of several missionary priests currently serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has visited the country previously and returned this July, visiting the Dioceses of Awka and Nnewi along with Father Francis Chukwuma, to ordain more than a dozen men to the priesthood. During his visit to the Diocese of Nnewi, he celebrated Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ozubulu, confirming 99 children alongside Bishop Jonas Benson Okoye, the diocese's bishop. Parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi presented Bishop Rhoades with several gifts, including a statue of the Blessed Mother. See more photos on page 16.

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Buildings gain new life devoted to Blessed Mother

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Tucked along the main road into northeast Indiana's lake country – Indiana State Road 9 – lies a cluster of buildings in Rome City. Beautiful in architecture, but strange in location, these are a curiosity often forgotten or ignored by those driving past in search of sun and fun. What once was a sanitarium for the ill is now a sanctuary for devotion to the Blessed Mother. This is the Patroness of America Center, and hundreds of pilgrims visit the grounds each year to view its beautiful statue and observe First Saturday devotions.

In Mary's appearance to the three children at Fatima, she asked that reparations be made to her Immaculate Heart, so wounded by sins committed in the world. She called Catholics to devote five consecutive first Saturdays of the month to confession, receiving Communion, praying the rosary and meditating upon the mysteries of the Rosary, all of which the Patroness of America Center promotes regularly. Pilgrims from around the diocese and other areas flock to Rome City for confessions and morning Mass every First Saturday. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will dedicate the new altar at the upcoming Mass on August 6.

A sliver of history

The center has a complex history. From the late 1800s to early 1900s, sanitariums were the "it" thing in medicine to treat infectious diseases, mostly tuberculosis. Records show that the Sisters of the Precious Blood out of Dayton, Ohio, founded a sanitarium at Kneipp Springs in 1901, where the artesian springs allegedly had curative properties. According to the Patroness of America website, the name "Kneipp" came from Father Sebastian Kneipp, who helped develop Kneipp Water Therapy, said to cure tuberculosis, of which the spring water was a necessary component.

Through the years of the sanitarium's operation, then-Bishop John F. Noll maintained a summer residence at the sanitarium, then Bishop Herman J. Alerding kept an office there. Bishop Noll purchased a tabernacle for the sisters' chapel.

These sisters ran the sanitarium until 1977. By then, most medical sanitariums had become obsolete and were either closing or transforming their spaces into modern hospitals. The property came under the ownership of an organization known as The Way College of Biblical Research until 2000, when the college folded.

Enter Larry Young. Young wanted to use the property as a camp for young people. "I was buying it to build a sports camp, trying to get to the kids, to get them to make good decisions,



Jennifer Barton

The Our Lady, Patroness of America statue graces the West Wing of the Mother of Mercy Chapel at the Patroness of America Center in Rome City. The former sanitarium has undergone extensive renovations and gained new life with their First Saturday devotions.

to forgive themselves if they make an error or mistake – and instead pursue good, wholesome decisions. Overall, it was focused on purity, but I wasn't thinking about it exactly that way then," Young said.

At the time, Young had little knowledge of the property's Catholic history or the involvement of The Way. Al Langsenkamp, President of the Mother of Mercy Foundation, described The Way as "a Christian cult, I would say, and they stripped the place of most all of its Catholic heritage." Fortunately, the stained-glass windows in the chapel were boarded over rather than destroyed.

Soon after moving in, Young was approached by representatives of Our Lady of America Center in Ohio, who requested he donate the property to them. Having just spent a large sum of

money on it, he remained committed to his personal project of a youth sports camp.

He did, however, allow the Catholic pilgrims who visited the grounds from time to time to freely access the property. He even provided holy medals and religious materials to them free of charge during the 10 years he ran his sports camp. Sadly, Young lost the property in 2010 because of the recession of 2008. Yet he knew that someday he would return.

By the time he regained the property in 2018, the effects of time and vandalism had led to deterioration in most of the buildings. Young reported that some parts had so much internal damage that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management required him to tear structures down and take them to a landfill "at an exorbitant cost."

New life, new purpose

Young and Langsenkamp have made it their life's work to restore the grounds to their former glory, to honor Mary as the patroness of the diocese and the Americas. Bit by bit, walls have been painted, black mold eradicated, restrooms constructed. Copper pipes had all been stolen, so new water lines were installed, and the HVAC systems replaced.

The chapel is still under renovation. A new altar is being built to replace the original one. The new altar is modeled after one of the stained-glass windows that had once been hidden, through which sunlight once again pours, bathing the chapel in bright, natural lighting. The tabernacle, gifted to the sisters by Archbishop Noll, had been damaged and

desecrated in the years of The Way, so Young had it restored by the same company in Chicago

that had originally crafted it.

The highlight of the Center, however, is the beautiful statue of Our Lady, Patroness of America. "The statue was first commissioned by the BVM Foundation in 2006 and was blessed by (then) Archbishop Raymond Burke before being displayed at the fall bishop's conference," Young said. Afterward, it was on display at the John Paul II Center in Washington, D.C., before being placed in safekeeping for several years. It was not until July of 2020 – "twenty years to the day from my first visit to the property," Young stated – that it was brought to the west wing of the Mother of Mercy Chapel.

From base to top, she stands around nine feet tall, wearing robes of pure white and a large gold crown. Her left hand touches her Immaculate Heart. Unique for a statue of Our Lady, Young said, is the lily she carries. St. Joseph is more often pictured holding a lily. Instead of holding it close to herself, here Mary holds it out, as if presenting and offering the flower of purity.

Purity is what it indeed symbolizes. At the First Saturday devotions held monthly at the Center, lilies are given to attendees, a reminder of the spiritual purity that Our Lady called all her children to practice.

"We talk about purity, in today's culture everyone thinks sexual purity, but it's so much more than that. It is the purity of intent, the intent to always do God's will in whatever we're doing," Langsenkamp emphasized. "So that's what the devotion in essence is about and that's what our cause is."

The lilies' life spans also serve as a reminder of monthly confession. Around the time the flowers

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Cross Catholic Outreach is helping feed Ukrainians, providing other aid

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — “We call ourselves the first suppliers of first responders,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach.

Based in Boca Raton, Florida, the international Catholic charity has assisted the world's most vulnerable people with \$3.3 billion in total aid in more than 85 countries since its founding in 2001 by Cavnar and a small group of his colleagues.

Its disaster relief responses have included building safe homes following devastating earthquakes in Haiti in 2010 and 2021, hurricane relief in places such as Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, and emergency food and medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, the charity has been helping Ukrainian refugees, namely across the border in Poland, and those internally displaced in Ukraine.

Most recently, Cross Catholic Outreach provided a cash grant, which funded 816,480 meals destined for these Ukrainians.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, since the war began on Feb. 24, more than 5.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe as of July 4.

Nearly 1.2 million are in Poland. The agency estimates that 7.7 million people are internally displaced as a result of the conflict, which is equivalent to 17.5% of the entire population.

The meals funded by Cross Catholic Outreach were supplied in partnership with Feed My Starving Children, a Protestant organization based in Coons Rapids, Minnesota, and the biggest supplier of an enhanced rice meal called Vitafood, Cavnar told Catholic News Service.

The rice is enhanced with soy protein, vitamins, minerals, flavoring and dehydrated vegetables and has about 12 grams of protein per serving. A dry food, it can be transported easily and is prepared with boiling water by recipients.

This particular rice product is an excellent food that has been used in “situations of malnutrition”, but it also is very good for emergency situations, Cavnar explained. “It is fully nutritious



CNS photo/Alexander Ermochenko, Reuters

Women in Sievierodonetsk, Ukraine, cook food on a fire in a courtyard of an apartment building June 30, 2022, amid Russia's invasion of the country.

and portable ... and a good way to provide food that is economical.”

Cavnar said Cross Catholic Outreach also is collaborating with Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, to provide food, clothing, generators, ambulances and other relief to internally displaced families and refugees.

The cardinal has delivered two ambulances the charity helped purchase — and which the pope blessed: One was for a hospital in Kyiv and one was for a hospital in Lviv, Cavnar said.

Pope Francis has sent Cardinal Krajewski, who heads the Office of Papal Charities, and Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, interim president of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, as his envoys to bring relief, hope and encouragement to suffering Ukrainians.

Cross Catholic Outreach also is working with Caritas to provide internally displaced families with food, water, baby formula, blankets and sanitary kits at three centers in Ukraine in Lutsk, Struga and Nowa Uszyca.

Additionally, the charity is helping the Archdiocese of

Przemysl, Poland, near the Ukrainian border, to help refugees at its receiving centers, where they are offered food, shelter and trauma therapy, while local partners help families secure living arrangements, employment and school for the children.

Cavnar said Cross Catholic Outreach is receiving steady contributions for its efforts to help Ukrainians from its regular donors, “who know us and trust us,” as well as from people looking to support a Christian agency doing such work.

The charity is helping the world's needy because it takes Christ's command to do so seriously, he noted.

“We're the Church and Christ told us, ‘Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.’ The Church is doing what she always does — respond to those in need,” Cavnar said.

Where it's needed, “the Church is there,” he added.

Editor's Note: More information about Cross Catholic Outreach can be found online at cross-catholic.org.

are fading, roughly four weeks later, one should seek the confessional yet again.

By blending their unique personalities, Young and Langsenkamp work well together in caring for the property and promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. “I call him the head, I'm the heart,” Young said. “He gets all the head stuff, but the

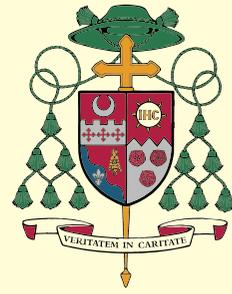
human emotion and the things people are tied to are in my history.” Both men give tours of the property, but with their experiences, those tours are vastly different.

People still come to Kneipp Springs for the water. Some leave the quiet campus with a different experience than they expected. Young and Langsenkamp continue to move forward with their plans to

beautify and improve the grounds, making it easy for pilgrims to stop and devote some time to Mary, to contemplate her message of purity for the world and view the impressive statue of her.

