

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Pro-life Hoosiers rally for unborn babies and their mothers

BY SEAN GALLAGHER



CNS photo/Sean Gallagher, The Criterion

Dr. Cathy Wagner, left, and Dr. Elizabeth Wehlage, both Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, take part in a "Love Them Both" rally sponsored by Indiana Right to Life on July 26, 2022, at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. The rally took place while an Indiana Senate committee was preparing to vote on a bill that would ban most abortions in the state.

New Holy Cross College president looks to the future

BY CHRIS LUSHIS

In 2017, the new leadership of Holy Cross College was entrusted to Father David Tyson, CSC. Under his direction throughout the last five years, the school has found financial stability, deepened its Catholic identity, expanded academic offerings, and built foundations for the future, all while remaining true to its original ideals of providing personalized attention in a small higher educational environment.

Following the completion of Father Tyson's term, a search committee identified and confirmed the appointment of the next President of the school, Dr. Marco Clark, who previously served as the Executive Director of the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Clark is the first non-



DR. MARCO CLARK

Holy Cross priest or brother to lead the school; however, he has been deeply formed by the spirituality and charisms of the Congregation throughout his life.

Raised Catholic, he attended Bishop McNamara High School in Maryland, a college-preparatory school sponsored

by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Moreau Province, and even for a time discerned the call to religious life. He shared, "I knew I wanted to be with Holy Cross. The brothers and priests helped me to discern my vocation as a husband, father, and Catholic educator. Over the last thirty years, it has been a blessing and joy to serve in higher education and high schools sponsored by Holy Cross."

When asked what he appreciates most about a Holy Cross education, Dr. Clark responded, "In the example of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation, we strive to help bring young people to completeness – the complete person is the one who has been formed into the image of Jesus Christ."

This "education for completeness takes place uniquely

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On July 26, President of Indiana Right to Life Mike Fichter stood before 1,200 pro-life Hoosiers packed in an atrium of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis and on two balconies rising above him. They were all there to advocate for legislation that would ban most abortions in the state.

Fichter told rally attendees, "You are here representing all parts of Indiana to affirm that we value all life, including unborn children, and to affirm the pro-life movement's love and support for pregnant mothers."

"That's why the theme of this rally is 'Love Them Both.'"

The replying cheers of attendees, most of them wearing blue T-shirts emblazoned with the message "Love Them Both," echoed through the Statehouse halls.

The rally took place during a special session of the Indiana General Assembly and within earshot of a state Senate committee meeting on Senate Bill 1 (SB1), which would extend legal protection to most unborn babies in the state.

The Indiana General Assembly is the only state legislature that has convened in a special session to consider abortion legislation.

SB1 became possible after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned in June its 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion across the country.

That historic move came in the majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which ruled that the Constitution allows states to regulate abortion.

'We're not on the sidelines anymore'

Mike and Lourdes Padilla were among those whose cheers filled the air of the Statehouse. Filipino immigrants to Indiana in the mid-1980s, they have been involved in the pro-life movement for some 25 years, first in their longtime spiritual

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Joshua Schipper

Those gathered to celebrate the Black Catholic jubilarians listen to a homily from Father Carl Gales, a recently ordained priest from Our Lady of Africa Parish, Chicago, who stressed the importance of African-American identity, especially in terms of the Church.

Black Jubilarians celebrated at conference

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

With a theme of "Walk Together Children," the Joint Conference of Black Catholic Clergy, met at the University of Notre Dame from July 24 to 28. They honored jubilarians celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries in ordained, married, and religious life on July 25 at a Mass celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The overall conference was a collaboration of the National Black Sisters Conference (NBSC); the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC); the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons (NABCD); and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association (NBCSA) to affirm each other and discuss topics relevant to their individual and combined ministries.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades concelebrated the Mass with Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Addressing the congregation, Bishop Rhoades congratulated the archbishop on his recent appointment to shepherd the Kentucky archdiocese.

"I pray that your conference here at Notre Dame will be joyful and fruitful for you and for the Church that you love and serve," Bishop Rhoades said at the beginning of Mass.

Many of the religious dressed in traditional and colorful African garments, and a choir composed of parishioners from two Black parishes in Indianapolis belted out gospel music to accompany the celebration of Mass.

In his homily, Father Carl Gales, a recently ordained priest from Our Lady of Africa Parish, Chicago, stressed the importance of African-

"It's not over, we all have work to do. There's treasure in our skin, and we have a mission of remembering, of telling our story, to break the chains of denial, especially in years of passive-aggressive silence."

— Father Carl Gales



Joshua Schipper

The National Black Catholic Congress honored its jubilarians celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries in ordained, married and religious life on July 25 at a Mass celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, including Brother Roy Smith, CSC.

American identity, especially in terms of the Church.

"Black Americans: deep within our DNA, a story is buried."

Addressing the jubilarians present at the Mass, he said, "Because of you all, it has made it possible for me to be

here today."

He continued by saying that the history of slavery and oppression travels with Black Americans in their skin and DNA despite what he says are efforts to erase that history.

"Because of your telling the story, you have passed the

story on to us."

He told those gathered that they had three routes they could take to continue progression in the Church.

"We can stand still. We can walk together. Or we can fall apart."

Father Gales also criticized those who say that the Church and its celebration of Mass "shouldn't sound like a Baptist or Pentecostal church."

"It's not over, we all have work to do. There's treasure in our skin, and we have a mission of remembering, of telling our story, to break the chains of denial, especially in years of passive-aggressive silence. It's not over. This is why we walk together."

Sister Jacqueline Nedd, who celebrated her 25th jubilee at Mass, offered advice to young people discerning their vocations.

She said that young people should "spend time in prayer in quiet, with deep listening, so that they can hear God's voice. It might come in a whisper, so you need to be quiet. Spend time in quiet prayer and meditation so that you can hear what God is saying to you."

"Our Black Catholic ancestors have suffered too much for us to fall apart. Our Black Catholic ancestors have struggled too much for the freedoms that we all now enjoy. We owe it to them to walk together."

RALLY, from page 1

home of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus and more recently as members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

They took part in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. more than 10 times.

Lourdes confessed that, in the past, she was not sure she would ever see Roe overturned.

"There were times when we'd say, 'Will it ever happen?'" said Lourdes. "But we kept on going and trusted in God. And then, suddenly, it's here. But there's a lot more work to do."

As he stood in an atrium of the Statehouse packed with pro-life advocates, Mike said he had "goosebumps" just taking in the change in situation for those advocating for the protection of unborn life.

"We're not on the sidelines anymore," he said. "In the past, we were on the streets. Now, we're inside where the decisions are going to be made. But you realize that it's not any of us doing it. It must be the Holy Spirit. We could not have dreamed about this even last year."

Father Richard Holy said his longtime involvement in the pro-life movement has changed his life. It was a major factor in him discerning a call to the priesthood.

Now pastor of St. Edward Parish in Lowell, in the Gary Diocese, and the diocese's Director of Pro-Life Activities, Father Holy was glad to wake up early on July 26 to board a bus with an ecumenical group of people to take part in the rally in Indianapolis.

"It's a culmination of 50 years of hard work, prayer, efforts to get people elected at the national and local levels to get that unjust decision overturned," Father Holy said. "Now, the spirit is different. Now, we can actually help to bring about change and make Indiana a state that defends the unborn and stands with mothers who are in need."

'We stand for life. We love them both.'

Angela Minter was the rally's keynote speaker. The founder and president of the Louisville, Kentucky-based Sisters for Life pro-life ministry, Minter had two abortions as a teenager before experiencing a conversion and eventually taking up the mission to assist expectant mothers in need and to share the truth about abortion.

As a Black woman, she spoke from the heart to those present about how she had long been convinced that "the same God that overturned slavery would overturn Roe v. Wade."

A month after Roe was overturned and on the same



CNS photo/Sean Gallagher, The Criterion

A pro-life advocate cheers during a "Love Them Both" rally sponsored by Indiana Right to Life on July 26, 2022, at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. The rally took place while an Indiana Senate committee was preparing to vote on a bill that would ban most abortions in the state.

day that an Indiana Senate committee was considering expansive protection for unborn children, Minter called out to her listeners.

"The same God that overturned Roe v. Wade is going to continue to call Indiana to be a shining light for the rest of the country to see," she shouted. "We stand for life. We love them both. We love the mother. We love the baby. We go even further than that. We love those who hate us and we bless those who curse us, because love never fails."

The cheers of Minter's listeners rose to a joyful fever pitch in response.

As she concluded her remarks, Minter had advice for rally attendees.

"Be a good listener," she said. "It's time to enter into people's worlds. Listen to the mothers. Listen to the fathers. Listen to the families. Listen to those that are on the other side of life. You listen. And don't listen with your mind made up like you already have all the answers. Be an empathetic listener."

"Enter into their world and truly try to understand what they're saying and what they're going through. And once you listen, then you speak the truth in love. You let them know that love never fails. We're always triumphant in Christ Jesus. Mothers, fathers, women and families deserve better than abortion."

Some pro-life speakers at the rally expressed concerns about specific provisions in SB1 and advocated for changes to it. Among them were Senator Liz Brown, Republican representative for District 15 in northeastern Indiana. In the

end, she called on rally attendees to be steadfast in speaking up for life.

"Thank you all for being here today to stand for life," said Brown. "Thank you so much for your prayers for women and babies. Until we have a signed bill, keep fighting, keep advocating and keep praying. Because we believe in life. We believe in the woman and the child. We believe in empowering women and protecting life because we love them both."

'Lead with love'

For Dr. Andrew Mullally, the joy that filled the cheers of the pro-life attendees of the July 26 rally stood in contrast to a Statehouse event held the previous day by abortion rights supporters opposed to SB1.

"The demeanor, tone and culture of the two competing rallies could not have been more different," said Mullally, Director of the Indiana chapter of the Catholic Medical Association. "I haven't heard any obscenities or vulgarities. I can't say the same about yesterday."

A Fort Wayne family physician, Mullally tries to take a positive approach when advocating for life.

"I always encourage people to lead with love, because we're on the side of the truth," he said.

Deacon Fred Everett and his wife Lisa were at the Statehouse rally. They have been involved in the pro-life movement in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend since the mid-1980s.

After patiently promoting

the cause of life so long under the restrictions of Roe, Deacon Everett said he almost "wanted to pinch myself" now that he and so many pro-life people can advocate for legal protection for unborn children.

"We've finally gotten here after all these years," said Deacon Everett, who serves at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in South Bend. "In coming down here and letting our voice be heard, at least people will know that we stand for life."

**Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**

Monday, Aug. 8: 11 a.m. – Mass for all Catholic Schools Principals, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw
 Saturday, Aug. 13: 4 p.m. – Mass, Eucharistic retreat, Nocturnal Adoration Society, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend
 Sunday, Aug. 14: 11 a.m. – Mass, 100th Anniversary of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
 Sunday, Aug. 20: 5 p.m. – Mass celebrating 100th Anniversary of St. Bernard School, St. Bernard Church, Wabash

Lisa, who serves as the Director for Marriage and Family ministry in the diocese, was glad to stand alongside so many faith-filled pro-life advocates at the rally.

"We know that every life is created in God's image and likeness," she said. "That gives us even more motivation to stand up and protect those lives, and the life and dignity of women. We want our laws to offer robust support for women in crisis pregnancies."

PRESIDENT, from page 1

at Holy Cross College through one-on-one formation and mentorship," Clark shared, "from day one, students here are assigned a first-year mentor, someone who is going to guide them through their early years of college in an intentional, personal way. Then they are handed over to a career coach, who will help them secure internship placements and work with them even beyond graduation. That's unique. That integrated coaching approach is something we want to build on and something the world needs; that young people today in particular need desperately. They need mentors. They need people who are going to love, encourage and nurture them, while also challenging them. Given our focus on integrating these principles within a Catholic context and community, I think Holy Cross College has a chance to do this exceptionally well."

