

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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"I Get to Live Eternity Now" – Sisters Profess Final Vows of Love

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Discernment is a long road, as the two newest fully professed Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration know well. Sister M. Mercy Briola, OSF, and Sister Mary Augustine Warrell, OSF, joined the ranks of the Franciscan sisters on Aug. 2 at the Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Mishawaka. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass for their final profession of vows.

Both sisters began discerning their vocations in college. Sister Mercy Briola is from Pittsburgh, and attended a Catholic college in Ohio, Walsh University. Through studying the Bible and joining a prayer group, "I really got to know the Lord there," she said.

A Dominican priest at the college invited anyone who was interested to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, so Sister Mercy began going. "After about a month there, he told me that when sees me praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament, he could see me in a religious habit," she shared.

This shook her, as she had never seen sisters in religious garb before, and she began praying about her life's vocation until the Holy Spirit "tugged on my heart and mind," leading her to religious life. She took several discernment retreats, eventually discovering the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, and was drawn to them for two reasons: the perpetual adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament – where she first heard her calling – and for their foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, who centered her life in prayer.

With degrees in mathematics and mathematical education, Sister Mercy has been serving at Marian High School in Mishawaka as a math teacher. She graduated in May with a Master's in Secondary Math from Ball State University and will return to ministry at Marian after her profession of vows.

Prior to the Aug. 2 date, she said she felt "very peaceful."



Sister Ignatia Henneberry, OSF

Sisters M. Mercy Briola, OSF, and Mary Augustine Warrell, OSF, stand with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades before professing their final vows to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration on Saturday, Aug. 2, in Mishawaka.

"Not everyone is blessed with an eight-year engagement," she remarked. Having lived the life of a religious sister for the past several years, she saw this day as merely an "extension of forever."

"I'm more excited for the lifelong commitment to the Lord and serving His people," she continued.

Sister Mary Augustine Warrell took a long time discerning her call. A native of South Bend, she grew up knowing about the Franciscan sisters' convent in Mishawaka

and even attended a "Come and See" retreat in high school, but by the time she graduated from Indiana University South Bend, she figured she had "given God a chance and went on my merry way."

It was not so merry, however, as she began to experience a restlessness in her soul during her second year of graduate school at Michigan State. She planned to get a Doctorate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, find a Catholic husband, and have a family, but instead she discovered Jesus Christ as the "perfect husband."

She approached her boss

at the time, saying that she was not running away from something, but running toward something better. He advised her to complete her master's degree in a nine-month program before entering the convent on Sept. 1, 2013.

Facing her final profession of vows, Sister Mary Augustine felt very excited. "It's been a long journey," she stated, including an additional year that she had requested for "more interior healing." During those years, she learned that

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From Humble Wooden Church to Cathedral – St. Matthew Celebrates 100 Years

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Honoring a century of Catholic history in South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral Parish celebrated its 100th anniversary at a Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Aug. 14.

Northern Indiana began as mission territory to the Potawatomi, with French priests establishing chapels, followed by Holy Cross priests who founded the college. Catholicism then spread to the surrounding area as immigrants began pouring in. Eventually, South Bend grew because of the jobs created by factories such as Studebaker, leading to the demand for a new church on the city's south-east side. Following World War I, 175 families petitioned for the creation of the first St. Matthew's church, a humble wooden structure built in 1922 by its own members in a section of Oak Park. Father Theodore J. Hammes was its first pastor.

From that simple beginning, who could predict that the church would one day be designated as the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's co-cathedral?

Yesterday

According to the "History of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish," written in 2013 by parishioner (now priest) Father Bob Garrow, the church began with capacity for 240 people, but the population almost tripled within the first year, and the building was expanded. Its rapid



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Father Terry Fisher, Pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, proclaims the Gospel at the 100th anniversary Mass for the parish on Aug. 14, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades along with Father Fisher and Father Mark Thesing, CSC, Weekend Associate at St. Matthew.

growth soon necessitated a school for the parish's children, which was dedicated by Bishop John F. Noll in 1929.

It was under the leadership of the parish's second pastor, Msgr. Arnold Wibbert, who served for 36 years, that the church would go "from

a wooden frame church to a Cathedral," as Father Garrow wrote. Father Wibbert created Central Catholic High School on the second floor of the school, which remained open until 1951. After that, the upper floor became additional classrooms for the growing grade

school.

By 1959, the "tiny wood frame church had run its course,"

according to Father Garrow. In its place was erected a larger brick church, completed on May 29, 1960. Due to the growth of South Bend, Bishop Leo A. Pursley petitioned the Vatican to include that city in the diocese's name. His petition granted, St. Matthew was elevated to the lofty title of co-cathedral for the newly designated Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in a ceremony celebrated by Bishop Pursley 100 years after the dedication of its sister cathedral in Fort Wayne. The bells were the only parts retained from the old church and put into place in the new one.