First Saturday devotions are held monthly, with confessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. and Mass at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Thursday, July 25: 7 p.m. — Mass, Joint Conference for National Black Sisters Conference (NBSC), National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC), National Association of Black Catholic Deacons (NABCD) and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association (NBCSA), Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame

Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m. — Mass with the Seminarians, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse

Monday, August 1: 6 p.m. — Redeemer Radio Bocce Ball Tournament, St. Joe Farms, Granger

Tuesday, August 2: 1:30 p.m. — Mass of Profession of Perpetual Vows for the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Mishawaka

Saturday, August 6: 11 a.m. — Blessing of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Chapel, Our Lady Center, Rome City

Sunday, August 7: 3 p.m. — Mass in Celebration of Father Bill Sullivan's 50th Anniversary of Ordination, St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne



Fall Confirmation schedule

St. Joseph Church, LaGrange — Aug. 27: 10 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange

St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend — Sept. 24: 4 p.m.
St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend

Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw — Sept. 25: 2 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw

Christ the King Church, South Bend — Oct. 13: 7 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, South Bend

St. Mary of the Annunciation Church, Bristol — Oct. 16: 2 p.m.
St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Bristol

St. Jude Church, South Bend — Oct. 21: 7 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, South Bend

Holy Cross Church, South Bend — Oct. 23: 10:30 a.m.
Holy Cross Parish, South Bend

St. Joseph Church, South Bend — Oct. 26: 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, South Bend

St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen — Oct. 27: 7 p.m. and October 29: 10 a.m.
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen

St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne — Oct. 30: 3 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne

Corpus Christi Church, South Bend — Nov. 3: 7:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend

St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend — Nov. 6: 10:30 a.m.
St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend

St. Monica Church, Mishawaka — Nov. 19: 10 a.m.
St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka
St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka
St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne — Dec. 3: 10 a.m.
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne

Celebrating the Sisters of Notre Dame in carrying out mission

BY KATIE MURRAY

For 49 years, the sisters of Notre Dame have blessed the St. Jude community in Fort Wayne. They served the parish and school as teachers, principals and caregivers throughout their time there. On Sunday, June 26, with heavy hearts, the parish said a bittersweet goodbye as the sisters move on to serve and touch the lives of others in need.

The parish celebrated the sisters with a large gathering in the church basement, inviting all parishioners and sisters that served in the past to attend. Everyone reminisced with favorite memories and thanked the sisters for their kindness, compassion and stewardship.

The Sisters of Notre Dame first arrived at the parish in 1973, succeeding the Sisters of Providence, who originally helped open the school with 105 students enrolled in grades 1-4. The new group of sisters were welcomed by the fourth pastor of the school, Monsignor William Lester. As the parish grew rapidly, more sisters from the order were asked to come and teach the students.

They were welcomed with open arms and genuine gratitude from the parish and school. Sister Charleen Hug was the first principal to serve the school and remembers how accepting and supportive everyone was upon their arrival. "The people accepted us so fast and openly. I was very impressed with that. They were just wonderful people."

When sharing some of her fondest memories, she said, "The whole place was a favorite for me. I loved the atmosphere, people and students. I felt really bad leaving there."

Sister Kathleen Marie Kneuen was also one of the first to arrive, serving as a first-grade teacher for the first couple of years before being assigned to serve elsewhere. In 1998, she was asked to return as principal and led the school for 17 years before leaving for the final time in 2005.

At a young age, she knew she wanted to become a sister, specifically with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Throughout her



The Sisters of Notre Dame receive a blessing from Monsignor Bob Schulte on Sunday, June 26, as they prepare to leave their ministry at St. Jude School in Fort Wayne.

Photos provided by Mary Pohlman



Sister Gertrude Ann speaks with Deacon Jim and Pat Tighe at the reception after the sisters' farewell Mass.



Several sisters visit the parish and school that they had previously served to bid farewell to parishioners and wish their fellow sisters well as they move on to a new phase in their lives.

schooling, she spent much of her time with them and felt God calling her to be a part of their mission. When asked about her time spent with the students and staff of St. Jude, she had nothing but compliments to share. "I just felt very welcomed. The school had such a beautiful spirit. It was a God-filled school. The faculty always took the initiative to volunteer and to take leadership roles in the school. I felt so

blessed. I could never have done it by myself. They were the ones who carried it along."

In 1985, Sister Richarde Kaufman was called to minister as an eighth-grade teacher and became principal the following school year. "I consider it a blessing that I had a year there to get to know the teachers and staff, the parish and the people and then to become principal. It was such a blessing for me."

In her six years there, she was amazed at all the people who served the parish for decades. When she attended the celebration, it brought back many memories of some of her favorite people. "Oh, the teachers. Some of those same teachers were there long after I left, and some have just retired recently. And I do say this, a few of them have gone home to heaven already, but my time spent with them was one of the best times of my life."

All three sisters were very grateful to be missioned at St. Jude. "The sisters that followed me, they all felt the same as I did. Everyone was very accepting and I am very sorry they had to leave. I want to tell them to be the same way to everyone that follows as you were to us," said Sister Charleen.

Sister Richarde would like to say thank you to everyone she worked with and the others

who followed after she left. "Just thank you for providing me with seven wonderful years of my life. Out of my 50 years in the classroom, seven of them were spent at St. Jude. It was a wonderful learning and growing experience and I just appreciated being there with everybody and it was wonderful seeing everybody on Sunday."

"I also want to say thank you to the parish. It was the happiest time of my life ... such a beautiful experience. I want to thank the families, the faculty and the students whom I was so privileged to minister with and minister to. I'm grateful for their love, support and their prayers," added Sister Kathleen.

The Sisters of Notre Dame will be greatly missed by the St. Jude community and are hopeful that the legacy of their founders will continue in the years to come.

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For information at the national level, go to eucharisticrevival.org.

St. Jude youth group encounters Real Presence in service

BY JESSICA SEGYDE

The St. Jude Fort Wayne parish youth group recently completed its annual mission trip. From June 19-24, a group of 34 students, 10 chaperones and visiting clergy participated in the service mission. The weeklong event is akin to summer camp with a focus on Christian service. Groups volunteered at sites throughout Allen County, including homes, thrift stores, churches, schools and other nonprofit agencies.

One change for 2022 occurred on Sunday. This year's mission trip coincided with the Eucharistic Procession and Festival in Warsaw and the launch of the National Eucharistic Revival. St. Jude Youth Minister Vickie Lortie saw this as a unique opportunity to engage the participants in a diocesan-wide event. Lortie also kept the mission week true to its purpose by providing a service opportunity from the moment the group arrived at Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw.

"This year's mission trip theme 'Real Presence' was realized from the very first actions of our young people. We participated in the diocesan Eucharistic Procession as servants to our fellow pilgrims that requested wheelchair assistance," said Lortie. "Our teens had the tangible experience of being the hands and feet of Christ."

Sunday evening, the group returned to St. Louis Besancon School in New Haven, a space that was generously offered by the parish for the entirety of St. Jude's mission week. Each day, participants split into nine work groups and reported to their locations. Work groups consisted of 3-4 students and adult chaperones. Outdoor work was hot, while indoor work often involved both physical and mental engagement, yet morale remained high from morning to night.

Karly Ewing, a Bishop Dwenger High School graduate and fifth-year participant, had this to say regarding her ongoing dedication to the ministry: "We get a different experience each time. We may not always see the people we're serving, but



Jessica Segyde

Teens Brigit Delaney, Kande Zink and Elisabeth Kohrman spend two days prepping, trimming and staining a ramp and deck with stairs during the St. Jude youth group mission trip.

we know in our hearts that we're helping someone. This year's volunteer work was more behind-the-scenes than frontline. I have learned to trust that God puts us where He wants us to be."

Students and chaperones were blessed with pastoral guidance throughout the week. Each morning, the group attended Mass at St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church. Celebrants were Monsignor Robert Schulte, Pastor of St. Jude Fort Wayne, Parochial Vicar and Bishop Dwenger High School chaplain Father Michael Ammer and Father Stephen Colchin, former Pastor of St. Louis Besancon, now retired. On Tuesday evening, Father Daniel Koehl, Parochial Vicar of St. Charles Borromeo, offered a moving discourse about the ongoing influence of the Eucharist in the lives of the Catholic faithful.

The mission group also made time for fun and the natural evangelization that results from community presence. The mission trip's schedule included outings to an ice cream parlor in Monroeville, a TinCaps baseball game at Parkview Field, a night of stargazing with the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society and an evening dip at a local swimming hole in New Haven.

Service opportunities were wide-ranging and drew upon multiple talents. Teens had

opportunities to share their existing knowledge with those in need and also learned new skills throughout the week. Examples of the needs fulfilled included building crosses for Allen County Right to Life, staining wheelchair ramps with NeighborLink and sorting Christmas ornaments for display at the St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store. One work group even caught a baby opossum in the office at The Franciscan Center, saving the organization nearly \$300 for the cost of humane pest removal. All told, the 2022 St. Jude Mission Trip resulted in approximately 1,300 hours of donated time and service within Allen County.

Chaperones and students alike tend to return year after year once they undertake their first mission trip. Marissa Stieber, a third-year chaperone, finds that her dedication to the ministry is reinforced after each week of service. "The kids are always surprising me," Stieber said. "Sometimes I consider taking a year off, but by the end of the mission week, I always think, 'Why did I ever doubt this?'"

Ewing offered the following advice to those considering committing to the St. Jude mission trip in 2023, "Prepare for the week with an open heart. You will do a lot of hard work, but it's worth the reward."

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NEWS BRIEFS

House bill to codify Roe is 'unjust, extreme,' say USCCB

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees said a measure passed by the House on July 15 is "the most unjust and extreme abortion on demand bill our nation has ever seen." They implored lawmakers "who see abortion as a legitimate 'solution' to the needs of women to abandon this path of death and despair," urging them to join the U.S. bishops in prioritizing "the well-being of women, children and families" by providing material resources and "personal accompaniment" so "no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child." Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty, made the comments in a joint statement on July 18. In a mostly party-line vote of 219 to 210, House members approved an updated version of the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022, which would codify a right to abortion in federal law. An earlier version was passed in March by the House, but it failed to pass in the Senate. The bill, H.R. 8296, would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy and would eliminate pro-life laws at every level of government – including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent and health and safety protections specific to abortion facilities. "Answering the needs of women by promoting taxpayer-funded elective abortion, as this bill would do, is a grave evil and a failure to love and serve women," said Archbishop Lori and Cardinal Dolan.