He continued, "Holy Cross College is known for small class sizes, with a real emphasis on the individual and meeting students where they are. Although we have a small student body, students come to us from all over the country and all over the world. In what we do as educators, we serve as witnesses to what Pope Francis repeatedly refers to as a 'culture of encounter with the living

Christ.' We create this culture of encounter and make the living Christ visible to our students by the way we know, love, and serve them. I think that's the essential DNA of Holy Cross College and the Congregation of Holy Cross."

Known as the Holy Cross "Saints," Clark addressed how the experience at Holy Cross is meant to produce saints to transform the world. "Our world today is so terribly divided and polarized, we need to enter into cultures of dialogue, to listen charitably and respectfully. I think Holy Cross has a chance to distinguish itself as a place where healthy, invigorating dialogues can occur for the hope and healing of the world. In our culture today, people are not listening to each other; people are not respecting each other. We want to help produce the next generation of leaders who are going to sit in tomorrow's boardrooms, be tomorrow's politicians, serve as tomorrow's teachers, be the next leading journalists, and be involved in the arts. These leaders will also respond to the call to live as men and women religious or be the next parents of future generations. As they set out on their vocational path, we seek to help these men and women become scholars, virtuous leaders, and productive citizens, with a mentality of discipleship that will sanctify the world and produce many saints."

Life Defenders Training arms future pro-life leaders

BY ERIC PEAT

As the pro-life movement in America continues to gain momentum following the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, the next generation of leaders in the battle for life is preparing to take charge.

Right to Life of Northeast Indiana held its 17th annual Life Defenders Training on July 15-16 at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. The overnight event is designed to equip high school and college students with the ability to have meaningful and effective conversations about the value of life. According to Abigail Lorenzen, Education Coordinator at Right to Life of Northeast Indiana, this age group plays a critical role in making the case for life.

"Most high school and college students actually serve as the frontline for people who are in crisis pregnancies," said Lorenzen. "When a high schooler or college student gets pregnant, who's the first person they ask for advice? Who do they tell? It's their best friends. So, if we can equip them to have good responses, and to be ready in that kind of situation, it can do a lot of good – because that first reaction makes all the difference."

The event began with dinner and an opening talk from Jannique Stewart of Life



Mike Spencer leads students in a training session on Making the Case for Life at Life Defenders Training at the University of Saint Francis.

Eric Peat

Training Institute. Her message focused on the dangers of critical race theory, its divisive effect on our country, and its role in advancing the abortion agenda.

"I think we have to consider: What is critical race theory doing to our country?" questioned Stewart. "I think it's turning us into the 'Divided

States of America.'" She went on to state: "We always have to be seekers of what is true – not seekers of what is politically correct, not seekers of what our friends are doing so we can fit in, not even seeking just to make ourselves feel good. We have to be seekers of what is true."

This fundamental truth,

Stewart said, is rooted in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in the first book of Genesis – that all bear the image of God equally. While we must acknowledge that concepts such as slavery and segregation are part of our past, this does not mean we should assume that racism is always present.

"We cannot take the sins of the past and project them on people today," said Stewart. "It's one thing to count information and to count history, but we err when we try and punish people for the sins of their fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers."

The rest of the event consisted of a series of training sessions, which were led by educators Mike Spencer, Seth Drayer, and Ian Spencer. These sessions covered topics such as how to define the preborn through the science of embryology, how the notion of human value is measured, and how to navigate conver-

sations about life in a way that will reach hearts. After lunch on Saturday, students were also able to participate in breakout sessions of their choosing. Among the issues addressed were the physical effects of abortion on women, the contrasting biblical and pro-choice worldviews at play in society, standing up against cancel culture, and sexual integrity among young men and women.

Becoming armed with this vital knowledge is what drew many students to the event, from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and beyond.

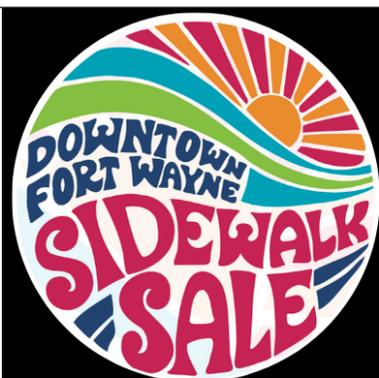
"I think that this issue, specifically nowadays, is just super-important in society," said Shelby Schlicker, a student at Mississippi State and a first-time attendee of Life Defenders Training. "I would love to be able to go back to school and be able to have conversations with people about this topic that are well-informed."

Isaiah Rusher, a student at Purdue and another first-time attendee, said he already receives questions about his pro-life stance and is looking forward to defending it.

"I have a lot of friends who are not religious at all, more of pro-choice," said Rusher. "They ask me a lot of good questions that I don't all the time have the answer to. So, by coming here, I hope to be able to give them the answers to all the questions they have for me."

One key takeaway for Ethan Bailey, an intern at Right to Life who experienced the event for the first time, was giving credence to the reality of how life experiences can shape worldviews.

"Everybody has their own perspective, and that obviously changes male to female or based on where you live – just the different characteristics of your life," said Bailey. "So, I think the biggest thing that you can do as a pro-life person coming to an event like this is to keep an open mind and be



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Eric Peat

Right to Life of Northeast Indiana Executive Director Zach Rodgers speaks with a volunteer at Life Defenders Training at the University of Saint Francis.

able to have a conversation, understand the other person and where they're coming from, and why they have the beliefs they do."

By the end of the event, students had not only received essential training – they had received a taste of a college environment. Lorenzen cited this as a major advantage of hosting the event at the University of Saint Francis as opposed to their prior sites of Camp Lutherhaven and Concordia Seminary. The opportunity to stay overnight in dorms and eat meals in dining halls provided some students with their first exposure to a college campus. As

Lorenzen said, it also gave them a chance to meet and befriend like-minded classmates.

"A lot of our pro-life students feel isolated, and so to bring them all together in a camp every year is such a powerful thing for them," said Lorenzen. "It's so cool to see them make these friendships. It really has this tight community feel to it, and we just love every year adding more students to that tightknit group."

This extended family already includes prior attendees who met their future spouse at Life Defenders Training, while others who attended as teens are now

returning as adult chaperones. As Right to Life intern Kallie Schultz observed, it's a group that will only continue to grow.

"We've had a lot of people come up to us tonight and say, 'How can I get involved? What can I do?'" said Schultz. "People want to make a difference. If there is something that they're passionate about, they want to get involved further. And coming to an event like this makes you ask those hard questions first so that you're able to broaden your knowledge, which eventually helps you be able to step into internships or volunteer in ways that actually make a difference."

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11 a.m.: Breakfast at Grand Wayne Center with Guest Speaker **Dr. Paul Kengor**
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NEWS BRIEFS

Court: Catholic school has right to hire staff who uphold church doctrine

CHICAGO (CNS) – The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in Chicago said on July 28 that a Catholic high school in Indianapolis and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have a constitutional right to hire staff who will uphold their core religious teachings. The case, *Starkey v. Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis*, involves Lynn Starkey, a former guidance counselor at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, who sued the school and the archdiocese in 2019 after her contract was not renewed due to her same-sex marriage. School officials said her marriage was a violation of her contract and Church teaching. Starkey argued she had been discriminated against based on her sexual orientation. She appealed her case to the 7th Circuit after a federal District Court threw out her lawsuit last year. In dismissing the case, the District Court judge said the school employee's case did not stand up to the principle of ministerial exception that protects a religious school's hiring and firing practices from government intrusion. The 7th Circuit ruled the lawsuit must be dismissed for the same reason. "Religious groups have a constitutional right to hire individuals who believe in their faith's ideals and are committed to their religious mission," Luke Goodrich, Vice President and Senior Counsel at Becket, said in a statement. "Our justice system has consistently ruled that the government cannot intrude on a religious organization's choice of who will pass on the faith to the next generation."

Anti-trafficking bill approved to 'protect the most vulnerable'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – "Critical" anti-trafficking legislation overwhelmingly approved by the House in a bipartisan vote on July 26 "will go a long way toward protecting so many vulnerable people from exploitation while providing tremendous support and resources to victims," said one of its sponsors, Rep. Chris Smith, N.J. Smith and Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., wrote the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, which House members passed in a 401-20 vote. The House vote came four days ahead of the U.N. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. The measure now goes to the Senate, where it is expected to pass in a bipartisan vote. "The enormous support in the House for this critical human rights and

More than two dozen lives lost to Kentucky floods



CNS photo/Sgt. Jesse Elbouab, U.S. Army National Guard via Reuters

A Kentucky National Guard flight crew from 2/147th Bravo Co. flies over a flooded area in response to a declared state of emergency in eastern Kentucky on July 29, 2022.

law enforcement legislation is a testament to a widespread consensus and underscores the absolute urgency for securing the funds needed to protect victims, prosecute perpetrators and prevent trafficking from occurring in the first place," Smith said. Bass told her fellow House members that during her career as a health care worker and a legislator that she has seen "too many instances of human rights violations against children and other vulnerable populations – including those falling victim to the abuses of human trafficking, both in the U.S. and around the world." She added, "We must take this issue seriously and continue to implement a whole-of-government approach to addressing it (and) swiftly pass this bipartisan measure to protect the most vulnerable among us."

'Our angels have wings' Zelenskyy says on Ukrainian Statehood Day

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) – Ukrainians will fight for their statehood to the last and will

not stop until they liberate the last meter of Ukrainian land, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address for Ukrainian Statehood Day on July 28. The day marks the 988 baptism of "Kyivan Rus," the origin of Christianity in the region, but this is the first year Ukrainians marked Statehood Day, reported Religious Information Service of Ukraine. Zelenskyy stressed that Ukrainians need neither fireworks nor pomp to show the importance of statehood for the Ukrainian people. "Today we defend (Ukraine) with weapons in hands. For 155 days in a row," he said, referring to the Feb. 24 Russian invasion, "We can say that for us, Statehood Day is every day. Every day we fight so that everyone on the planet finally understands: We are not a colony, not an enclave, not a protectorate ... not a province, but a free, independent, sovereign, indivisible and independent state." "Our warriors defend Ukraine on the ground, in the water and in the air. Our ancestors defend it from the skies. And all of them together are our angels. Our angels have wings. But under them there

are weapons. We never take weapons first. But if our home is attacked, we stand to the last. Because, losing its own state, any nation loses primarily not its territory. Not hectares or square kilometers of land or water. When a nation loses its own state, it loses its own face. Its own name. Its originality, identity, memory, and with them its heart and soul. And this is much scarier for us than enemy armies, planes, missiles and tanks."

Pope entrusts new relationship with Indigenous to three holy women

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) – Meeting Indigenous survivors of residential schools in Canada, Pope Francis entrusted them and the journey of truth, healing and reconciliation to three women: Mary, St. Anne and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. "These women can help us to come together and start to weave anew a reconciliation that can uphold the rights of the most vulner-

able in our midst and look at history without resentment or forgetfulness," the pope said on July 29, his last morning in Canada. Before heading to the airport for a three-hour flight to Iqaluit, Nunavut, in the Canadian Arctic, Pope Francis met with two dozen survivors of residential schools from across Eastern Canada. Organizers said they included people from the Algonquin, Mohawk, Cree, Innu and Mi'kmaq nations. Seated in a wheelchair, Pope Francis greeted each of the survivors as they entered a large living room in the residence of Cardinal Gérald Lacroix of Quebec. He then entered the room using a walker. Reporters and television cameras were present for the beginning of the meeting, but were asked to leave after the formal speeches so the pope and survivors could speak to each other in private. Pope Francis told the group that he had come to Canada "as a friend" to meet representatives of the First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities and "to see, hear, learn and appreciate how the Indigenous populations of this country live."