The change in the diocese's name was reflected in changes to the lower half of the diocesan crest. A six-winged angel added to the crest symbolizes the evangelist St. Matthew, the co-cathedral's patron.

After becoming a cathedral, St. Matthew served as the home to three auxiliary bishops of the diocese: Bishops Joseph Crowley, John Sheets, SJ, and Daniel Jenky, CSC. Bishop Jenky undertook many efforts to improve and expand the cathedral and its grounds before being appointed Bishop of Peoria, Illinois. Then Msgr. Michael Heintz took over as rector for more than 10 years. It was under his leadership that the parish began hosting the

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



yearly Thanksgiving Dinner for those in the surrounding neighborhood, which continues to this day.

In his homily for the day, Bishop Rhoades expounded on much of this history, from the parish's early days up until the modern age. He spoke at length about Bishop Alerding's part in establishing St. Matthew as a parish, which was indicative of the diocese's growth at that time.

"Bishop Alerding also had to face the increasing anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant bigotry during those years, which included the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. He faced those challenges with faith and courage and shepherded the diocese with much wisdom and zeal, even as his health declined."

Bishop Rhoades even used Bishop Alerding's chalice during the celebratory Mass – a beautiful artifact to honor the man who made the anniversary possible.

He continued by recognizing others who aided in the parish through the years. "We remember in our prayers today all the bishops, priests, deacons, religious brothers, and religious sisters who served here at St. Matt's these past 100 years." He also commented on the impact of the aforementioned pastors.

Today

Father Terry Fisher is the current pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral. A son of the parish himself, he stated that: "I joined this parish in 1971, and I first started teaching here and I've been here ever since." He was even ordained to the priesthood there in 1985.

During his tenure of the past seven years, additional improvements to the school and church have been made. The area surrounding the parish has changed, becoming more diversified and a home to families of various cultural backgrounds.

"Our school has grown. We gained 35 new students this year, so it the largest we've had for eight years, so everything is growing," he continued. The school currently serves around 350 students, not including a full preschool class, and takes pride in its Catholic identity through programs like Mission Fridays, where students actively participate in deepening their faith life. Sister Gianna Marie Webber, OSF, serves as principal, and four Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration teach at the school.

St. Matthew maintains outreach to poorer members of the community, both within and outside of the parish. "Our parish is changing rapidly, we've become more of an inner-city parish, and so we're trying to do what we can to keep up with that; to make those changes in the parish," Father Fisher said.

Many more Hispanic and Black families have joined the parish. Father Fisher is proud of the diverse population, calling it "a reflection of the neighborhood we live in."

Another aspect of the charitable work practiced at St. Matthew is "a special fund that we collect that helps families in need." Once called a "Quarter Collection," the once-a-month-collection now brings in more dollar bills than quarters, according to Father Fisher.

Bishop Rhoades also spoke

about the parishioners in his homily. "Of course, it is faith-filled lay people who form the community of a parish. You, following your ancestors in the faith here at St. Matt's, strive to live the Gospel of Jesus as a community of faith, hope, and charity."

"Thank you for your commitment to the parish and its future. Thank you for your generous sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure for your parish, a sign of your love for Christ and for the Church."

Tomorrow

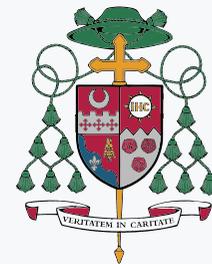
Father Fisher hopes to see continued growth in the parish for years to come. One plan that members of the parish hope to accomplish would be to tear down the old convent and build a parish center connected to the church so that parishioners can easily access events after Mass without leaving the shelter of the building.

Ending his homily by speaking of Jesus' desire to set the world on fire, Bishop Rhoades expressed his deepest expectation for the continued future of the parish. "I pray that, after 100 years, building on the legacy of all the faithful who have gone before you, you will continue to spread the fire of God's love, so needed in the world today. As a parish under the title of St. Matthew the apostle and evangelist, may you have the apostolic fire and evangelical fervor that comes from the Holy Spirit to grow and flourish in your holy mission. May God bless you and may St. Matthew intercede for you!"



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, Aug. 23: 11 a.m. – Blessing of "All Saints" Columbarium, Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, Aug. 25: noon – Saint Anne Communities Board of Directors Meeting, St. Anne Community, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, Aug. 25: 4 p.m. – Catholic Charities Board Meeting, Bishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Friday, Aug. 26: 8:15 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, Aug. 27: 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, LaGrange
 Sunday, Aug. 28: 10 a.m. – Homily at Melkite Divine Liturgy, Malloy Hall Chapel, University of Notre Dame
 Tuesday, Aug. 30: 10:30 a.m. – Presbyteral Council Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
 Wednesday, Aug. 31: 11 a.m. – Mass of the Holy Spirit, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, Sept. 1: 10:30 a.m. – Mass, Catholic School Mission Day, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne
 Friday, Sept. 2: 10:30 a.m. – Mass, Catholic School Mission Day, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend
 Saturday, Sept. 3: 8 a.m. – Mass, diaconate candidates and spouses, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw



Priest announcements

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

Reverend Arthur Joseph Ssembajja, from Administrator, St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend to Pastor, St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend, effective Aug. 22, 2022.