Bishop urges Catholic educators to see importance of the Eucharist

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Addressing Catholic educators at an annual national conference, Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Washington, urged them to make sure their work was always rooted in the importance of the Eucharist. The bishop, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catholic Education, said schoolteachers should help their students more deeply appreciate the sacrament amid the current National Eucharistic Revival. Launched on June 19, the feast of Corpus Christi, the revival is a three-year initiative of the USCCB to revitalize Catholics' understanding of and love for Jesus in the Eucharist. At the National Eucharistic Congress that will close the revival in 2024, Bishop Daly said, "there will be a great emphasis on the work

Protesters celebrate Sri Lankan president resignation



CNS photo/Adnan Abidi, Reuters

People dance as they celebrate the resignation of Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa during a protest in Colombo on July 14, 2022. The formal announcement of Rajapaksa's resignation was made in a televised address by the speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena the following morning.

that Catholic schools can do and how they might help the next generation ... to appreciate, to know and to love Jesus Christ" in the Eucharist. The bishop gave the opening address of the 10th annual Conference of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education held July 11-14 at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. A news release from the institute said the annual conference brings Catholic educators together "to deepen their understanding of the nature and purpose of Catholic education and its roots in the classical liberal arts tradition."

After fires set, pastor encourages people to remember 'we are the Church'

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS) – A Catholic church in the Washington, D.C. suburb of Bethesda was one of three houses of worship along the same road to be victimized by vandalism the weekend of July 9-10. Firefighters responded at around 2 a.m. on July 10 to multiple fires set inside St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, which also was vandalized. Twenty-four hours earlier, firefighters responded to multiple fires set outside North Bethesda United Methodist Church a few blocks away. Pete Piringer of the Montgomery

County Fire & Rescue Service said in a statement that firefighters found a "significant active fire" inside St. Jane Frances de Chantal, which is in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Piringer added after firefighters extinguished the blaze, investigators determined the fire was arson, with multiple areas set on fire or attempted to be set on fire there. In a tweet, Piringer noted that investigators also found damaged headstones and broken wood pieces scattered near Wildwood Baptist Church, a few blocks beyond the Methodist church. Piringer said an open investigation was underway involving the two fires and noted the similar circumstances, locations and apparent times of the vandalism. No motives or suspects were immediately announced by investigators. The fires and vandalism at St. Jane Frances de Chantal caused Sunday Masses to be shifted to the school gymnasium. Two vans and cleanup crews could be seen outside the church that afternoon.

Archbishop calls Biden's order on abortion 'deeply disturbing, tragic'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The U.S. bishops' pro-life chairman said it is "deeply disturbing and tragic" that President Joe Biden has chosen to use his power as the nation's chief executive "to

promote and facilitate abortion in our country" rather than support resources for pregnant women in need. Biden is "seeking every possible avenue to deny unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "Rather than using the power of the executive branch to increase support and care to mothers and babies, the president's executive order seeks only to facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings," he said in a July 9 statement. A day earlier, Biden signed an executive order to safeguard access to medication abortion and emergency contraception, protect patient privacy, launch public education efforts as well as strengthen "the security of and the legal options available to those seeking and providing abortion services." Before signing his executive order, Biden condemned what he called the "extreme" Supreme Court majority for overturning *Roe v. Wade*. The court's June 24 ruling came in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks. In affirming the law 6-3, the high court also voted 5-4 to overturn 1973's *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion nationwide, and 1992's *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*.

Biden administration urged to expand immigration status for Venezuelans

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Immigration supporters expressed a mix of gratitude and disappointment with a Biden administration decision on Temporary Protected Status with regard to Venezuelans. On July 11, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced that the agency was extending the length of a humanitarian immigration program for another 18 months for Venezuelans currently eligible for TPS benefits, but did not extend the benefit to those who arrived in the U.S. after March 8, 2021. The move left many organizations puzzled. "Venezuela is a country in turmoil – in the midst of an unprecedented social and economic collapse that has led to hyperinflation, starvation and the second largest migration crisis in the world," said the Catholic Legal Immigration Network in a July 11 news release. "TPS was established to protect those who are unable to return to their home country, and the ongoing crisis in Venezuela makes it clear that humanitarian protection for Venezuelans remains imperative," it said. Anna Gallagher, CLINIC's Executive Director, said the decision leaves approximately 250,000 Venezuelans in the U.S. without relief. DHS said approximately 343,000 individuals "are estimated to be eligible for TPS under the existing designation of Venezuela," and said it would continue to work with "international partners to address the challenges of regional migration while ensuring our borders remain secure."

Missionary priest's hunger strike protests Hong Kong activists' detention

HONG KONG (CNS) – An elderly Catholic missionary in Hong Kong has launched a three-day hunger strike outside a high-security prison demanding the release of politicians and activists incarcerated under the city's Beijing-imposed controversial national security law. Father Franco Mella, 74, a member of the Milan-based Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions, has vowed to abstain from food as he started his protest near the Shek Pik prison on Lantau Island in Hong Kong on July 14 amid sweltering summer heat, Reuters reported. "The weather is so hot. So, they are suffering inside, and the message (is) we are with you, do not lose hope. Let us continue to fight for everybody's freedom," Father Mella said. With temperatures in the mid- to upper 80s Fahrenheit, the task of abstaining from food has become even more challenging for the priest.

St. Mary's Heritage Fund grants awarded for 2022

Parishes:

St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel, \$2,000: Parish food bank
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, \$8,500: Tuition subsidy for Burmese children
 St. Mary Mother of God, \$1,200: Ave Maria House bus passes
 St. Mary Mother of God, \$8,000: Ave Maria House security
 St. John the Baptist, New Haven, \$10,000: Tuition assistance
 Queen of Angels, \$2,500: Leading those in need to the love of Jesus

Schools:

Holy Family, \$4,000: Kindergarten tuition assistance
 Bishop Luers High School, \$5,000: Tuition assistance
 Marian High School, \$5,000: Financial aid
 Our Lady of Hungary, \$5,000: Staff salary and tuition assistance
 St. Matthew Cathedral School, \$2,950: St. Philip Neri after-school service program
 St. Aloysius School, \$5,000: Tuition assistance
 St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend, \$2,000: Classroom door locks
 St. Joseph Hessen-Cassel, \$2,500: Tuition assistance
 Mishawaka Catholic School, \$5,000: Part-time Mental Health Counselor
 Queen of Angels, \$15,000: Tuition assistance
 Huntington Catholic School, \$8,600: Spanish teaching and translation
 St. Michael School, \$5,000: Tuition assistance
 St. John the Baptist, South

Bend, \$2,500: Pre-k and kindergarten tuition assistance
 Holy Cross, \$2,500: Tuition assistance for pre-k students
 St. John the Baptist, New Haven: \$5,010: Counselor for 2022-2023 school year

Agencies:

Women's Care Center, \$2,000: Family Focus: Moms and Babies 2022
 A Mother's Hope, \$8,000: A Mother's Hope program for pregnant, homeless women
 The Rose Home, Inc, \$5,040: Resident assistance
 Clínica Madre de Dios, \$5,000: Medical assistance
 Catholic Charities of FWFSB, Inc, \$10,000: Mental health counseling
 Matthew 25, Inc, \$7,500: Medications program
 Christ Child Society, Fort Wayne, \$2,000: Koats for Kids
 Hannah's House, \$1,000: Gathering room renovation
 St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph Co., \$6,000: Food pantry expansion, hygiene and cleaning products
 St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne, \$5,000: Care Van ministry
 Vincent Village, Inc, \$8,500: Youth and family engagement services
 Miss Virginia's Food Pantry, \$4,500: Balanced and nutritional food program
 St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc, \$7,000: Healthcare for uninsured/underinsured of Dekalb & Noble Co.
 St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc, \$16,000: Outreach healthcare program for uninsured/underinsured of Dekalb & Noble Co. residents



Introducing the ALL SAINTS COLUMBARIUM at the Fort Wayne Catholic Cemetery

Cremation columbaria have become very popular, but few are as beautiful and unique as the new **All Saints Columbarium at the Fort Wayne Catholic Cemetery**. The only one of its kind in northeast Indiana, this two-level columbarium features stained-glass windows depicting the images of revered Catholic saints.

The columbarium's upper level offers a temperature-controlled visiting area where glass-encased niches containing cremation urns and other items of endearment can be viewed comfortably and out of the elements. Those inurned in the lower level will be memorialized in granite at the columbarium's entrance.

For more information about niches in the All Saints Columbarium, call or visit Divine Mercy Funeral Home.



Please join us for the blessing of the All Saints Columbarium with Bishop Kevin Rhoades presiding: Tuesday, August 23 at 11 a.m.

3500 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805 | DivineMercyFuneralHome.com | 260.426.2044

Join the Holy Father and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day 2023

World Youth Day is an international gathering of hundreds of thousands of youths and young adults with the Holy Father as they celebrate their united faith in Christ. The pilgrimage will include visits to Fatima and other pilgrimage sites in Portugal, concluding with six days of WYD events in Lisbon with the Holy Father.

The diocese will be offering scholarships worth thousands of dollars to youths and young adult pilgrims. **The application deadline for scholarships is August 15, 2022.**

Learn more, register, and apply for a scholarship at diocesefwsb.org/wyd or email wyd@diocesefwsb.org.



July 28 - August 7, 2023
 Lisbon, Portugal
diocesefwsb.org/wyd



Father John Eze called from a very young age

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Queen of Peace Pastor Father John Eze has one defining statement: "It is all by grace and mercy." That statement is on a sign on the wall in his office.

Father Eze grew up in the eastern part of Nigeria "in a very strong Catholic home." His family prayed together and attended daily Mass. "There was so much love and compassion," he said of his family home. His father was a catechist helping with missions, establishing schools and churches. Father Eze used to tell people: "Dad was the justice of God and mom was the mercy of God, but I realized both together was synergy — offering both God's mercy and justice."

He believes that it is only because of God's grace and mercy that he is where he is today.

Father Eze was attracted to the priesthood from a very young age. His godfather was a priest,

which had a big influence on him. When he attended Mass at around six years old, he was so overcome with the feeling that he should be at the altar with the priest that he started running forward before his father caught him.

"My ardor was so strong, I was looking forward to a time when I could break away and run faster," he recalled.