Nigerian bishop says vision of Christ gave him hope for end of Boko Haram

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – A vision of Christ helped give Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri, Nigeria, hope for the eventual end of the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram, after the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls in the remote town of Chibok in April 2014. "I was in pain. I went into my chapel, as I always do, to pray the rosary," Bishop Doeme said during a July 26 webinar sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need, the international organization and papal charity that helps threatened communities of faith. He said Christ appeared "as a vision" at the right side of the altar. "I dropped the rosary I was holding," he recalled. Christ's message, he said was "'Boko Haram is gone.' He said it three times and was gone." Bishop Doeme said he was "totally shaken" by the experience and didn't tell anyone about it for a year, and when he did "they were very happy." Fifty-seven girls had escaped from Boko Haram on the day of the kidnapping. About 100 are still missing, and one was found as recently as June of this year. "With Mother Mary on our side, victory is ours," Bishop Doeme added. The webinar was titled, "Is Boko Haram defeated? Life under the perpetual shadow of violence." From 2009 to 2019, according to ACN statistics, Boko Haram had displaced 25 priests from their parishes, 45 nuns from their convents, and more than 100,000 Catholics.

Miss Virginia's dream still growing as garden takes root

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Virginia Schrantz, known locally as Miss Virginia, had an open-door policy for those in need. A food pantry named in her honor operates out of Schrantz's former residence at 1312 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne. In 1982, Mother Teresa visited her home, and a decade later, Schrantz was recognized with the International Service to Mankind Award in Washington, D.C., according to the organization's literature. Though she passed away in 1998, her door still opens, now from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Fruit, vegetables, grains and meats are distributed to the needy from the food pantry as part of the agency's Balanced and Nutritional Food Program (BNFP).

Last year was the first for fruit and vegetable gardens at the home steeped in history. The initial dozen beds grew to 24 this year.

Greg Witte, Executive Director of the pantry since 2019, said he attended a seminar at Purdue Fort Wayne on food deserts. "They touched on community gardens and my thoughts at the time were to look at the possibilities for Miss Virginia to have something small," he said.

After visiting St. Henry Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, which has a number of community gardens, Witte took the idea to his board of directors. "I planted that seed in the board's ear," he said. Soon after, Rod Smith took over the project. "He made it happen," Witte said.

A Fort Wayne resident, Smith has used his retirement, in part, to help Miss Virginia's beautiful legacy grow. One of his roles as a volunteer at the Miss Virginia Food Pantry is to oversee the community garden plots, where the harvest is given almost exclusively to those visiting the pantry.

Smith was looking for a way to give back after retiring from software consulting. "I was looking for ways to help people who needed to be fed, so I met the pantry director in the summer of 2020 and submitted a volunteer application," he said.

This season, the volunteer garden team of 16 is growing beets, cucumbers, eggplant, flowers, herbs, collards, kale, okra, onions, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, raspberries, spinach, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, turnips, watermelon and zucchini. "We selected crops to plant based on what we thought guests of the pantry would like to eat," Smith said.

Almost everything growing in the garden has been donated, he continued. Guests



Photos by Bethany Beebe

Volunteers at Miss Virginia's Food Pantry in Fort Wayne tend the 24 garden beds that provide fresh fruits and vegetables for those seeking food assistance in the local area. The garden produces a variety of food for the needy.



brought raspberry and mint plants and volunteers supplied seeds and other starter plants. To go from 12 to 24 beds cost about \$3700, according to Smith, which went to basic supplies like lumber, soil, the irrigation system and signage.

Signs of ripening produce alert volunteers, notifying them when the task of harvest will need to be added to the other jobs they do.

Smith sees value in gardens in general. "Gardens are important," he said. "They directly supply the material resource of food ... they symbolically illustrate how humans are meant to mediate between heaven and earth and ... they set an example for people in the community of the work that is needed for us to feed each other."

Part of that work of mediation is setting standards for



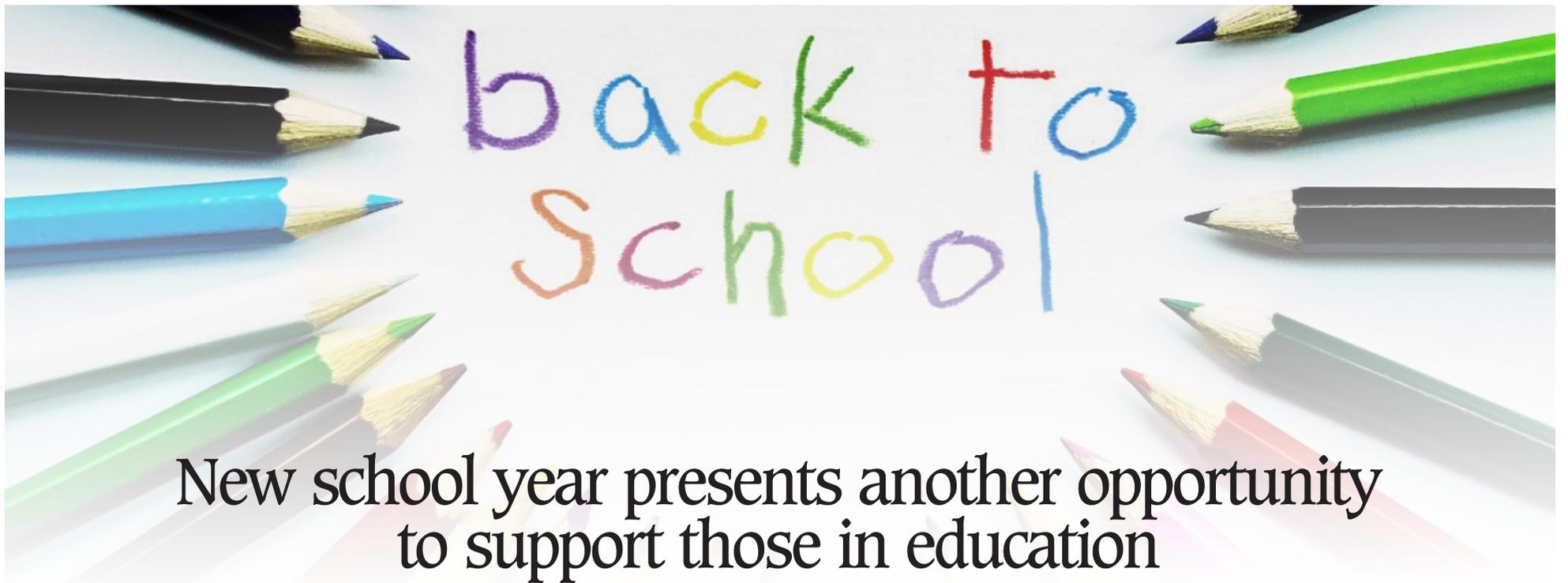
quality, and those standards begin from the ground up, quite literally in this case.

"They put in all this great, dark soil. This is a treat," Kathy Branam said. The substance of the raised bed is not the only treat for volunteers. Branam said she enjoys learning about gardening and meeting new people in her role as a volunteer.

Elaine and Dan Gesick moved to the area recently to be near family and learned about Miss Virginia when representatives from the Volunteer Center, a Fort Wayne organization that connects people with charities that could use volunteers, came to a local mall. Elaine loves to garden, and the couple recently retired

from working at Seattle Pacific University. The pair seconded Branam's belief that volunteering is a great way to meet new people. Dan said that there is a "sense of creating something" in the garden, and there was a sense of sharing a common interest with fellow volunteers from the outset. Volunteers all commented on the simple joy of working in the garden and getting their hands a little dirty. "I don't know why I ever bring my [gardening] gloves. I never use them," Elaine laughed.

Those interested in sharing their blessings – whether of time, finances or donations of food or plants – with Miss Virginia's Garden can contact Executive Director Greg Witte at slicker1951@gmail.com.



New school year presents another opportunity to support those in education

BY LISA EMRICK

The outdoors are bustling with the noise of children playing a variety of games as the humidity in Indiana is at its highest. Stores are bustling with back-to-school sales. Nestling into their classrooms and offices, staff and teachers throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are busy getting ready to welcome back students for another year of school. These members of the community are carrying on the mission of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, bringing education and faith formation as shepherds to the youth of the Church. As August begins, many people, both short and tall, anticipate the beginning of a new school year.

Many teachers and staff share that getting to know their new students and families is always a wonderful time of year. Beginning her 38th year of teaching for the diocese, Virginia Simpson, kindergarten teacher at Queen of Angels, said that she enjoys “meeting the students and getting to know their personalities. I always love seeing my little ones grow up and have families of their own. And even getting to teach some of them!”

The beginning of the school year will also bring routine back for many, like St. Pius X Catholic School’s second-grade teacher, Jacquie Moore – routine which is needed to help keep everyone on track. She says that after being off all summer, the first week of school is the hardest. Moore looks forward to the excitement on her students’ faces as they prepare for and then participate in first reconciliation and first Communion. For other teachers, it is a similar reaction when they witness their students’ “I got it” moments.

Teachers and staff want the Catholic community to know that it truly takes a village to make the school year successful. Sheila Gillett has worked



Lisa Emerick

Virginia Simpson, kindergarten teacher for 32 years, cleans and prepares her classroom at Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne during the summer in anticipation of verification day in early August.

in the education field for 32 years teaching middle and high school, and for the last three years has worked in her retirement as office secretary at Queen of Angels. Gillett shared, “In order to help our students become a part of a strong community and grow in their faith and academics, we must be partners. The school needs parental support and involvement in Mass attendance, attending parish and school events, and volunteering to help at school activities. Also, communication is so important! We need parents to really read and respond to their teachers’ weekly newsletters, the school flyers that come home, and the school newsletters that come in their emails, to help keep them informed of what is going on in the classrooms and how they can help their children and the school.”

Moore said, “As teachers, we really do want what is best for your child and we work hard every day to ensure your child is successful at school.”

Gillett gently reminded families that, with the upcoming school year, students who

have an early bedtime routine, including getting their clothes ready the night before, lunches made, a place to keep their backpacks and supplies, and a good night’s sleep – without access to electronic devices like televisions, phones, tablets, etc. – will have a much easier time waking in the morning and getting to school on time. They will also be more ready for a day of learning.

The COVID-19 pandemic helped bring to light the efforts of teachers and staff in preparing future generations for life. Because of the struggles teachers faced during the pandemic, parents and parish communities have considered ways to show support and appreciation to those who are tasked with the calling of educating their children.

Gillett suggests adults in the community prayerfully consider becoming safe-environment trained so they are able to volunteer in schools when needed. Having the training allows members of the community to aid during lunch or recess. Volunteers can also help in the classroom or office during

special events when staff need to be away. It can be difficult to honor teachers or allow them needed time to step away from their duties if there are not enough people willing to cover for them. Karen Tippmann, who teaches kindergarten at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Fort Wayne, agreed that having community members eligible to serve as substitute teachers would be a great help, as schools are often in short supply of substitutes. That was especially needed during the pandemic, as teachers followed CDC protocols for quarantining.

Teachers do not have a regular 9-to-5 job; they spend their weekends and evenings grading papers and planning the following week. While school is out during the summer, many attend workshops to further their abilities in the classroom. Many teachers enlist family and friends to help clean and prep their rooms for the beginning of the school year; some are left to do it alone. Many spend their own money on certain supplies. Tippmann suggests, “If

someone from a parish wants to donate to a classroom, there is a great Facebook group called Amazing Teachers (Allen County, K-12) that teachers put Amazon Wishlists on for the classrooms. I encourage people to check it out. You can even search for a particular teacher to see if they have posted a Wishlist.”

Gift cards to teacher supply stores, Amazon, Walmart, and other stores can come in handy when there is a need in the classroom as well. Store-bought healthy snacks for the classroom are also very much used and appreciated.

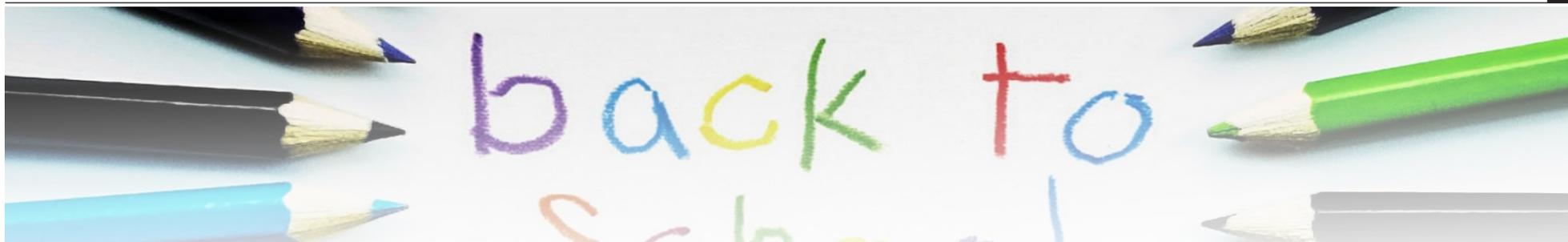
Diana Tandy currently teaches fifth-grade at Queen of Angels and says that prayers are always a way to show support for teachers.

Tippmann advised that: “The best thing we can do is lift them up in prayer. Also, remind teachers and staff that there needs to be a work/life balance and to take time for themselves outside of the classroom. It is hard because as teachers and staff, we are constantly thinking about what to do better or how to reach that one student, but we forget about self-care. Our day never ends at 3 p.m. when the students go home.”

“Self-care could be setting a specific time to stop and focus on physical health as well as our own families. I know that is going to be one of my goals this school year.”

Several teachers stated just a note of encouragement or appreciation goes a long way. “Teaching is truly a gift from God,” Tandy added. “Our students and families are never far from our minds. We appreciate any encouragement and prayers.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, patroness of Catholic schools, once said, “Cheerfulness prepares a glorious mind for the noblest of acts.” The Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese is blessed with teachers and staff who model the saints for the future generations of Catholics.



New principals offer new insight and skills to classrooms

Kathleen Mulligan, St. Joseph School, Garrett



KATHLEEN MULLIGAN

Mulligan spent 13 years in Fort Wayne Community Schools and seven as Assistant Principal at St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne.

She came to her new role because it allowed her “the opportunity to be the leader at St. Joseph School and learn more about other schools in our diocese, while bringing some of my training background to the smaller school setting.”

In her opinion, Catholic schools are special because “Catholic education allows students to embrace God throughout their whole day. They are surrounded with learning about Jesus and experiencing ways to deepen their faith.”

As principal, she hopes “to lead the students, staff and community closer to God.”

Jennifer (Jenni) Crain, St. Adalbert School, South Bend



JENNIFER CRAIN

Crain taught at St. Adalbert for 17 years and spent one year as Assistant Principal at St. Jude School in South Bend.

“A love of the community I came from” brought her to the principal’s job at St. Adalbert.

She believes Catholic schools stand out in “the fact that we are not just helping to form the mind, but the heart and spirit as well.”

Of her aspirations as principal, she said, “I just want to serve my kids and their families as well as they deserve to be served.”

Damian Schmitt, St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla

Schmitt comes to his new position with 22 years of experience in education and out of a desire to move closer to family.



DAMIAN SCHMITT

For him, Catholic education stands out because it provides “an education of the entire person that prepares our children for lives grounded in truth, and

offers them a real shot at authentic happiness.”

His goal as principal is “to lead St. Mary of the Assumption in facing the challenges of our times and equip students and teachers with what they need for success.”

Brittany Korpala, Holy Family School, South Bend



BRITTANY KORPAL

Korpala worked at Holy Family School for nine years. She said that, “After spending nine years as a teacher, I knew it was time to challenge myself a little more as an educator. I

want to take all the knowledge that I have and not only share it with the students but share it with my colleagues so they can use best practices in their classrooms to help our students become more successful. I also want to take all my education and administrative skills to help develop future leaders.”

To her, “Catholic education stands out because it is so unique. I can embrace the values, the morals of our faith and the teachings of the Church so that as the students grow older, they can really trust in God to help guide them. We not only have the joy of teaching our students that education is important, but we can also teach them our most important goal of life which is making it to heaven.”

“As a principal, I want to continue to improve student achievement in the classroom so that our students enter the world as respectful and knowledgeable adults who can be successful in our community.”

Shannon Jones, St. John the Baptist School, South Bend

Jones spent two years in the



SHANNON JONES

South Bend Community School system before teaching in diocesan schools for 15 years.

She took the job as principal because “I felt called to make

a bigger difference than what being a classroom teacher allowed me.”

“Catholic education stands out to me because everything we do is rooted in the Gospel. All our work in the classrooms can be traced back to what Jesus taught us about our faith.”

As principal, she hopes “to continue the work of the previous principal and keep enrollment improving and our students growing as learners who can live out the greatest commandment of loving God, their neighbor and themselves.”

Kim Obringer, Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka



KIM OBRINGER

Obringer carries 23 years of educational experience into her new job: five years in the South Bend Community School district and 18 at Queen

of Peace itself.

She sought her new role because “Queen of Peace has been my beloved school home for 18 years. Throughout my time spent as a dedicated teacher, I have greatly enjoyed being actively involved within our wonderful parish community. Over time, I began to feel the Holy Spirit calling me to lead and serve my beloved school in a new way. I am blessed and honored to answer the call as the Principal of Queen of Peace Catholic School!”

As a Catholic educator, she said that “Sharing my faith with my students and talking about Jesus has always been important to me ... Last school year, I had the privilege of teaching our second graders during their sacramental year. It was the most exciting and rewarding experience for me to share more deeply about Jesus with the little ones as they prepared to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy

Communion.”

Her hopes for the upcoming school year include “to accompany our students and families in their Catholic faith, and instill the words of St. Francis de Sales: ‘Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence.’”

Carin Freiburger, St. Aloysius Catholic School, Yoder



CARIN FREIBURGER

Freiburger has worked in Catholic schools for 10 years; seven at St. Therese in Fort Wayne and three at St. Aloysius.

She was drawn to her new posi-

tion through prior work as an administrative assistant, since “many of the similar duties are required for this job, I felt like I could step up this year and

run with taking on the principal role. I don’t have all the education needed yet, but I’m willing to learn and take that leap of faith. Knowing that I have the support of our amazing teachers and Monsignor Bruce [Piechocki] behind me definitely helps make this decision easier.”

She appreciates how Catholic schools encourage parents and students to work together to education the “whole person. The feeling of a family both in the school and church are so important in education. The small class sizes, the ability to celebrate feast days, holidays and our faith in Jesus every day is another reason a Catholic education is so important. Being able to celebrate and remain anchored in our faith every day while still striving for academic excellence is what makes a Catholic education such a gift!”

As principal, her hopes are simply “to continue our academic excellence while still growing and learning in our faith here at St. Aloysius.”

Join us as we **welcome** our new principal, **Shannon Jones!**

St. John the Baptist Catholic School
South Bend, Indiana
www.stjohnsb.com

Welcome **OUR NEW PRINCIPAL**
BRITTANY KORPAL

WITH THANKFUL HEARTS, WE WELCOME YOU! MAY GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU BEGIN THE '22-'23 SCHOOL YEAR!

- THE STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARISHIONERS OF HOLY FAMILY
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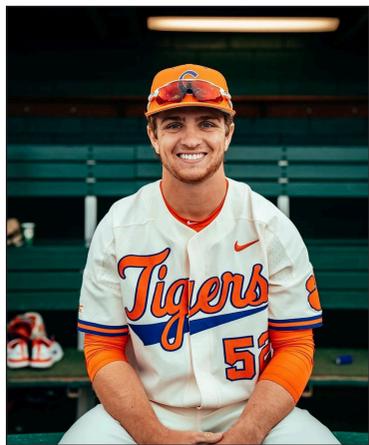
College students keep the faith at secular

BY JENNIFER BARTON

One of the greatest concerns of Catholic parents when they send their children to college is whether their sons and daughters will maintain their faith. Not every student can or will attend a Catholic university, where the faith would hopefully be reinforced. So what is a parent to do?

Three young adults from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend demonstrate that it is possible for students to keep their faith while at college.

Becoming a servant-leader



PATRICK FARRISEE

Seven hundred miles. That is roughly the distance from South Bend to Clemson University in South Carolina, where Patrick Farrisee attends college. Initially, he wanted to go to the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), but due to a minor medical finding, his spot was given away. Instead, he began at Clemson on an ROTC scholarship. "For whatever reason, I didn't enjoy it," he admitted, and he left that program after his freshman year. For that reason, he considers it a blessing that he didn't go to West Point. "That was God pushing me in the right direction."

Now Farrisee is happy studying nursing at Clemson, though he didn't start out that way. Homesickness set in on the first weekend in South Carolina. "Really the one thing that kept me grounded was being able to go to church on Sundays," he said.

At the local church, St. Andrew, he experienced an immediate sense of calm and discovered the Catholic Student Association, which meets for faith-building activities like Bible studies. The meetings he attended helped acclimate him to the college life, putting it in the perspective of his Catholic faith. "The faith really grounded me; made me realize

there was hope, there was a comfort spot every Sunday ... that's just where I need to be on Sundays."

He spoke about the struggle that many students face in keeping their faith when the college culture places other demands on their time, but said, "Making it a priority was big for me. It's guided me well and it's made me into a person I'm pretty proud of."

Even when his schedule became wildly busy, Farrisee still made time for God. "Faith is the most important – 100% the most important thing in my life," he emphasized.

Having played baseball at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, he knew he wanted to play college baseball at the division level. He didn't make the team at Clemson his first year, so during the pandemic he threw himself into a strict workout routine and was able to make it his second year. "I ended up living out my dream ... and there's absolutely no way I would have done that without my faith."

Balancing baseball and nursing is no small feat, and he credits God for helping him handle the stress of it. His college friend Will also impacted his faith. Though not Catholic, Will introduced him to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and helped him through hard times when he didn't know what career path God was leading him toward. "I have to pray a lot about letting the Lord take over, letting the Lord guide me in a direction that I need, that I don't necessarily know. The unknown is really tough," he shared.

Farrisee carries with him the lessons he learned in high school, particularly when his friend Aiden Short passed away in a car accident. He remembers watching Aiden's father, Tim, address the student population about accepting God's plan and moving forward. The forming of a service club called Aiden's Masterpiece was a defining moment for Farrisee, who led the organization for a time and learned that being a leader meant serving others. His essays for West Point focused on the idea of being a servant-leader and he puts it into practice on the baseball field. It is also part of the reason he switched his major to nursing.

"That's one thing the Lord calls us to do, just be a servant-leader, right? And I kind of live by that, and helping others and live by serving."



Faith that is tested



KENNEDY HORTER

When she left home to study industrial management at Purdue University, West Lafayette, junior Kennedy Horter made herself a promise not to lose her Catholic faith. "I've seen it in people who are close to me. They go off to college and lose their faith, and I looked up to a lot of people in my life, and that is one aspect that I wanted to be different in my life."