The priest saw the commotion he made during Mass and allowed him to come forward.

So he sat on the steps at the altar, and before long his siblings started calling him "Father John."

When it was time to go to high school, his diocese announced the opening of a minor seminary. For Father Eze, it "was no difficult decision for me" to choose to attend. His parents, however, did not have the resources to send him.

He was so determined to go that he ran away at age 12, jumping in the back of a truck headed to the minor seminary



FATHER JOHN EZE

four hours away. When he was discovered and said he wanted to be a priest, a priest brought him into the school. All he had with him was a pair of trousers and a shirt and had to borrow other items from classmates. After two weeks, the rector called him into his office where he told his story.

The rector replied that if God called him, he would find a way back. Unfortunately, he could not remain in the seminary. Back home his parish priest — a Canadian missionary — took over his seminary formation and said donations to the missions paid for his education.

The priest told him if he became a priest, "it would be a gift to the Church, but if I don't, I'd have to pay it back so someone else could be taken care of."

He was ordained a deacon in 1996 and a priest in 1997. He worked as an assistant to that same priest for three years. "It was a wonderful experience," he recalled.

Sisters of Providence celebrate jubilees

Four Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods who have ties to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are celebrating Jubilees this year.

Sister Therese Whitsett is a native of Indianapolis. Currently, she ministers as a volunteer and nursing home visitor in the Indianapolis area. She is celebrating 60 years with the Congregation this year.

Sister Therese, formerly Sister Timothy Mary, entered the Congregation on Sept. 17, 1962, from St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis. She professed perpetual vows on Feb. 10, 1974. Sister Therese ministered as a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1967-69.

Sister Rose Virginia Eichman is a native of Fort Wayne. Currently, she ministers as a visitor to residents in Providence Health Care at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She is celebrating 70 years with the

When he went to Rome with that same priest, it was his "first experience traveling outside my country."

Fifteen years of his priesthood were spent in his home country before coming to the United States in 2011 on a visit arranged by a childhood friend from Nigeria. Father Eze always had a desire to visit the U.S., so his friend asked Father Glenn Kehrman, who was at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart at the time, if he could come for a visit.

At the end of the trip, Father Kehrman asked if Father Eze could come back the next year while he was on sabbatical. Though it would be challenging financially, Father Eze was open to the idea and Father Kehrman assured him that the diocese would help him finance it and acquire a work visa.

"That was too good to say no to," he said, and obtained his bishop's permission to return.

Sabbaticals in Nigeria and the U.S. differed in length, though, a fact that he was not aware of at the time. When Father Kehrman returned, Father Eze asked if he could petition Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for another assignment.

The timing could not have been better, as Father Dan Scheidt, then-pastor of Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, needed surgery, so Bishop Rhoades sent him there.

"I found great joy in coming to this family," Father Eze said.

When he walked into the church, he saw the year 1997 on a wall — the year he was ordained — and the year 1969 on another wall — the year he

was born. "Two important dates in my life were on the wall of this church. I thought, 'God, I don't know what you're saying, but I think you're saying something!'"

He was allowed to stay and was installed as Pastor of Queen of Peace in July of 2013. A few years after being installed, he came down with a life-threatening illness, ending up in a coma for three weeks and in the hospital for three months. Doctors even talked about taking him off life support, but his sister adamantly refused, and he recovered to continue his priestly ministry.

The most rewarding part of which, he said, is Eucharistic Adoration. In his younger years, he thought: "If God gives me the grace to be a priest, I'll make the Eucharist — especially Eucharistic adoration — the heartbeat of my ministry."

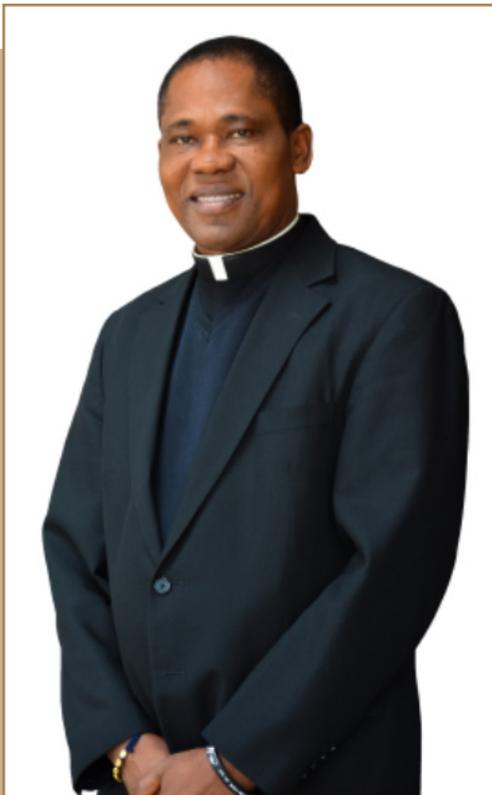
He has always had a "great love for clinical psychology" and in 2020, he asked the bishop if he could pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling, which he is studying at Indiana University South Bend.

Father Eze had this advice for those discerning a vocation: "It's God who calls and once God calls you, He gives grace. Do not rely on yourself; trust He'll carry you through everything. Come the way you are; give yourself to God. No man or woman is a finished project — we're all a work in progress."

He celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination on July 5, and for him, "It feels like yesterday — I must be having fun because time has flown!"



Congratulations on your 25th Jubilee!



Father John Eze

The faith family of
Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka



SISTER THERESE
WHITSETT

Congregation this year. Sister Rose Virginia entered the Congregation on Feb. 2, 1952, from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1959. Sister Rose Virginia has ministered in Indiana, Illinois, Texas and California.

Sister Marilyn Herber is a native of Fort Wayne. Currently, she ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She is celebrating 70 years with the Congregation this year. Sister Marilyn, formerly Sister Vincent Marie, entered the Congregation on Feb. 2, 1952, from St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. She professed perpetual vows



SISTER ROSE
VIRGINIA
EICHMAN



SISTER MARILYN
HERBER

on Aug. 15, 1959. Sister Marilyn ministered as a teacher at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne from 1967-72.

Sister Marie Esther Sivertsen is a native of Winthrop, Massachusetts. Currently, she ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She is celebrating 70 years with the Congregation this year.

Sister Marie Esther entered the Congregation on Feb. 2, 1952, from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Winthrop. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1959.

During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Marie Esther ministered as a teacher at Cathedral School in Fort Wayne from 1957-58. Sister Marie Esther has ministered at other locations in Indiana, as well as in Illinois, North Carolina and Massachusetts.



SISTER MARIE
ESTHER
SIVERTSEN

Sister Colleen Bauer, SSND, celebrates golden jubilee

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Sister Colleen Bauer, SSND, just celebrated two milestones — retiring from teaching after 49 years — 35 of which were spent at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Goshen — and her golden jubilee of 50 years as a religious sister.

Sister Colleen recently reflected on both of her milestones. She grew up in the Roanoke area, one of six siblings — five girls and one boy. They lived in the country and her family was very involved in the Church. Her mother taught religious education and her father was one of the first lecturers at St. Joseph Church in Roanoke.

As for how her vocation as a religious sister came about, she said, “I never in my life thought I’d become a sister. It was the farthest things from my brain.”

That changed when she started attending Huntington Catholic High School. There, sisters from two orders were teachers: the Franciscan sisters from Mishawaka and the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Milwaukee/Mequon Wisconsin. The sisters were “very life-giving” as she got to know them better. She was already familiar with sisters as she had an aunt and a cousin who were Holy Cross sisters.

But it was “a gradual process” that brought her to her vocation.

“When the idea first came to me, I was very surprised and shushed it away,” she admitted. “It kept coming back though, and once I thought this may be

something I’d enjoy, it was easy from then on.”

She considered it more seriously her senior year of high school. The difficult part was deciding which order to join. After much deliberation, she decided on the School Sisters of Notre Dame because she felt they were more invested in her.

“Even before they knew I was thinking about it, they took a group of us to the motherhouse in Mequon, north of Milwaukee,” she said.

Every religious order has a formation period. In her order, there are two years of candidacy, two years as a novitiate and then first vows. First vows mark the beginning of their years as a religious sister.

She originally had not considered becoming a teacher. “I wanted to become a nurse but after working in a nursing home, I changed my mind,” she said.

As the School Sisters of Notre Dame is a teaching order, a career in education “just fell into my lap. It was perfect for me.”

Her teaching career began at St. James in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and she was there for three years before going to Sacred Heart School in Warsaw where she spent 11 years. Her last 35 years have been spent in the classroom at St. John the Evangelist. For the majority of her teaching career, she taught second grade, preparing students for their first holy Communion.

That has always been a highlight of Sister Colleen’s career. “We talk about how they’ll be receiving Jesus all year so they are super-prepared,” she said.



Denise Fedorow

Priests, deacons and religious sisters gathered for a photo at the luncheon held in Sister Colleen Bauer’s honor on June 10 at St. John the Evangelist Deacon Art Bleau Parish Center. Front from left: Father Jose Arroyo, Sister Gladys Marie Courtade, Sister Colleen Bauer, Sister Eileen Ennis and Sister Dianne Marie Englehart. Back from left: Deacon Bobby Kirsch, Father Bob Van Kempen, Father Logan Parrish, Father Tony Steinacker and Deacon Christian Nieves.

Another highlight, she shared, was “When a student finally gets a concept — that’s always been amazing to me.”

Although her order’s charism is teaching, they live that out in varied ways: through working with the poor, immigrants or nursing or social work. She has been involved in the School

Sisters of Notre Dame community, serving on committees and supporting her fellow sisters when they experience the pain of loss or difficulties. Additionally, she has served the St. John the Evangelist community in Goshen by visiting parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes.

She is unsure what she will

do next, though she looks forward to catching up on reading and yard work and probably volunteering.

When asked what she’s loved most about being a sister, she responded, “I just think I was meant to be a sister. I feel like I found my niche and I’ve never looked back.”

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart mark jubilees

Sister Lois Ann Cline, OSF, was born in Shelby, Ohio. She professed her first vows in 1955 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose



SISTER LOIS ANN CLINE, OSF

motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. The first part of Sister Lois’ professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 24 years. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as a teacher and vice-principal at St. Charles School from 1974-1978. Following that, she served in various positions: Director of Religious Education, Congregation Leadership and Temporal Affairs Assistant, Coordinator of Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, Illinois and local community hospitality/homemaker. In retirement, Sister Lois continues to share her gifts and the wisdom of her many contemplative experiences.