Nowadays, she finds her faith to be "very mature." Instead of asking God for childish things like a pony, she now asks "for more abstract things like patience and kindness, and I found that it actually feels much more concrete than it appears."

What developed her faith most was learning how to defend it. She grew up mostly in Catholic schools – St. Charles Borromeo, then Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne – before heading to

a public university where she encounters people of all faiths and none. Growing up, she said, "I felt like everyone around me always believed in God, but now that's literally a question I get more frequently than I could ever imagine."

Pondering the basic tenets of the Catholic faith has expanded her familiarity with the Church and "I've gotten to test myself and my knowledge and apply it in ways I couldn't when I was in high school or grade school" – similar to applying math lessons to a test.

Though she does not actively engage in evangelization, she loves answering questions that come up about her faith. "I have best friends who are atheist, who are Christian, Jewish, just everything, and we all get along very well and we're even able to have conversations where we can talk about our spirituality and how we grow," she remarked.

Horter said that: "The more I answer these questions, the more I fall in love with the faith."

She attends St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, the Catholic Center at Purdue University. Going to Mass was difficult to manage at first, but she made it a goal and finds a great deal of value in going to church alone. Things like listening to Christian music, the rosary and podcasts like "The Bible in a Year" on her phone – "things that can be included in your daily routine" – also boost her faith.

Choosing good friends is crucial in holding onto her

faith. One of her friends leads an all-girls Bible study at St. Thomas Aquinas called Ignite. There, they study specific passages suggested by the youth director, and "we break it down; how does this apply to your daily life." Many friendships have been made through the parish and the Bible study, Horter was pleased to report.

Ultimately, she said, "I feel like at the end of the day, it's the people you surround yourself with and staying away from the things that really draw you into sin."

Strengthened by friendships



OLIVIA EISAMAN

"You will learn more from your friends than you ever will from books. Choose your friends wisely." Olivia Eisaman would likely agree with this statement from renowned Catholic motivational speaker and writer Matthew Kelly. Heading into her junior year at Ball State University with a major in

ar universities



child development and a minor in autism spectrum disorder, Eisaman said that the friends she has made through the Newman Center help boost her faith life at college.

Cardinal Catholic, the Catholic community for Ball State students, operates out of St. Francis of Assisi Parish located directly next to the campus. Eisaman stays involved in the organization as President of the St. Francis Youth Retreat Program – which puts on retreats for middle and high school students in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana – and as Co-Head of Outreach.

“I actually met one of my cousins I didn’t know existed through Ball State and the Cardinal Catholic community, so she pushed me to go to church with her,” Eisaman said with a laugh. Her roommate, who she met indirectly through the church, is also Catholic and motivates her to attend Mass weekly.

Eisaman knows that living away from her family compels her to make her own decisions to retain her faith – choosing to go to Mass, Newman Nights and Eucharistic Adoration. Having the faith reinforced through her Catholic school education at St. Charles and Bishop Dwenger High School formed her to make fruitful choices, “because Catholic schools gave me such a routine when it came to my faith and I think being used to that, I wanted to do the same thing when I went to Ball State,” she shared.

FOCUS – the Fellowship of Catholic University Students – maintains a presence on the college campus as well, and

Eisaman had the opportunity to go on a retreat and take a mission trip to Costa Rica with members of the group. “I don’t even know where we were; we were in the middle of nowhere, Costa Rica, and we actually helped with renovations of the church,” she said. She stays in touch with one man from Costa Rica, and his Instagram photos sometimes show him wearing the Cardinal Catholic t-shirt he purchased.

Eisaman lives out her faith in other ways, one of which is through the Newman Center’s outreach program. With other Cardinal Catholic members, she sometimes mans a table in one of the dining facilities, hoping to spark conversations on the faith with anyone who chooses to approach them. “We have had good conversations with people; we’ve had some people stare at us,” she admitted. For Catholic students, “we’ll talk to them about Cardinal Catholic and we’ll give them the information and hope they come.”

Though the upcoming school year promises to keep her busy, she intends to make holy hours before the Blessed Sacrament whenever possible, and one of her future goals is to travel to Portugal for World Youth Day in 2023, as she did in Panama in 2019.

When back home in Fort Wayne, she keeps up with her faith life through organizations like College Crew, connecting with other local Catholics of similar age. Cultivating these holy friendships helps her to avoid the negative influences so prevalent on college campuses and faithfully live a Catholic life.

Collegiate Catholic groups offer community

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

For many young Catholics, leaving home for college means leaving a routine that was encouraged and nurtured by their parents. They suddenly become responsible for doing laundry, buying food and going to Mass on their own.

Oftentimes, these young Catholics go to public colleges where the Catholic faith and weekly Mass is not encouraged – and many times is opposed and challenged. In response to these problems, Catholic college groups minister and provide community to faithful students who are away from home and away from the religious routines that they had been practicing for the first two decades of their lives.

Mastodon Catholic primarily ministers to college-aged Catholics attending Purdue University Fort Wayne, and welcomes several others from the tri-campus area. Steven Dellinger assumed the top role in leadership for the group during the 2022-23 school year, and said that collegiate ministry at public universities helps students learn to practice their faith after moving out.

“I think one of the major factors is that people our age are really coming into their own with their faith, learning how to live out the Christian life outside their parents’ homes, and college is one of those first places that they’re really exercising that independence. So having a Catholic group not only offers them a sense of formation, but also a community that reaffirms their identity as Catholics so that they can begin to develop a sense of confidence in how they’re practicing their faith.”

Typically, Mastodon Catholic celebrates Mass on campus once each week, with opportunities available for the sacrament of reconciliation as well. After Mass, they build community at lunch. Every month, they host a bigger community-building event.

Dellinger is trying to expand the ministry’s offerings, which shrank due to COVID-19 restrictions. This expansion could include more focus and outreach to young adults who are living in student housing, exploring volunteer opportunities and hosting joint activities with other Christian groups on the PFW campus.

He added that it is more important than ever to help mothers in need in the wake of the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade, and that he hopes Mastodon Catholic will be able to organize volunteer activities aimed at helping pregnant women.

“Having a visible Catholic presence on campus witnesses to the importance of the Church in Catholic students’ lives and serves as a way to expose non-Catholics to our faith. Students trying to seek out the truth, or those of other Christian traditions looking for a fuller way to live out the Christian life, are able to find a community willing to walk alongside them.”

Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne hosts the group Catholic Warriors.

Former group president AJ Smith says that it is important to have a Catholic group on campus for students to feel a sense of community and belonging because new college students may find it hard to fit in.

“It was nice for me, especially as a Catholic all my life, to immediately have a group I could join and feel comfortable around, and who shared the same beliefs and values that I did.”

Like Mastodon Catholic, Catholic Warriors celebrate Mass weekly. They also host a regular Bible study and group lunches. In the past, Father Patrick Hake has invited the group to his rectory for a back to school event where they all hung out and played games together.

Smith added that many Catholics get to college and they stop practicing their faith, but the community that he found through Catholic Warriors helped him to persevere against that statistic.

“It helps you to find your place and fit in faster with people who you know are like you.”

The group Manchester Catholics serves students studying at Manchester University. Bridget Nash, a leader in the organization, says that until someone enters college, they’re still under their parents’ influence, but when they go to college, they begin to discover “what parts of yourself you want to own.”

She added that students on college campuses with Catholic ministries have “the option to remain steadfast in what they want” and praises the accountability aspect of the organization, which allows students to “be able to stay in touch with your faith and find other people with like minds. I think it allows them to have some kind of room for growth in that area so that way there’s always somewhere where they know they’re able to go.”

Manchester Catholics have, since 2019, been housed at a Newman Center building across from the campus.

“We have an upstairs chapel where Father Dennis [Di Benedetto], who is our chaplain, leads weekly Mass.”

Nash also says that the group is open to people who are not Catholic, and that many non-Catholics have participated in the organization’s events.

Newman Ministry reports that more than 80% of students stop practicing their faith in college. Freshmen entering collegiate life may be afraid of falling away from Catholicism as the overwhelming majority of their peers will, but these Catholic organizations aim to change that statistic and are there to help.

Through not only their consistency in making the sacraments available, but also their community-building activities and union with the greater Church, collegiate Catholic organizations offer a place of much-needed refuge during a time of great change in students’ lives.



Jennifer Barton

Ashes are distributed on Ash Wednesday at Purdue Fort Wayne.

Education key to keeping children safe at diocesan schools

BY DENNIS WIEGMANN

The most frightening news that a person – particularly a parent, grandparent, or guardian – can hear is a report of school violence. Children, gifts from God, are entrusted into a school's care for seven-and-a-half hours a day, five days a week, for 180 days of the year. The days of leaving school doors unlocked and allowing visitors to enter into the main office without first ringing a buzzer and being let in, have passed.

Recently, nearly everyone has heard on the news, seen on the internet, or read in the newspaper about the tragedy in Uvalde. It makes one think a little more intently on how safe Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are and how prepared those who work at those schools are for an intruder. Unfortunately, school violence and shootings are not something that are new to American society. Americans have become familiar with the horrific stories of Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Parkland. Members of the public have learned about the mistakes that were made, not only by the schools, but also by law enforcement.

These types of incidents make everyone want to become

more vigilant and more aware of their surroundings. Some parish communities do not believe that local schools can be impacted or affected by these types of tragedies. Some say, "This will never happen at our Catholic school or our church community." The truth of the matter is that these types of violent incidents can happen everywhere, even in Catholic schools. This is why so many different precautions, procedures, and safety handbooks have been created in order to be more prepared if an incident does happen at school.

Much to some parishioners' and families' chagrin, coming into diocesan Catholic schools has changed immensely over the years. Now, visitors must ring a buzzer and state their name and business at the school. If visiting a classroom or assisting in the building, one must have a name badge or button to identify themselves as a visitor. If a person is not approved through safe environment training, they are not allowed to volunteer for school activities. Things once taken for granted even 10 years ago now have to be evaluated and modified to better suit the safety of schools.

The Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has made great efforts to ensure that their



Jennifer Barton

Providing a safe learning environment for schoolchildren is a top priority for Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and administrators, teachers, and staff members share in that responsibility.

schools are becoming better prepared and have implemented effective safeguards in their buildings. Rob Sordelet, Principal of St. Charles Catholic School, chairs the Safety

Committee for the Catholic Schools Office. During monthly principal meetings, discussions are held and any up-to-date information that is needed for the schools is provided. Each school is responsible for having one lead Safety Specialist as well as other teachers or staff who are trained as specialists as well. These specialists must first go through initial training with the Indiana Department of Education, which takes place in the fall in Indianapolis. A second training is required in the spring as well.

After this first year, Safety Specialists are then required to go to one longer training each year to continue to be certified. At these trainings, speakers from around the country present on different topics and scenarios as well as provide the most up-to-date information that is available on school safety. These training sessions are not just focused on active shooters or violence in school; they are also focused on weather emergencies and other safety issues that can happen in a school building.

Along with the certified School Safety Specialists for each building, every school in the diocese must follow Standard Response Protocol (SRP), created by the I Love U Guys Foundation. The SRP provides schools with options on how to take action depending on the safety threat. The five protocols are "hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate, and shelter." All school staff should be familiar with these protocols and understand what each of them mean, so that in the case of a crisis, procedures will be followed to ensure safety for all. To learn more about the I

Love U Guys Foundation, go to iloveguys.org.

Schools are also required to create an Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Intervention Plan. This plan provides all school employees with important information such as emergency numbers, as well as spelled out roles and responsibilities for staff. Additionally, schools provide staff members with evacuation procedures and locations for short-term and long-term evacuations. These plans must be submitted annually to the Catholic Schools Office.