Sister M. Alexine Knotek, OSF, was born in Fremont. Her home parish was St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola. She professed her first vows in 1955 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. For nearly 40 years, Sister Alexine ministered in health care as a registered clinical nurse specialist in the field of mental health and as an administrator. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she served as Administrator of Ascension Living Sacred Heart Village, Avilla, from 1986-1991. During her tenure there, one of her major accomplishments was the addition of the Alzheimer’s Unit, St. Francis Hall. In addition to the above, she held various other positions: Congregation Archivist, General Secretary and Novice Minister. In semi-retirement, Sister Alexine continues to serve as the Motherhouse sacristan, to assist with various



SISTER ALEXINE KNOTEK, OSF

needs at the Motherhouse, and to work for a greater awareness and diminishment of human trafficking.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF, was born in Fort Wayne. She professed her first vows in 1985 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. She taught at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend and at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne from 1985-1990. Sister Mary was involved in Adult and Ongoing Formation Ministry and was the congregation’s Candidate and Novice Directress for four years. During the next five years, Sister Mary was Co-Director of the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, Illinois. She was then called to serve as the General Superior of the Congregation for two terms. Presently, Sister Mary is enjoying serving as Vice President for Mission Integration



SISTER MARY ELIZABETH IMLER, OSF

at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. With her Franciscan academic background and love of all things good and beautiful, she is privileged to

lead pilgrimages to Assisi and always seeks to instill a love of God through the Gospel spirit and values.

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Father Jayasuriya glorifies God for years of priesthood

BY ERIKA BARRON

“Vocation is a mystery and a gift,” said Father Wimal Jayasuriya, as he reflected on the journey that brought him to the priesthood. This year marks the 25th anniversary of ordination for Father Jayasuriya; 25 years of serving the needs of his community, continuously learning and dutifully allowing the Lord to lead him wherever he is most needed.

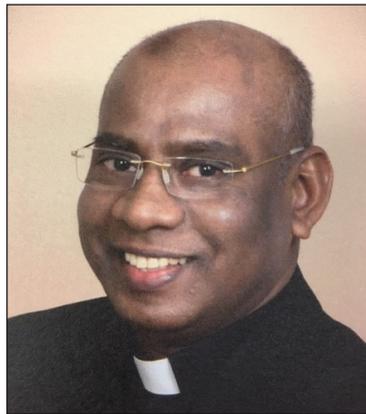
Growing up in Sri Lanka, his love of Christ was instilled from an early age. He had God-fearing parents who germinated this love, which was further cultivated by the community – in particular, the exemplary priests of his parish, who lived out their holy vocation in devout service to the people. “It has become so emotional for me to even recall. They were such good shepherds,” he reflected. Seeing this devotion in his priests lead him to become an altar server in the parish, further nurturing this budding sense of vocation.

His parish was one of histori-

cal importance, at one time being served by Sri Lanka's first saint, Joseph Vaz, a priest and missionary from India who was credited with reestablishing Catholicism in the country. The parish also became a center for the first missionaries to Sri Lanka. This history was an important inheritance for the community, both clergy and lay faithful alike.

Sri Lanka is a densely populated island nation off the tip of India where Catholics made up around 7 percent of the population. Here, priestly formation begins with seven years in the minor seminary and seven years in the major seminary. The National Seminary serves the whole of Sri Lanka, with students coming from 13 different countries to study for the priesthood. Father Jayasuriya began seminary at the age of 15. After ordination, his first assignment was at the largest parish in the diocese, spiritual home to 30,000 parishioners, and served by only two priests.

Several years later, Father Jayasuriya received a scholarship for higher education in Rome.



FATHER WIMAL JAYASURIYA

Though he originally intended to study Greek and Hebrew biblical scripture, his bishop saw a need for canon lawyers in the diocese and requested he switch to that. Receiving his doctorate in Rome, he then returned to Sri Lanka at the age of 35, where he was asked to serve as Judicial Vicar.

Seeing how underprivileged people were treated both in Sri Lanka and on his studies abroad inspired him to work toward change, beginning in his own office. Father Jayasuriya refused the typical privileges given to those in higher positions within the Diocese of Chilaw, including residence in the bishop's home. He opted instead to live in a small room in the sacristy. Here he was able to meet the people, some he refers to as “the poorest of the poor.”

His first goal was to change the misunderstanding that annulments were a service only provided to the rich, a sort of costly favoritism. He began to grant annulments efficiently and without asking for money, so much so

that more and more people came to seek his aid. This prompted the realization that instead of granting annulments, there must be a better means of prevention through preparing people thoroughly for marriage, beginning at the age when children receive their first Communion.

From this, Father Jayasuriya began a program called Life Formation. Dedicated to teaching the young people of the diocese in a doctrinally sound and appealing way, the youth program was called “What is Love, Sex and Marriage?” This program became so successful that it was not uncommon for a stadium to be packed with upwards of 7,000 young people. The successful program prompted a similar one, this time aimed at Sri Lankan taxi drivers and business professionals.

Father Jayasuriya spent what free time he had in his work for the Lord building houses for the homeless in the community and providing education and resources to children, regardless of their religion. He was made Executive Secretary of the Diocesan Synod, which became much like a local Vatican II. He visited all the parishes in the diocese within a year and a half, preparing them for the synod.

A man of great education, Father Jayasuriya holds a Doctorate in Canon Law and Master's in Sociology, and served at the National Seminary as the Dean of Theology and Professor of Canon Law; Theology; Ecclesiology; and Spirituality.

The Lord led Father Jayasuriya to the U.S. on sabbatical and ultimately to the Diocese of Fort

Wayne-South Bend. Here he began serving as an Associate Pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and First Court Judge in the Tribunal.

He professed that he can be happy “anywhere because our happiness does not lie in where we are or what we have. It is who we are.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades asked Father Jayasuriya to take over as Pastor of St. Mary Mother of God Parish in downtown Fort Wayne. After receiving approval from his own bishop in Sri Lanka, he accepted the task.

St. Mary Mother of God Parish has been serving the needs of the poor in the very heart of Fort Wayne for many years, which was a fitting assignment for a priest with a heart for the needy. Next year in fact, they celebrate the 40th anniversary of the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, a mission shared by the parish, the diocese and the Christian community as a whole. Father Jayasuriya reminds his parishioners, “The way we do everything should be an example. If we want to change the world, we must change ourselves first.”

Leading by example has been a common thread in Father Jayasuriya's life, and he has exercised this with a deep humility and gratitude for the many opportunities the Holy Spirit has placed before him. When asked what his greatest achievement in his 25 years of priesthood has been, he responded, “To serve as a priest, that is the achievement.”



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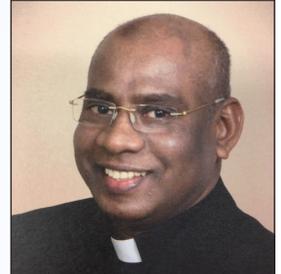
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Congratulations

on the 25th anniversary of your ordination!



Father Wimal Jayasuriya

With thanksgiving to God for your many years of service.

May your life as a priest continue to be sustained by His grace and always be filled with His joy.

We wish you all the happiness in the years ahead!

— Your St. Mary Mother of God family

Scripture a source of guidance, encouragement during Father Jacob Gall's 60 years of ministry

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Father Jacob Gall believes people need to base their life on the rock of Jesus Christ. He has relied on that rock during a long and full life.

Father Gall, 95, now of Elkhart, marked his 60th anniversary as a priest in May. It has been a rewarding vocation he didn't begin until well into adulthood.

Born June 21, 1927, he started life on his family's large farm near Milford, north of Warsaw. His parents lost that farm during the Great Depression, but bought 40 acres southwest of Warsaw where they raised corn, cattle, hogs and chickens. The family later added a second farm between Culver and Plymouth, where they grew cucumbers to sell for pickling.

Father Gall grew up with a strong faith life, but not Catholic. His father was a part-time Church of God pastor, and the family attended a Church of God congregation near their farm. The future Father Gall began pondering faith from an early age.

As a boy, he remembers asking his mother about the meaning of eternity. He will always remember her answering him by sharing a story from her family's

Dutch heritage: God made a little bird that never dies. The bird has the job of picking up one grain of sand at a time from the Earth's oceans, rivers and lakes and taking each grain to the top of a mountain. When the bird has moved all of the grains of sand to the mountaintop, that is just the beginning of forever and eternity, his mother said.

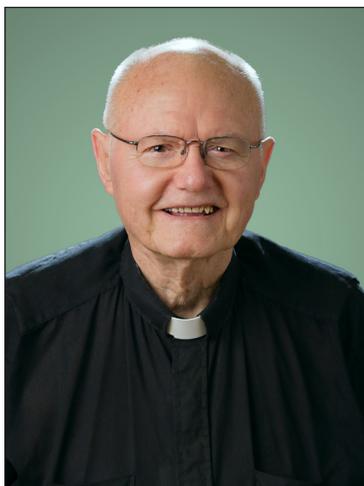
As a youth, Father Gall also spent hours thinking about spiritual life while directing a two-horse team plowing his family's farm fields with a single-blade plow.

"I was always impressed by Jesus' words, 'I am the way, the truth and the life,'" he said.

At age 17, he asked his father to sign for him to enlist in the U.S. Navy before turning 18. His father did.

"We believed in God, we believed in family and we believed in country, and we would give our lives for any of them," Father Gall recalled. One of his two brothers served with the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. He also had four sisters, though one was stillborn.

Father Gall's seven years of Navy service took him to Guam, the Aleutian Islands, Italy and United Nations duty from December 1948 to January 1949 to maintain peace near Jerusalem



FATHER JACOB GALL

after creation of the nation of Israel. Father Gall finished his Navy career as a corpsman at a U.S. military hospital in Yokosuka, Japan, which treated U.S. Marines wounded during the Korean War.

During his final year of service in Japan, he joined about 10 other hospital corpsmen in a Bible study. He also read the book "Faith of Our Fathers," which shared the history of the Catholic Church and the Protestant Reformation. The book inspired him to take catechism classes with a Catholic chaplain.