Due to the increase in school safety interventions, the Department of Homeland Security provides an opportunity for schools to apply for the Secured School Safety Grant. Schools can write their grant applications to cover safety items such as security cameras, new doors, proper ventilation, or a new secured entry, to name a few. There is an upfront commitment from the school to have the money budgeted to cover the grant amount. However, the Department of Homeland Security matches a percentage of the cost, sometimes up to 100%. Over the last five to six years, many schools in the diocese have been able to benefit from this annual grant.

Parents and guardians send their children to Catholic Schools because they want them to have the opportunity to receive a great education, but more importantly, to grow in their faith and become closer to Christ. Schools must also ensure that these precious children are provided with the most safe environment possible for all.

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A pathway into Catholic schools for families in the diocese

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Since Indiana expanded the household income threshold for its Choice Scholarship (“voucher”) program in 2021, a great majority of families in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend can send their children to Catholic schools at very little out-of-pocket cost to them. This includes those with a family income up to 300% of that necessary to qualify for free and reduced lunch.

However, students must qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship via one of eight “tracks.” In the past, these tracks included having previously attended a public school for two consecutive semesters, being assessed with special needs, or having their local public school earn a failing grade in state assessments.

While these tracks are still open, the one most easily accessible to most families is receiving an SGO Award, through a Scholarship Granting Organization, such as the Scholarship Granting

Organization of Northeast Indiana (SGONEI). These donor-funded scholarships can pay almost all costs for the first year, if necessary. In subsequent years, if the student’s family received at least a \$500 SGO award, they have established a qualifying pathway to apply for a Choice Scholarship in any future year, as long as their income meets the Choice Income Guidelines.

Tammy Christianson, Business Manager for Mishawaka Catholic School, personally called every family with a student enrolled in the school last year to inform them about the change in income guidelines. Many of these families were making significant financial sacrifices because they considered a Catholic education a non-negotiable. Now not only those families, but many who previously felt a Catholic education was beyond their means, can also qualify by filling out an online application. The application includes the child’s name, the school of choice, and the parent or guardian’s

financial information. To apply for an SGO for any of the 43 diocesan schools, interested parties should visit the Catholic Schools Office tab on the diocesan website. Those who meet the qualification guidelines receive a \$500 minimum SGO award, but that is only the beginning.

Christianson sits down with every family that fills out the online application and designated Mishawaka Catholic as their school of choice. After assessing the needs through their FACTS Grant and Aid application, she can often tell

them that the SGONEI award will fund almost the entire cost of the first year of their children’s Catholic education.

When parents hear this news, tears of joy are not uncommon. “It’s an unbelievable gift,” said Christianson, “to be able to send their children to an institution that promotes their Catholic values.”

This opportunity is dependent upon the generosity of donors, not on tax money. While some may still prefer to make gifts to their parish school or alma mater for building projects or special

programs like music or science, those who want directly to help additional families afford a Catholic education can make contributions to the Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana (www.sgonei.org). On that website, donors may make a tax-deductible contribution to any of the 43 diocesan schools’ SGO programs. One small donation can help unlock 12 years of a Catholic education for a child, providing each child with a Catholic formation that will last him or her a lifetime.

Now not only those families but many who previously felt a Catholic education was beyond their means can also qualify by filling out an online application.



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

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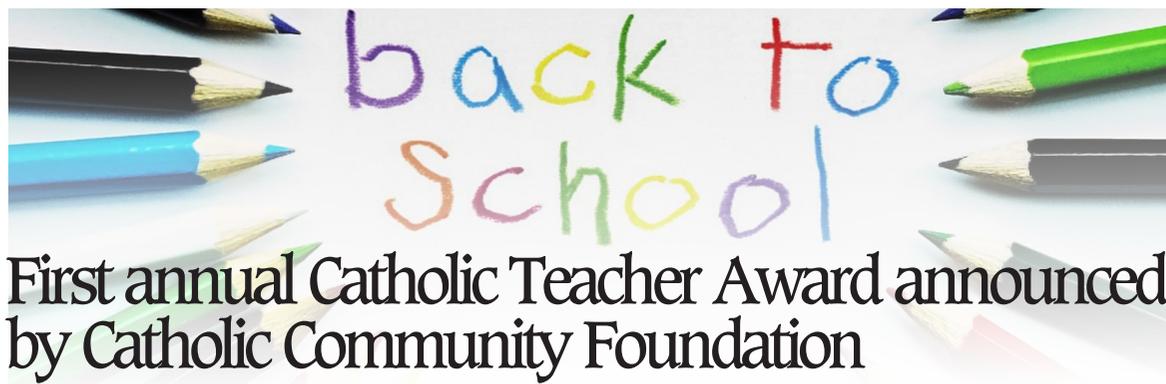
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back to School

First annual Catholic Teacher Award announced by Catholic Community Foundation

BY SARAH SHIVELY

The Catholic Community Foundation announced the first annual Catholic Teacher Award in the fall of 2021. With an endowment left by the late Mrs. Catherine Schmenk – a great proponent of Catholic education – the award recognized four outstanding primary grade teachers in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Criteria for nomination were based on who best demonstrated the ability to motivate and inspire intellectual and spiritual development, leadership, responsibility, enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity, while also being a role model in their professional, civic, parish and personal life. Eleven nominations were received from school principals. All nominees were very deserving, but the committee has selected four winners.

The winners are: Carol Sarasien, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School; Nicola Matty, St. Vincent de Paul School; Kate Helm, Christ the King School; and Sarah Leblang, St. Anthony de Padua School.

Each of these winners received \$1,000 dollars and another \$1,000 went to their



CAROL SARASIEN



KATE HELM



NICOLA MATTY



SARAH LEBLANG

schools' endowment fund. The foundation looks forward to

honoring deserving teachers in the future.

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.



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University of Saint Francis offers program focused on discipleship

BY NICOLE HAHN

“Joyful Disciples. Transformative Leaders.” That is the tag line for the new Assisi Program for Discipleship and Leadership kicking off this year at the University of Saint Francis.

This fall, five students will participate in the pilot program, which is a four-year formation open to students of all majors. With its official launch in fall of 2023 and each subsequent year, 10 additional students will be admitted into the program, eventually bringing the total number of participants to 40.

The program is designed to help Catholic students who are intentional about their faith to navigate their collegiate experience as an engagement between their vocational training and their relationship with Jesus. It teaches them to incorporate that into impactful and meaningful leadership in the workforce.

“It’s about discipleship and leadership because it is through the life of authentic discipleship, that life of friendship with Jesus, that we ourselves are transformed, that we become like Him and that we transform the world around us,” said Megan Quigley, one of the program’s founders. “Each and every one of us needs support to do what He calls us to do, and I think college students especially need the environment to really embrace that call in whatever way is given to them, particularly in their different fields of

study, and to be accompanied and supported in embracing the call to discipleship and to friendship with Jesus.”

The idea of the program came from Quigley and Sister Emmanuel Kurtzweg after they met in a women’s Bible study as undergrads at USF. They shared friendship, faith, and a call to action, though they were not exactly sure what that action was at the time. It was when Sister Emmanuel traveled to Assisi, Italy, on a student pilgrimage as a junior that the vision for a youth conference came to her.

She had been feeling the beginnings of a desire to do something on campus to ignite the faith lives of young adults. The vision of a youth conference based on transformation came to her in Assisi when she was praying before the San Damiano cross. She experienced a new awakening of her own faith and was captivated by the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of God, and how His hand so gently touches the lives of His children at all times. She wanted to bring that awakening of faith back with her.

In March of 2019, just three months after graduating, Sister Emmanuel and Quigley, now the Assistant Director of the Assisi Program, made the conference a reality, bringing in national speakers and drawing nearly 200 young people.

“That Assisi vision has guided us from that moment,” said



Quigley. “The vision is to bring Assisi here, to this place of conversion, this place where faith comes alive and people become living witnesses to Christ and come to the full measure of their humanity, fully become who they are meant to be and receive their mission and their calling from God.”

Alex Giltner, Assisi Program Director, came to USF in 2018 and met Quigley and Sister Emmanuel. His girlfriend at the time, now his wife, spoke at the Assisi Conference.

As a Professor of Theology with expertise in Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, he wanted to learn more about the conference and what Quigley and Sister Emmanuel were doing.

Feeling called in a different direction, Sister Emmanuel headed off to join the sisters for her postulate year, where this year she professed her first vows with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration

on Monday, August 1. Leaving the program in the hands of Quigley and Giltner “led to a long period of prayer, discussion, and discernment, which then led to the formation of the Assisi program,” he said. A retreat Giltner took at the motherhouse in Mishawaka helped the process as well.

“For us, it really was a catalyst of the Assisi experience, not just of Sister Emmanuel and the conference here, but of Francis himself who experienced this incredible conversion and transformation of himself,” said Giltner.

The Assisi Program is directly connected to the mission of what the Catholic university is and its purpose in the world, he said. “What we are trying to do with this program is create an experience where a Catholic university is not a place where people come and lose their faith, but instead deepen and strengthen it and enrich it through the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit and the sacraments and the scripture and our consciences.”

The program is designed to create student leaders who will transform the campus and also their own lives as they leave USF and move into their future vocations, following that call to be a living witness to Christ.

“It’s a call to transformation to be transformative,” said Giltner.

Formation is achieved through five pillars of transformation – prayer, study, fellow-

ship, service, and mission, all of which will root students in a life of authentic Christian discipleship and prepare them for faithful leadership. Every component of the program comes back to those five things.

“It is a curricular and co-curricular program, so they get a Catholic Leadership minor,” said Giltner.

The program is for first-year students and provides a yearly scholarship to cover half of their room and board. Students are required to participate in weekly meetings, monthly community dinners, retreats, sacramental life opportunities, and group service projects. They are also expected to fill roles that serve their peers on campus. Students must live on campus for the first two years and are strongly encouraged to live on campus their last two years so they are fully immersed in the collegiate experience.

The process begins for high school seniors. Students apply to the university and once accepted, apply specifically to the Assisi Program. For the fall semester of 2023, applications are due by December of 2022. There is an interview process and selection in the spring. Applicants must provide two references, including from their pastor and a high school teacher; have a 3.25 GPA; records of service and leadership; and be a Catholic in good standing.

For more information about the program, visit go.sf.edu/assisi.

Eighth-graders pass the torch with ‘Sacraments’ music video

BY MARY SGROI

After months of brainstorming lyrics, rehearsing songs and dances and filming scenes, the eighth-grade class at St. Matthew Cathedral School in South Bend released their music video, “Sacraments,” on YouTube at the end of the 2022 school year. The class created “Sacraments” to creatively summarize and share what they had learned in their middle and junior high school religion classes in a way that captures their distinct class experience at St. Matthew.

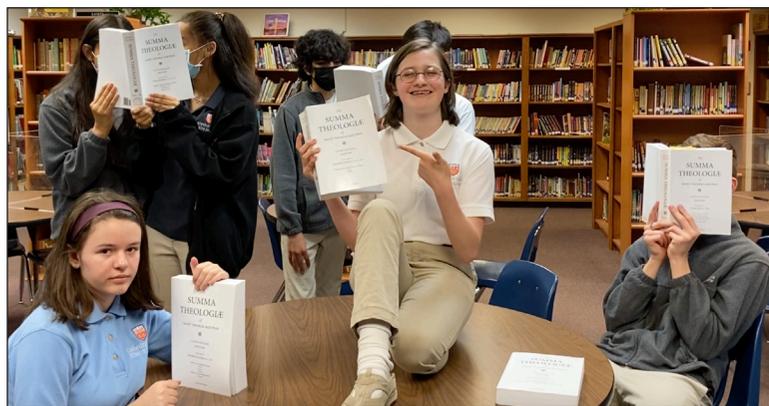
This tradition of creating an eighth-grade religion video goes back to 2017. John Fyrqvist, the religion teacher at the time, had the idea to use music to help his students remember important information from their church history class. Noting their love for the musical “Hamilton,” he helped them make a remix to the song “Alexander Hamilton.” The lyrics

focused on key dates and events from early Church history, and helped his class master the material in a fun way.