"I was always interested as a Christian in going back to the

time of Jesus," he said, noting how other Christian faiths began after the Reformation.

Father Gall was baptized a Catholic in April of 1952 by a base chaplain and was confirmed in May by a Japanese Catholic bishop. After baptism, he felt a strong call to explore a vocation to the priesthood. He pursued that call after returning home in June of 1952.

Then age 25, he completed high school at Plymouth High School and attended three years at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary on Lake Wawasee near Syracuse. He continued with six years of study at St. Meinrad Seminary in southwest Indiana. He was ordained on May 26, 1962, a few weeks prior to his 35th birthday.

"It's a great honor to be a priest," he said.

He began his ministry as Associate Pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven. He then served for a few years each at Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart.

He moved on to spend nearly 14 years as pastor at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne. One highlight included leading the parish in preparing its old school building for use by Montessori and Head Start preschool programs.

In his next assignment, Father Gall served more than 16 years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Kendallville before retiring at age 77 in August of 2004. However, he continued helping out at parishes on weekends and during priests' vacations.

In 2010, at age 84, he took on the responsibility of celebrating Mass on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings at St. Mary of the Angels Oratory at Big Long Lake in LaGrange County. He

retired from making that 100-mile round trip in June of 2017.

Father Gall believes one of priesthood's greatest gifts is being able to consecrate bread and wine to transform them into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, just as the Lord instructed His apostles to do.

Father Gall has always turned to the Scriptures for guidance in his life and ministry.

He finds great encouragement in the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. By speaking of washing others' feet, Jesus urges us to help others with their needs, Father Gall explained. By helping others, we also are helping the whole Church.

He also draws strength from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, especially chapters 5 and 6. The passages speak of God's gift of the Holy Spirit and how to live a good and holy life.

"Without the Spirit," Father Gall said, "we can't please God and we can't receive all of the gifts He wants to give us."

Though he has had some heart and lung problems, Father Gall doesn't worry about the future.

"Whenever the Lord wants me, that will be the best," he said. "I don't know what is the best. Only God knows what He wants me to do. I accept His yoke."

Citing the Gospel verses of Matthew 11:28-30, Father Gall notes that Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

"Jesus invites us all," Father Gall added, "and if we don't take it up, that's our problem."

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Roe and the legacy of abortion

On Friday, June 24, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992) and, by implication, a long line of abortion decisions relying on them.

This ends a regime of almost half a century, during which the court invalidated even modest efforts to regulate or restrain abortion – laws on informed consent, parental rights in the case of an unemancipated minor, health protections for women and so on.

Widely supported laws against late-term abortions, and even against mistreating a child born alive during an attempted abortion, were attacked. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, no pro-life activist, complained in 1986 that “no legal rule or doctrine is safe from ad hoc nullification by this court” when the case involves abortion.

The right to abortion, found nowhere in the Constitution or in the country's legal history and traditions before *Roe*, was defended more zealously than some rights that are explicit in our founding document. Partly because it was fabricated from the policy preferences of the judges themselves, it had no internal controls against unprincipled expansion.

Five justices have said this must stop. They do not respond, however, by reading a pro-life policy into the Constitution. In his concurring opinion, Justice Brett Kavanaugh says forthrightly that “the Constitution is neutral on the issue of abortion and allows the people and their elected representatives to

address the issue through the democratic process.” In the short run, that will mean a patchwork of different state laws.

The court's action nonetheless evoked outrage and sometimes vandalism among those who hail the court's past abortion decisions as landmarks in defense of women's rights. They will not want to hear, at least not yet, that a vulnerable woman's “right” to help take the life of her defenseless child is not something to celebrate, that the dignity and rights of women can and must rely on a far more positive foundation.

The challenge for pro-life Americans, especially Catholics, will be not only to protect the unborn child, but to show women frightened by the court's decision that we will stand up for their interests and their equal status in society. Feminists for Life, a group that takes this challenge to heart, may have said it best: “Abortion is a reflection that we have not met the needs of women.”

In any case, women make up a little more than half the population, and a somewhat higher percentage of the voting public. Women committed to “abortion rights” now face the unsettling prospect of debating women who disagree with them. But that happens in a democracy, and the debate will be infinitely more productive if conducted with civility and mutual respect.

One group ignoring that advice calls itself “Ruth Sent Us,” after the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg was a prominent advocate for “abortion



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

rights.” The group claims to honor her by, for example, targeting Justice Amy Coney Barrett's church and her school-age children for angry protests.

But recently I came across “Scalia Speaks,” a collection of speeches by the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who was known for his biting criticisms of *Roe* and *Casey*. The book's foreword is by Scalia's longtime friend, Justice Ginsburg. She concludes: “If our friendship encourages others to appreciate that some very good people have ideas with which we disagree, and that, despite differences, people of goodwill can pull together for the well-being of the institutions we serve and our country, I will be overjoyed, as I am confident Justice Scalia would be.”

Ruth did not send “Ruth Sent Us.” But she and Antonin could send us to seek common ground in helping children and their mothers.

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

To rest is to be human

“Workaholic,” “productive,” “unstoppable,” “24/7,” “busy bee,” “overachiever,” etc. These words and expressions, and others similar, have come to be omnipresent in our everyday vocabulary. We often feel proud when identified with them.

Common words and expressions often reflect the character of a culture. What do the above terms say about who we are? For some, they point to the human drive to do, achieve and produce. We want to change things; transform them whenever possible. We want to be known for doing something.

For others, those words are reminders of the frenzy of a society that seems to have lost the sense of pacing itself while longing for constant outputs. We seem to have forgotten when to stop. Our outcomes define us; without them we feel incomplete.

Being aware of our natural drive to do things and to achieve, which is something good, must be balanced with the sobering realization that we are more than what we do and produce, also something good. A sense of joy inhabits somewhere in between these two realities.

Catholics have a long tradition of affirming the importance of rest. Such tradition is grounded in the Scriptures themselves. In the first chapter of Genesis, we find God resting on the seventh day after creating all that exists. What a beautiful image!

Does God need rest? Was God tired? We can speculate at infinitum, but that is not the point. God rested and contemplated. God rejoiced. On the seventh day, we encounter a God who finds



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

HOSFFMAN OSPINO

joy in being a God who rests.

The Hebrew biblical tradition reminds us of the importance of moments of rest, also dedicated to honor God: the Sabbath day, the seventh year after working the land during the previous six years, the jubilee after 49 years of labor, etc. God rests. The workers rest. The land rests.

I love those Gospel passages that portray Jesus resting: He takes time away from the crowds, retreats with His friends, seeks moments of silence and sleeps.

Christians throughout the centuries have affirmed the importance of rest. Societies with a strong Catholic influence are known for having more holidays. In Latin America, religious and secular holidays are days of rest and simultaneously occasions for fiesta. The term holiday in Spanish is “festivo,” a festive day.

Resting is an act of justice toward ourselves and others – and the created order. We are not machines and should resist treating ourselves or be treated as such. We must not deny the humanity of others by denying them their rest. We are human and thus we must rest. To rest is an act of love for ourselves and

OSPINO, page 13

God hears the calling of His people



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 11:1-13

The Book of Genesis is the source of this weekend's first reading. As with other passages in this marvelously profound religious book, the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is sadly so often overwhelmed by arguments about where these cities were in Middle Eastern geography millennia ago, or even if they existed.

All this debate is unfortunate, if at times fascinating, because it completely sweeps aside the religious truths that, after all, are what Genesis is all about.

In this reading, Abraham, regarded as the father of the Hebrew race, appears, but more importantly, God is with him and literally conversing with him.

The topic is vice within the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God, the just, insists that this vice will result in a divine retribution on the people of these cities. Abraham pleads instead for divine mercy. The conversation can be taken as a bargaining process. Abraham asks that the hurdle be lowered. God agrees. Then Abraham asks for a further lowering. God agrees, and so on.

The two important points are that humans create their own doom. It stands to reason. Look at the despair that deliberately planned warfare brings upon affected populations, such as Ukrainians today. Look at the heartbreak that sin brings upon people.

Abraham realizes the deadly effects of human decisions, such as the choices leading to immorality in these cities. Nevertheless, he asks God for

mercy. Beyond mercy, he asks God for life.

God hears Abraham, and God extends mercy. This is the second and most consoling point.

For its second reading, the Church presents a reading from the Epistle to the Colossae. The Christians of Colossae were no different from other Christians in the Roman Empire's Mediterranean world or the first century AD.

To them, the Christian faith was new. In the face of such an overwhelming pagan culture, following this faith was a challenge indeed.

Encouraging them, this epistle reminded the Colossian Christians that in Christ they died to the culture and to their own instincts. Baptism drowned their sins and their weakness before the pressures of their surroundings and of their nature. In baptism, they died, but they also rose to life in Christ, with its eternity and strength.

St. Luke's Gospel supplies us with the last reading. It is the beautiful revelation of the Lord's

Prayer. No prayer is more loved by Christians now and throughout Christian history. Each verse is powerfully and profoundly expressive. The first verse is especially telling, setting the stage for all the others. Jesus tells the disciples to address God as “Father”, not as king, ruler, judge or creator. It establishes the believer's relationship with God.

The second part of the reading is reassuring. Jesus insists that God's door is never closed. God always hears the appeals of people. Loving people with an infinite love, God will give them life. He even gives life to sinners if they repent, and in love, turn to God.

Reflection

The reading from Genesis and the reading from Luke call us to approach God in full confidence that our pleas will be heard. It is particularly comforting when we turn to God after sinning. If we reject our sins and instead turn to God, our sins will be forgiven.

It is all a beautiful thought, but the Christians of Colossae

gave us evidence, as if we need any, that our instincts and all around us can be very difficult to overcome.