The class of 2022’s music video begins with a group of friends discovering an old cassette tape labeled “Sacraments Mix Tape” in the basement of their school. When they hit play, the music medley remix begins. Scenes depicting the Mass, different sacraments, students praying in the cathedral and chapel, doing service work, studying in the library, and having fun outside at recess communicate the integral role of the Catholic faith in the lives of St. Matthew’s students.

Eighth-graders Mary Kirsch, Lilly Malinowski, Lily Orban and Brady Nitz all agreed that hands-on religion projects, such as creating the music video, helped solidify the concepts they had been learning in class and made them relevant to their own lives.

In addition to working on the video during class, much



Provided by John Fyrqvist

Screenshot of St. Matthew eighth grade video.

of the brainstorming, rehearsing and filming took place during lunch, recess and after school. The production team, made up of nearly half the grade, often met during lunch to bounce ideas around and craft lyrics, which were often things the class really liked learning about or things that they initially struggled with before mastering. After deciding on the songs and lyrics, they began filming scenes with their religion teacher, Catherine

Horvath, and recording solo and chorus songs and dances with Fyrqvist, who is currently the school’s Campus Minister.

The four classmates explained that this year’s video is different from previous videos because it includes multiple songs. “The idea behind having different songs goes back to the idea that we are a family coming together,” Malinowski commented. “When we all come together, it sounds perfect.”

They agreed that creating the music video helped unite them as a class and grow in appreciation for their Catholic faith and time at St. Matthew. Horvath and Fyrqvist enjoyed watching the grade come together and create something meaningful. Fyrqvist remarked, “Seeing the students’ talents emerge and seeing everyone contribute with their creativity and with their energy, passion and excitement, these are really great things for building community and for celebrating the faith and being Catholic.”

The music video ends with the students passing on the cassette tape to their friends. This scene captures the class’s hope that the video will help other students grasp key information about the sacraments and the Catholic faith. It is also a way for the graduating class to look back and remember their time at St. Matthew.

The video can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqDDdT50sKM.

When God opens doors

When a door opens before you, do you walk through?

I'm not talking about metaphorical doors, but actual physical doors. Maybe the kind that are triggered by a sensor, or perhaps are opened by a kindly or polite person. Like me, you've probably had the experience of not intending to walk through a door, but once it was opened before you, you did it anyway.

Late in the afternoon a few days ago, I was walking through the main shopping district of Linz, Austria. My wife and I were in the final days of a Viking river cruise up the Danube to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. We'd had a full day already in the amazingly well-preserved late medieval town of Český Krumlov in Czechia, and Amy was back on the boat resting. I was taking in the sights of a street fair in Linz when the Ursulinenkirche, the Church of the Ursulines, rose up before me.

The church appeared to be closed. Two large glass doors guarded the wooden entrance common to Catholic churches in Europe, and a crowd was gathered around a group of performers who were using the church steps as a stage. Knowing that it's not uncommon for Catholic churches in Europe to be closed for a few hours in the afternoon and then to reopen in the evening, I decided to check the hours on the church, and perhaps return after dinner on the ship.

As I walked up the steps,

searching for a sign with the hours, the glass doors swung open before me. While the performers were standing on the steps, the doors hadn't opened for them, so I was surprised, but not as surprised as I was when I saw the wooden entrance door swing open, too. Now I couldn't turn away and wait until after dinner; I had to enter the church.

After genuflecting, I took the obligatory pictures of the interior, then knelt to pray. I felt the sudden urge to make a spiritual communion, though I hadn't in other churches we had visited over the previous week. "Though I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of Communion," I prayed, "come into my heart. Purify it, sanctify it, make it like unto Your own."

I left the church refreshed and still marveling at the automatic doors that had drawn me inside. The exit door, I noted, didn't open automatically. Though I had pushed open at least a dozen exit doors in other churches since we began our trip, this time that, too, felt significant.

I walked to the next block — literally, right next door — to the Karmelitenkirche, the Church of the Carmelites. Again, the doors swung open for me, and I walked in to find that Mass had just begun. "Though I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of Communion ...": And now I could. I walked up the aisle, not as a tourist but as a member of the Body of Christ, genuflected, and took my place in a pew.



SCOTT P. RICHERT

ALL THINGS NEW

We sometimes make too much of the little things that happen in our lives, but more often we don't make enough of them. "Nothing by coincidence," our pastor, Father Tony Steinacker, is fond of saying; "everything by divine providence." A door opens; a prayer of longing springs to my lips; another door opens; and I receive Our Lord — body, blood, soul and divinity.

A year ago, at the first meeting of the Executive Team for the USCCB's National Eucharistic Revival, we discussed how we would know whether the revival had succeeded. I said then, and I'm more convinced now, that perhaps the biggest measure of its success or failure will be how often anyone can try the door of any Catholic church in the country and find it unlocked. If we truly believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, why would we ever want to keep anyone from walking through a door and coming into his healing presence, even if only for a moment or two?

Scott Richert is the Publisher of OSV. Visit OSVNews.com.

Where is God on your calendar?

Where does God show up on your calendar?

I pose this as a real question, not a rhetorical one. If someone found your planner on the bus or a stranger glanced at your calendar on the wall or a hacker gained access to your phone's events, would they see any sign you were a Catholic?

Lest you think I'm the judgment patrol, this question came from flipping through my own family's calendar.

Kids' activities — school, sports and music — all appear to be important to us, evidenced by how often they show up every week. Ditto for visits with friends and trips with family. Business travel for both parents is marked on our calendar; so are birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

But where does our faith show up? We'd tell you it's central to our lives and family, but I started to wonder how our calendar bears any testimony to that truth.

I went through and wrote "Mass" on every Sunday. Obvious (and overlooked), but it helped to remember how we start each week in worship. Then I added the dates whenever someone was serving as a lector or altar server. That helped too, to see our service show up.

But honestly? Standing in front of that jampacked calendar and realizing how little of our faith was revealed gave me



LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

GUEST COMMENTARY

a wake-up call.

Because the deeper concern, of course, is not what someone else would say or whether there would be enough evidence to convict me of being Christian in a theoretical court. What matters most is what place God has in my life.

Front and center or stuck on the sidelines?

I stood in front of our calendar for a long time, chewing on the end of my pencil, wondering about what changes we might be called to as a family.

Too often I've fallen into the trap of expecting a new school year to transform our lives into an idealized version of what our family should be. I don't want to make that same mistake again this fall. But I do feel called (and convicted) to pray about what God might be revealing.

Like everyone else, our family has limits of time, money, energy, attention and abilities. Where are we investing our resources? How do our values show up on our calendar? When do we live out and learn

FANUCCI, page 17

Our hope is in God's eternal salvation



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 12:35-40

The Book of Wisdom is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Nighttime was when the Exodus began — the Hebrews' flight from Egypt where they had been enslaved.

They saw God as their protector, assuring that their escape would succeed. Moses was God's instrument. Very much a part of the story, therefore, was the people's recognition of God as their deliverer, even still a keystone of Judaism.

This fundamental belief gives a logical basis for the Jewish

belief in God, in ancient times especially a purpose in the wisdom literature in the Bible.

The second reading for this weekend is from the Epistle to the Hebrews, written very much for Jewish converts to Christianity who faced the same difficulties as those experienced by pagan converts in the first generations of the Church.

After the Jews' rebellion against Rome, quashed so brutally by the Romans in 70 AD, the legal system of the empire was no friendlier to Jews than it was to Christians. Christians faced persecution because they defied laws requiring worship of the Roman gods and goddesses, including the emperor. Jews also rejected the Roman divinities.

This epistle encouraged and challenged Jewish converts to Christianity.

The reading literally sings about the majesty and power of faith, continuing one of the themes in the previous reading. By acknowledging God and by receiving Jesus, the Son of God, believers affirmed the fact that God is and was

active through the centuries, in human life. Abraham realized this. God gave Abraham and Abraham's wife, Sarah, a child. Their prayers were answered. From this child, their son Isaac, descended the Hebrew people.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. It is always important to realize that the Gospels were composed not during the Lord's time on earth, but decades after Jesus lived and preached. (Biblical scholars think that Luke's Gospel, heavily relying upon Mark's but using other sources as well, was written around 80 AD, a half-century after Jesus.)

The author of Luke knew very well the stresses facing Christians at the time when the Gospel was composed. He witnessed the ominous persecution and certainly he experienced the struggle between the Gospel and the pagan culture.

So, the words of Jesus chosen by the evangelist and read during this weekend's Masses are encouraging. They also warn.

The Lord urged disciples to be prepared. Arrest could come

at any minute, but the Lord would take care of them. Still, surviving on earth is not the ultimate. Jesus would vindicate believers in the heavenly kingdom. Jesus is the bridegroom. The wedding banquet is the celebration of love and life in heaven.

Reflection

Only two things are certain in life, so they say, namely death and taxes. People spend much time thinking about taxes, filing returns on time, paying what is due, watching withholding statements and resisting political efforts to raise taxes.

By contrast, few people think about death, although death is the fate of every living organism. Death is too frightening to consider. It is easy to turn a blind eye.

These readings are blunt and realistic. Death awaits us all. Aside from final death, we can create for ourselves the living death of hopelessness, loss of purpose and despair.

God wills that we live with

peace in our hearts now, and that we live forever. He gave us Moses and Abraham. He gave us Jesus, the very Son of God. Jesus will come, intended to take us to the wedding banquet.

As the Gospel tells us, as the Hebrews remembering deliverance told us, we must prepare ourselves to live with Jesus by being faithful and by loving God above all. God alone is our security and hope. He has proved it.

READINGS

Sunday: Wis 18:6-9 Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Lk 12:35-40

Monday: Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10 Ps 112:1-2, 5-9 Jn 12:24-26

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12 Ps 78:56-59, 61-62 Mt 18:21-10:1

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32 Ps 51:12-15, 18-19 Mt 19:13-15

Thoughts on the miracle of life, as we march

I want to consider today the extraordinary miracle of human life. It has been like a dagger in my heart that sixty-three million children have died in this country as a result of abortion since 1973. Shocking and horrifying – and so many are unmoved by this. But consider the glory of every one of those lives. At both the physical and spiritual level, the magnificence of life is really too wonderful to describe. But I found this description some years ago which summons reverence by its very ability to baffle the mind:

Miracle of life – Consider the miracle of the human body. Its chemistry is just as extraordinarily well-tuned as is the physics of the cosmos. Our world on both sides of the divide that separates life from lifelessness is filled with wonder. Each human cell has a double helix library of three billion base pairs providing fifty thousand genes. These three billion base pairs and fifty thousand genes somehow engineer 100 trillion neural connections in the brain – enough points of information to store all the data and information contained in a fifty-million-volume encyclopedia. And then after that, these fifty thousand genes set forth a million fibers in the optic nerves, retinae having ten million pixels per centimeter, some ten billion in all, ten thousand taste buds,

ten million nerve endings for smell, cells that exude a chemical come-on to lure an embryo's lengthening neurons from spinal cord to target cell, each one of the millions of target cells attracting the proper nerve from the particular needed function. And all this three-dimensional structure arises somehow from the linear, one-dimensional information contained along the DNA helix. Did all this happen by chance or do you see the hand of God?