Still, we can overcome sin and all that brings sin. Why? If we are sincere as believers, Christ is in us with strength, insight and power. He will show us the way. He will sustain us. He will take us to God. He will keep us safe forever.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32 Ps 138:1-3, 6-8 Col 2:12-14 Lk 11:1-13

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 126:1b-6 Mt 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21 Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6 Ps 146:1b-6b Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9 Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 Jn 11:19-27

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24 Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 Mt 14:1-12

Gun violence and the deep sadness

Like every other reasonable person in our society, I'm worried sick about the phenomenon of gun violence, and I'm especially concerned about what it reveals regarding the status of young people, particularly young men. Time and again, disgruntled, angry, depressed, self-hating men – boys really – are the perpetrators of these awful crimes. As I write these words, images of Robert E. Crimo, the 21-year-old who has confessed to killing seven and wounding dozens more in Highland Park, Illinois, are circulating on social media, and his face has rather burned itself into my mind. He just looks so lost — physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

Now, I fully realize that Crimo is exceptional and so I don't intend to extrapolate from him to all young people, but evidence has been piling up for some time that youths, especially boys and young men, are suffering badly in our society. To give just one example, Derek Thompson's article in the Atlantic from April of this year reveals that from 2009 to 2021, "feelings of sadness and hopelessness" among American teenagers rose, astonishingly, from 26 percent to 44 percent. And the increase in depression was consistent across all major categories: male, female, black, white, LGBT, etc. In Thompson's words, "Since 2009, sadness and hopelessness have increased for every race; for straight teens and gay teens; for teens who say they've never had sex and for those who say they've had sex with males and/or females; for students in each year of high school; for teens in all 50 states and the District of Columbia." Houston, we have a problem.

What is causing this drastic increase in unhappiness? There is, obviously, no one answer, for the issue is multivalent and complex, but Thompson hazards four suggestions: social media use, a related decrease in real social contact, the stressfulness of the world to which contemporary media are giving young people far greater access and modern parenting strategies. All are interesting and worth exploring, but I would like to focus on just one of his explanations and then offer a rationale of my own.

Social media is making a lot of people — but especially young men and women — crazy and sad. Period. This is the case,

first, because social media produces an obsession with body image, looks and popularity, and on the flip side, gives rise to a uniquely toxic atmosphere of judgmentalism, accusation and criticism. Spend just a few minutes on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram or, God help us, Twitter, and you'll immediately see what I mean. What makes all of this worse is that the devices that communicate social media were designed to be addictive. As a result, even those who admit that Instagram and Facebook are making them sad cannot stop themselves from logging on.

A closely related problem is that social media is so dominant in the lives of kids that they effectively supplant activities that rather naturally bring joy. The average young person spends five or six hours a day on social media, and as a consequence, Thompson says, "compared with their counterparts in the 2000s, today's teens are less likely to go out with their friends, get their driver's license, or play youth sports."

Moreover, as sociologist Jean Twenge has shown, there is a tight correlation between screen time and depression, and for obvious reasons. One of the surest firewalls against feelings of sadness is steady contact with other human beings, but social media precludes this, locking young people into a virtual world. I know this is oversimplifying a bit, but contrast the image of a young kid playing a lively game of baseball with his friends with that of a young kid hunched alone over his iPhone.

As for my own explanation of the phenomenon of teen depression, I would emphasize a theme that I have been harping on for years: the culture of self-invention. It is now a fundamental orthodoxy of the culture that values are generated from within one's own subjectivity. In a word, each individual determines what is right and wrong, good and bad, beautiful and ugly for him- or herself. There is no "truth"; only my truth and your truth. There is nothing that is objectively beautiful, only what I think is beautiful and you think is beautiful.

But this attitude is disastrous both psychologically and spiritually, for it essentially locks a person into the narrow confines of their own range of experience.

we need to understand that it is ok to say, "I am tired and need some rest." Being tired does not make us less human. To the contrary, needing rest reminds us of how human we are.

To appreciate the value of rest, we need each other's support. This is exactly why being part of a community is important. Not only do we need others to remind us that we need to rest, but we grow as human beings as we rest with our fami-



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

It prevents a person from moving outside of the tiny ambit of what they can imagine or hope for. The best moments in life, in point of fact, are those in which objective values — real truths, real moral absolutes, real beauty — break through the carapace of one's own subjectivity and lift one up to the contemplation of something new, something that stands wonderfully beyond what one even thought possible. More to it, objective goods connect us to one another. As long as we are under the tyranny of subjectivist relativism, we are each locked in the prison of our own psyches, perhaps tolerating one another from a distance, but experiencing no real bond.

However, precisely because they stand outside of anyone's private experience, objective values can bring a plethora of people together in a common love and devotion. Once again, contrast two images: the first of an angry, isolated teen insisting that the world respect his private conception of truth and the second of a group of teens, joyfully giving themselves together to a common purpose, a common good.

In addressing the plague of gun violence in our country, I do indeed think that sensible legislation is called for, but there are far deeper moral and cultural issues that have to be addressed, most notably that of depression among our young people. Two simple suggestions: we should set limits to the amount of time teens are spending on social media, and we should introduce them, any way we can, to the world of objective values.

Bishop Robert Barron is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

lies and friends. We grow as we rest with the created order. Let's make sure to find the time to rest.

Hosffman Ospino is a Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 24, 2022
Luke 11-1-13

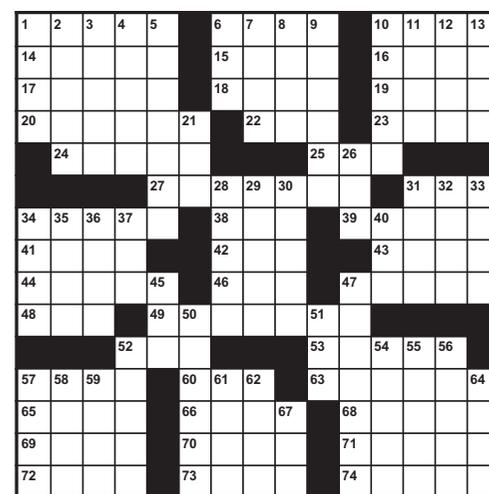
Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Learning the Lord's Prayer. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LORD TEACH US TAUGHT THY NAME BREAD AT MIDNIGHT THE DOOR SNAKE	PRAY FATHER GIVE US FORGIVE US LOAVES GET UP AN EGG	JOHN HALLOWED OUR DAILY DEBT ARRIVED BE OPENED SPIRIT
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TEACH US

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

- 1 Victorious church hall cry
- 6 Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5
- 10 Where Samson died
- 14 Lion sounds
- 15 Line about which a rotation occurs
- 16 Rivers in Spain
- 17 Atlas blowup
- 18 Of the highest quality
- 19 Years in old Rome
- 20 Bishops' headdresses
- 22 OT prophetic book
- 23 Billiard implements
- 24 Contemptuous one
- 25 Nathan told David that taking Bathsheba was like stealing this
- 27 Embers
- 31 Black bird, for short
- 34 Biblical tooth action?
- 38 Poetic expression
- 39 Catholic author of *Brideshead Revisited*
- 41 Fishy
- 42 Legendary emperor of China
- 43 Responsibility
- 44 Catholic comedian/actor who started on SNL
- 46 Airport letters
- 47 Pond scum
- 48 "Bind them upon your heart always; ___ them about your neck." (Prov 6:21)
- 49 Plumbers' pieces
- 52 "In ___ Signo"
- 53 Biblical name meaning "laughter"
- 57 Mary made a request of Jesus here
- 60 Month of the Assumption (abbr.)
- 63 Accident
- 65 Cancer sign
- 66 Converse
- 68 Pool worker
- 69 202, in ancient Rome
- 70 Very small quantity
- 71 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 72 Sinistral
- 73 Charlie Chan's remark of surprise
- 74 Not Gomorrah

DOWN

- 1 Projecting edge
- 2 Grecian architectural style
- 3 Beastly
- 4 Color of Ordinary Time
- 5 Flightless bird
- 6 Science rm.
- 7 Paul refers to these animals in 1 Corinthians
- 8 Passport endorsement
- 9 Biblical heroine
- 10 Blessing before meals
- 11 Native Japanese
- 12 Sector
- 13 Sale words
- 21 Poly ___
- 26 Vane reading
- 28 Catholic poet, best known for "The Highwayman"
- 29 ___ of the firstborn (plague)
- 30 Wear away
- 31 Manure
- 32 Water, to Pedro
- 33 Storage place (abbr.)
- 34 Exploit
- 35 Pop classic
- 36 Natural balm
- 37 Leb. neighbor
- 40 On-line co.
- 45 Number of Commandment that forbids taking the Lord's name in vain
- 47 Serves at Mass
- 50 Biblical wood
- 51 Outer edge
- 52 Sister suit
- 54 Jetson canine
- 55 Somewhere to get?
- 56 "I'm on it!"
- 57 350, to Caesar
- 58 Zeus took away her wings
- 59 Inexperienced person
- 61 Expression of concern
- 62 Pistols
- 64 Composition in verse
- 67 Lao-Tzu's "way"

OSPINO, from page 12

others — and the created order.

I must confess that I am among those who derives much pleasure putting in extra hours of work, producing something new regularly, sometimes sacrificing necessary rest. The first person who needs conversion in light of this reflection is me.

We need to grow more in our appreciation of the need and wisdom of resting. Sometimes

Former assistant fire chief aims to create 'sense of hope' in 9/11 memoir

BY KURT JENSEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – One of the most vivid memories for those who experienced 9/11 firsthand is the weather that day.

A high pressure system produced sunny, intensely clear skies in both New York City and Washington, D.C.

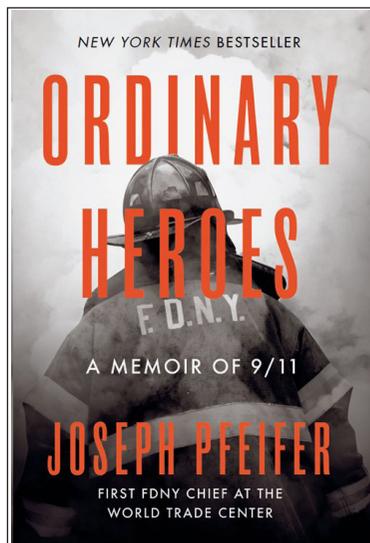
The most pleasant of late summer mornings by 9:30 a.m. turned to horror as two planes taken over by terrorists crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, a third hit the Pentagon and a fourth, with passengers fighting terrorists, slammed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The death toll from that day alone was 2,977.

"I saw the first plane hit the North Tower," said Joseph W. Pfeifer, a retired assistant chief of the New York City Fire Department, whose station was only half a block away and was the first to respond, making Pfeifer the first senior leader on the scene.

He's now the Director for Crisis Leadership at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University.

For as many times as the images of that day have been repeated, Pfeifer points out that the time from the North Tower crash to the collapse of both towers was less than two hours.

Pfeifer's book, "Ordinary Heroes: A Memoir of 9/11" (Penguin Random House), published last year, won a Christopher Award in June. The awards, first presented in 1949 by the Christophers organization, founded in 1945 by Maryknoll Father James Keller, are presented annually for works that embody "the highest values of humanity."



CNS photo/courtesy Penguin Random House

This is the book cover of "Ordinary Heroes: A Memoir of 9/11" by Joseph Pfeifer.

Post-traumatic stress from those in the middle of the attack, particularly in New York, is a given even decades later, and Pfeifer has the additional personal burden of grief that his younger brother Kevin was killed in the North Tower collapse, becoming one of 343 firefighters who died that day. Pfeifer had ordered him into the building.

But Pfeifer said he wanted to do more than exorcise his own pain.

He wanted to create "a sense of hope, of moving forward, and the only way you do that is through storytelling."

"The heart of crisis leadership is the ability to sustain hope," he told Catholic News Service. "Whether it's 9/11, whether it's the pandemic or acts of extreme violence, it's going to take a unified effort of people to come together, to make the future better."

Pfeifer has a Master's Degree in Theology from Immaculate



CHIEF JOSEPH W. PFEIFER, DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CENTER FOR TERRORISM AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Conception Seminary in Huntington, New York.

In the choking dust of the first collapse, "I bargained with God to see my family again. Then there was complete silence. It was like that muffled quiet after a first snowfall. For a couple of seconds, I wondered if I was still alive," Pfeifer wrote.

"Heartsick, I pictured my brother's calm face as he headed toward his assignment. I fought to gain control of my fear and anxiety, to figure out what to do. Nothing I had ever experienced gave me any guidance. I had never felt so helpless."

He told CNS that as he has promoted the book, the image readers have told him they most remember is of "the lights on the helmets of the firefighters" as they struggled to find survivors before the towers collapsed. "They made a personal decision to go in to help people."

"People were lost in that cloud of darkness until they began seeing the light on the firefighters' helmets," he wrote. "It became a symbol of hope and created a sense of unity that brought the city and nation together at a time of darkness."

Pfeifer said he has found, even in the current era of fractured politics, "this sense of 'we're in this together,' this sense of unity."

Catholic Media Association announces awards at convention

Today's Catholic received seven awards at the annual Catholic Media Association Conference.

Miami Tribe members' removal from Indiana – Kevin Kilbane, Joshua Schipper

The awards are:

Best Annual Report – Catholic Non-Profit Organization: First Place

Catholic Community Foundation Annual Report 2021 – Francie Hogan

Best Seasonal Issue – Print Only: First Place

Burying the Dead – Jodi Marlin, Francie Hogan, Jennifer Barton

Best Photograph – Scenic, Still-Life or Weather Photo: First Place

St. Joseph in Winter – Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Solidarity: Second Place

Mass brings recognition, healing on 175th anniversary of

Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award – Weekly, 1-5 Full-Time Staff Members: Third Place

The office of the tribunal: work that 'touches people's soul' – Jennifer Barton

Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – Weekly, 1-5 Full-Time Staff Members: Honorable Mention

Gender incongruence: Diocesan parishes, schools follow Jesus' example of accompaniment – Jodi Marlin

Best Personality Profile – Weekly, 1-5 Full-Time Staff Members: Honorable Mention

Pizza champion lets her faith lead – Jodi Marlin



SAINT PETER'S
Catholic Church

St. Peter's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne seeks a **Director of Music**. The position is responsible for playing the organ for all weekend Masses as well as special liturgies (funerals and weddings). The director will also plan all music for these Masses and direct the cantors. The ideal candidate will also develop and grow the church choir.

This church is blessed with a wonderful organ and great acoustics. The St. Peter organ is two Aeolian Skinner instruments combined into one. The work was done by the Quimby company of Warrensburg, Missouri. It really is a VERY nice instrument that you will enjoy playing.

The position is part-time with the potential of being full-time for the right candidate. Interested candidates should apply online at diocesefwsb.org/careers.

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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.

St. Jude movie night on the lawn
FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will be having a movie night on Friday, July 22, on the lawn. Ice cream treats provided by Whip & Chill, as well as pizza, drinks and other snacks. Bring your chairs and plan to arrive around 7:30 p.m. with the movie "Big Hero 6" beginning at dusk. In the case of rain, the movie will be held in the church basement. Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or kchurch@stjudefw.org for information.

'Ask Me Anything' with Msgr. Heintz
GRANGER — St. Pius X will present a community happy hour and "Ask Me Anything" ses-

sion with Msgr. Michael Heintz on Wednesday, July 27, at Beef O'Brady's, 12479 State Rd 23, from 4:30-6 p.m. This is a great opportunity for you to invite that non-Catholic spouse, friend or coworker who is curious about your faith. Bring a friend and your best questions. Contact Ashley Logsdon at 574-272-8462 or aogsdon@stpius.net for information.

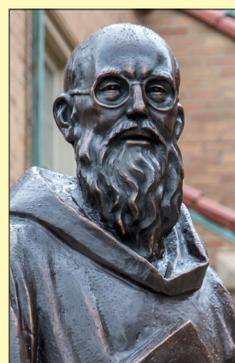
Blessed Father Solanus feast day Mass
HUNTINGTON — Celebrate the feast day of Blessed Solanus Casey on Saturday, July 30, beginning at noon with a rosary followed by Mass in the chapel at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St. Light refreshments will follow.

Marriage Encounter experience
SOUTH BEND — Christ the King Parish is hosting a Marriage Encounter weekend on July 30-31. Apply now at wwme-ni.org. Questions can be sent to the Application Couple at application@wwme-ni.org or call them at 260-484-1664. There is a \$75 application fee with a free will donation requested on Sunday. Visit wwme-ni.org for details.

Behold: A concert of sacred music
FORT WAYNE — Join a choir of young adults on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 7-8 p.m. as they fill St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd., with sacred music. This concert is free and open to all. Contact Jessica Schuster at jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Celebrate the 5th Annual Blessed Solanus Casey Feast Day
July 30 from noon to 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Father Solanus Guild
 at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St. in Huntington

A new mural of Father Solanus will be dedicated and blessed at the celebration. Copies of the mural will be available for purchase at the bookstore in Solanus Hall. The celebration will include a rosary at noon and Mass at 1 p.m.

Contact Jan Scher at 260-450-3045

REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Bristol
Mary Pat Deputy, 82, St. Mary of the Annunciation | Ronald Schultz, 78, St. Joseph
Sherry Sheets, 83, St. Joseph | C. Dennis Blanz, 87, Christ the King |
| Fort Wayne
Donald A. Bollheimer, 86, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | Monroeville
Diana J. Gerardot, 73, St. Rose of Lima | Ralph C. Makowski, 84, Holy Family |
| Thomas J. Kelker, 82, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | New Haven
Brian P. Fletcher, 40, St. John the Baptist | Leonard Sobocki, 68, Holy Family |
| Araceli C. Valcarcel, 80, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | Kimberly Sarrazin-Ramer, 50, St. John the Baptist | Thomas Voros, 76, Holy Family |
| Ann Marie Elder, 79, St. Vincent de Paul | South Bend
Mark Adley, 59, Cathedral of St. Matthew | Eleanor Zielinski, 95, St. Adalbert |
| Dawn L. Miller, 84, St. Vincent de Paul | Theresa Ferro, 75, Cathedral of St. Matthew | Keith Podemski, 57, St. Casimir |
| Mishawaka
Fred Hillebrand, 80, St. Joseph | Mary Ann Lambrechts, 83, Cathedral of St. Matthew | Ralph A. Pieniazkiewicz, Sr., 84, St. Jude |
| Judith Rohleder, 78, St. Joseph | | Mike Roberts, 63, St. Jude |
| | | Warsaw
Mary Elizabeth Graves, 78, Sacred Heart |

Our Lady of Guadalupe festival
WARSAW — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 225 Gilliam Dr., will have a festival on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., featuring authentic

Mexican cuisine, live music, DJ, kiddie bounce houses and Mexican bingo. Contact Leo Patiño at 574-549-7717 or Leopatino@live.com for information.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS are ALIVE in ROME CITY!

Our Lady the IMMACULATE VIRGIN PATRONESS OF AMERICA

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Aug. 6 at 11 a.m.

for Holy Mass and Devotions
 Confessions beginning at 9:30 am

More info @ www.patronessofamerica.org



The Our Lady, Patroness of America Center

Invites you and guests to the First Saturday Devotion Mass offered by

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

in the Center's Chapel on the Feast of the Transfiguration. August 6, 2022 at 11 AM

The Mass is open seating, so arrive early. Please help us with an RSVP if you are planning to attend. Details and RSVP at PatronessOfAmerica.org/BishopsMass or by calling the office.

Our Lady, Patroness of America Center
 2730 E. Northport Road, Rome City, IN
 260-303-4990



UNIVERSITY of SAINT FRANCIS™

seeks a
Director of the Saint Benedict the Moor Justice Center
 This full-time position reports to the VP for Student Affairs.

The Director of the Saint Benedict the Moor Justice Center, reporting to the Vice President for Student Affairs/Chief of Staff, is responsible for the development and provision of programs and services that foster social justice in accord with Catholic Social Teaching and Franciscan Values. In the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Benedict the Moor, the Justice Center offers transformational education and formation opportunities, both co-curricular and in conjunction with classroom learning, that promote reverence for the unique, God-given dignity of each person. Emphasis is placed on cultivating a campus-wide culture of dialogue, understanding, and care for all people as cherished members of the human family. As such, special attention is given to the development of multicultural competencies and opportunities for service and reflection among poor and marginalized people. The Saint Benedict the Moor Justice Center encourages, inspires, educates, and empowers students to live and work effectively in culturally diverse environments with a deeper sense of responsibility and solidarity as lifelong servant-leaders for social justice.

TO APPLY, VISIT:
hr.sf.edu/openings



Photos provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades poses alongside Bishop Jonas Benson Okoye (left of Bishop Rhoades) and Father Francis Chukwuma, Administrator of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne (left of Bishop Okoye) after confirming 99 children at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ozubulu, Nigeria on July 10. Bishop Rhoades visited the African nation alongside Father Chukwuma, a native of Nigeria, to ordain a large group of new priests.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