Consider too the spiritual mystery of the human person as expressed in the 139th psalm:

"For it was You who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank You for the wonder of my being ... Already You knew my soul, my body held no secret from You when I was being fashioned in secret ... every one of my days was decreed before one of them came into being. To me, how mysterious Your thoughts, the sum of them not to be numbered!" (Psalm 139 varia)

No human being is an accident, no conception a surprise or inconvenience to God. Mysteriously, He knew and loved us long before we were ever conceived, for He says, "Before I ever formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jer 1:4). And, as the psalm says above, God has always known everything we would ever do or be.



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

It is often mysterious to us why human life is, at times, conceived in difficult circumstances such as poverty, times of family struggle or crisis or even conceived with disability and disadvantage. But in the end, we see so very little and must ponder the mystery of God's reminder that many who are "last" now are going to be first in the kingdom (e.g. Matt 20:16; Luke 1:52-53).

I have marched in the March for Life for nearly fifty years to remember the sacred lives that have been lost. We acknowledge our loss, for the gifts of these children and their lives have been swept from us as well. We pray for women who struggle to bring children to term and experience pressure to consider abortion. We pray for the immediate and sudden conversion of all who support legalized abortion for any reason and for a dedication to assist women facing any difficulty in giving birth to or raising their children.

Msgr. Charles Pope is the Pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

FANUCCI, from page 16

about our faith in concrete ways each week?

The psalmist sings this longing to God: "Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart" (Ps 90:12). Could this become our prayer, too – as we soak up the last days of summer, as we look ahead to autumn activities starting soon, as we shop for school supplies and brand-new planners to fill?

Each time I pass our calendar on the wall now, I pause for a second. It's a work in progress, an ever-evolving reality, a snapshot of life right now. But I feel its tug asking me where God shows up among school, work and every good plan we've made.

Maybe we're called to more Sabbath together, to guard our Sundays for worship and rest. Maybe we're called to more service, to take time to offer ourselves to our community.

Could we celebrate an extra feast day each month at home, to enliven our faith as a family? Are we called to a retreat,

a class or a group at our parish – something new to help us grow in faith?

Whatever changes the fall may bring, I know the prayer I need to carry with me now, a psalm in my pocket: Teach us to number our days with You in the center. Give us the wisdom to give our time to You.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is a writer, speaker and author of several books, including "Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting." Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.



SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 7, 2022

Luke 12: 32-48

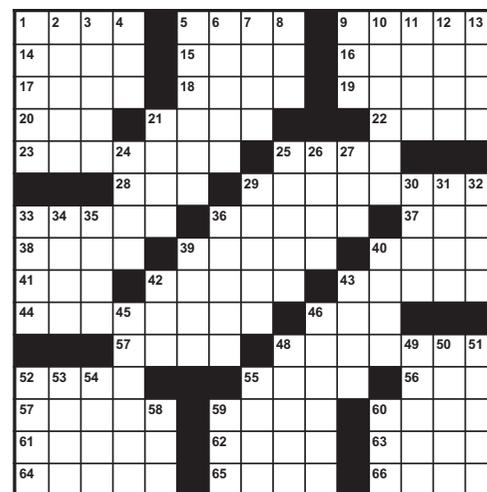
Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Leave off worrying about earthly goods. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

DO NOT FEAR	FLOCK	THE KINGDOM
ALMS	TREASURE	THIEF
MOTH	LAMPS	WEDDING
OPEN	HE KNOCKS	HOUSE
BROKEN	SON OF MAN	PETER
PRUDENT	MASTER	TRULY
PUT IN CHARGE	GET DRUNK	WITH MORE

IN CHARGE

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



ACROSS

- 1 Christian symbol
- 5 Former JFK arrivals
- 9 To the end (Lt. abbr.)
- 14 Differ ending
- 15 Hip bones
- 16 Farm birds
- 17 Purim month
- 18 Shane of "Shane"
- 19 White poplar
- 20 Bro or sis
- 21 "... must ___ himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Mt 16:24)
- 22 Like some cars
- 23 Sampling
- 25 Family
- 28 Decay
- 29 Remains of anything ruined
- 33 DC Catholic university team
- 36 Defraud
- 37 Ms. Farrow
- 38 Separate article
- 39 "When we eat this ___ and drink. ..."
- 40 Dict. entries
- 41 Spanish title
- 42 The soldiers put a scarlet

DOWN

- 1 one on Jesus
- 43 "Inferno" author
- 44 Writer
- 46 Catholic comedian DeLuise
- 47 Outstanding
- 48 Commandment that tells us not to steal
- 52 Commit a deadly sin
- 55 Foretell
- 56 Tic-tac-toe goal
- 57 Go into
- 59 Stylish
- 60 Jaguarundi
- 61 Make ___ in
- 62 Ms. Chanel
- 63 Rip
- 64 Multitude
- 65 Type of gun
- 66 Wan
- 1 Solemn holy day
- 2 Our Lady of the Assumption is this country's patron
- 3 Strikebreakers
- 4 Pronoun
- 5 "___ Night"
- 6 Jargon
- 7 Orderly
- 8 Sorrowful
- 9 Ottoman official
- 10 Expose as being false
- 11 Charges
- 12 Land in the water
- 13 Requirement
- 21 God, to Pedro
- 24 Streetcar
- 25 Harsh squeaky sound
- 26 X-ray buffer
- 27 Tread the boards
- 29 Common biblical harvest
- 30 Cry from the congregation
- 31 One of seven of the Holy Spirit
- 32 Facility
- 33 Conceal
- 34 Plains people
- 35 Urges
- 36 Crucifix
- 39 Radar screen warning
- 40 Title for Catholic poet Edith Sitwell
- 42 Church assn. for kids
- 43 Symbol of the Holy Spirit
- 45 Be present at Mass
- 46 Stephen, for one
- 48 Aromatic fragrance
- 49 Catholic author of *The Devil Takes a Holiday*
- 50 Numbers holder
- 51 White with age
- 52 Sister of Rachel
- 53 Much needed button
- 54 Mob follower?
- 55 Worm beyond repair
- 58 AAA suggestion
- 59 Hypo units
- 60 Airport letters

Answer key can be found on page 19

Sweet Dreams Ministry aims to provide "a bed for every child"

BY MARY SGROI

After witnessing an unimaginable sight, a group of high school students was moved to help others less fortunate than themselves. Anne Watson, Executive Director at St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend, explained that the Sweet Dreams Ministry, an outreach of the St. Joseph County's St. Vincent de Paul Society, came about when the teens accompanied Society members on a home visit in 2017.

"We visited a large family, a mom and seven children, and they had one bed that they were taking turns using. When it wasn't their turn, the kids were sleeping either on the couches or floor. Our students were absolutely horrified by this. They couldn't believe that at this time, in this area, kids were still without a bed." The students brainstormed ways to help, and ultimately the Sweet Dreams Ministry was born.

The program provides new beds to children in the county between the ages of three and 17 who do not have their own beds or have an unusable mattress due to mold, bedbugs or other issues.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has two yearly cam-

paigns for their Sweet Dreams Ministry, one during Lent, with their "40 beds in 40 days" campaign, and the other just before the school year begins. Sweet Dreams typically distributes 40 beds through each campaign, which are always spoken for quickly. For the discounted price of \$210, the program is able to buy and gift a new twin bed frame, mattress, bedding and pillow to each child who has been approved. Families with bedding needs are often referred to St. Vincent de Paul Society through local agencies the Society works closely with. According to their website, applicants must go through a referral agency. The fall term opens on August 23 for any families in need of beds.

Watson explained that "beds are one of our most requested services when people call us for help, right after food and financial assistance. Folks living in poverty, through no fault of their own, end up in a living situation where they can't afford beds, or where there are leaky windows or bed bugs, so that the bed they did have is destroyed beyond use."

Holly Hosinski, Seasonal Programs Director at St. Vincent de Paul, added: "As you might imagine, for folks who are living hand to mouth, it is extremely difficult to



Photos provided by Anne Watson

Sweet Dreams Ministry, a program of St. Vincent de Paul in South Bend, provides eligible children in St. Joseph County their own new bed, and a homemade blanket.

gather the amount of money to make a large purchase for a bed, or any furniture, really. That is one of the many rea-

sons this program is so popular."

Before COVID, staff and volunteers delivered the beds and set them up for the families. "The kids were always so excited," Watson remembered. "The parents, too, were very excited and appreciative that their children could have a bed of their own."

During the pandemic, families had to pick up and assemble the beds themselves, which could be an inconvenience if they were without means to move them.

Sweet Dreams Ministry was one of 100 organizations nationwide to win a 2022 State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, totalling \$25,000, which allowed them to have funding up front for the next year. Watson said, "We have never gotten a grant that large for this program, and we are really excited. It's going to help get

new beds to a lot of families."

The Society now hopes to buy up to 50 new beds for their next distribution. Watson and Hosinski are excited that this fall, volunteers from Penske Trucks will deliver new beds to families, relieving the recipients of the difficulty of picking up the beds and supplies themselves.

"This is great for our families, especially since a lot of them have transportation difficulties anyway," Watson added.

Volunteers make homemade fleece blankets for Sweet Dreams Ministry. The blankets add a layer of warmth and personality to each child's new bed. "The blankets add a nice personal touch," remarked Hosinski. "Having fleece blankets in a variety of patterns that would appeal to different ages is a way to make it more personal and sweeter."

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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.

Blood Drive

FORT WAYNE – Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, 7215 St. Joe Rd., will have a blood drive on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. Sign up now online at olghfw.com. Contact Debi Schoedel at 260-485-9615 or info@olghfw.com for information.

Behold: A concert of sacred music

FORT WAYNE — Join a choir of young adults on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. as they fill St. Francis Chapel, University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., with sacred music. This concert is free and open to all. Contact Jessica Schuster at jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com.

Saint Anne's Open Golf Outing

FORT WAYNE — The 1st Annual Saint Anne's Open Golf Outing will be on Thursday, Aug. 18, beginning at 8 a.m. at Autumn Ridge Golf Course. Florida Scramble format-Shotgun Start is \$400 per foursome or \$125 per individual. To register or to sponsor, visit www.sacfw.org. Contact miranda.hauptert@sacfw.org for details.

5th annual Golfing "Fore" the Seminarian Education Fund

FORT WAYNE — Golfing "Fore" the Seminarian Education Fund by the Knights of Columbus #16065 will take place on Saturday, Aug. 20. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch and awards following play. The 18-hole event with starting position for each team is determined by luck of the draw and limited to 23 teams (92 players). Great prizes for lowest score.

Registration now open for a Marriage Encounter Experience

FORT WAYNE — Save the Date! The next Marriage Encounter Experience available in Northeast Indiana has been scheduled for the weekend of October 22-23 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 4916 Trier Rd. Enjoy a weekend of discovery with your spouse during the day on Saturday and Sunday, and return to your own home overnight. More information and applications can be found at www.wwme-ni.org. Contact the WWME application couple at: application@wwme-ni.org.

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. Contact Leo Patiño at 574-549-7717 or Leopatino@live.com for information.

St. Patrick Parish festival planned

SOUTH BEND — St. Patrick Parish, 309 S. Scott St., will have a festival on Saturday, Aug. 13, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit www.stpatricksb.org or contact Karen Horvath at 574-287-8932 or niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com for information.

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Joan Wroblenski, 93, St. Pius X

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Catherine Catazarite, 84, Queen of Peace

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Sister Ruth Evelyn Mauch, CSC, 86, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

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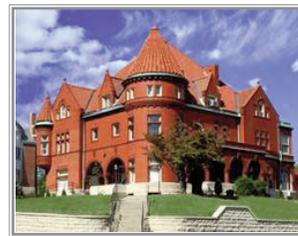
Margareth Folding, 93, St. Adalbert

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