Reverend Mark Enemali, CSSp, from Administrator, Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn to Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, effective Aug. 22, 2022.



Bishop Rhoades converses with parishioners outside St. Matthew Cathedral after the centennial Mass on Aug. 14. The parish has grown since its founding and membership has become as diverse as the population of the area surrounding it.

Scam Warning

There have been reports of members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receiving emails from addresses that appear to be from their parish priests or even Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades asking for favors of money or gift cards, sometimes in the guise of helping a loved one in need. Please be aware that these emails are not from your priest or the bishop. They are phishing scams, using email addresses very similar to a priest's (usually one letter different) or a hacked account. Do not respond to these emails. Delete and block any emails from these addresses. Please know that no priest or bishop would ever request money or gift cards from their parishioners, particularly through an email. If you suspect your priest's email might have been hacked, please inform him of the suspicious activity.

Manifesting the Beauty of the Catholic Church for 150 Years

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The mission of St. Peter Parish is “To live the true, good, and beautiful,” something the parish that calls itself “the splendor of the south side” has endeavored to exemplify for 150 years and counting. On Aug. 13, dozens of parishioners, families, and well-wishers attended the opening event, a Mass and festival, for its 150th anniversary celebration.

The cornerstone of the church was laid on Aug. 11, so the opening celebration for the parish’s 150th year, held on the Saturday closest to that historic event, commemorated that. In his homily, Father Patrick Hake, Pastor of St. Peter, spoke about the importance of a cornerstone, not only for the building itself, but for the parish and the community as a whole. He also elaborated on the Gospel reading, where Jesus said that He came to set the world on fire. Father Hake reminded those present that they, too, must be on fire for Christ and to lead others to the truth of the Church.

After Mass, Father Hake commented about the mission of the parish. “Our parish has been so blessed these past 150 years with such beauty here, and our goal is to pass that on to the next generation, to let everyone know who Christ is more fully, and just love Him more fully. That’s why we exist, to help them encounter Christ.”

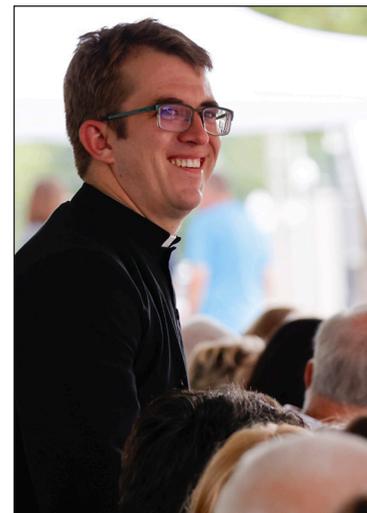
The celebration included much more than food and fellowship. Parish artifacts from the diocesan archives were put on display in the parish hall for visitors to see. Additionally, a collection of relics were on display. Father Hake placed a relic of St. Peter, also a part of that collection, on the high altar for the Mass.

Parishioners offered Church tours for those interested in viewing the stunning Gothic-style church and learning about its long history. Grace Johnston led some of those tours. A parishioner for roughly 16 years and member of the Rosary Sodality, she stated that leading the tours helped her learn more about the parish history that she had not known before. One story she told was why the parish was formed.

By the late 1800s, St. Mary Mother of God Parish, several blocks away, “was already a parish, but there were children who lived in this area and went



Photos by Jennifer Barton



Father Patrick Hake, Pastor of St. Peter Parish.

to St. Mary’s for school, and they were parishioners there and they had to cross the railroad tracks. Unfortunately, a little girl was killed by a train crossing the tracks. And so, they had this built here,” she said.

When German immigrants began to flood into Fort Wayne, particularly the southeast side, they populated St. Peter in the years after the Civil War. The stations of the cross demonstrate this heritage. The German writing on the bottom of the wooden frames was rediscovered years ago after being covered up during the anti-German sentiments of World War I.

During the Second World War, the parish had grown so large that six Masses were celebrated on Sundays. The present church building hits a milestone this year, as well, turning 130.

Johnston began coming to the parish years ago with her husband, who grew up at St. Mary Mother of God before the old, Gothic church burned down in the 1990s, and she said that he missed that style of church. They had been attending another church, but came to visit St. Peter and “we really felt pulled to this church, so we came here.”

At the festival, Fort Wayne

City Councilman Tom Didier came to read a proclamation from Mayor Tom Henry that declared Aug. 11, 2022, St. Peter’s Catholic Church 150th Anniversary Day, in honor of the spiritual welfare provided to the community by the parish for so many years.

But the parish is looking toward the future, and celebrating its recent growth. Both Johnston and Father Hake remarked on the numerous young families that have joined the parish over the last few years. Johnston spoke of the catechetical program undertaken at the parish, which involves both the children and their parents.

St. Peter has another rather unique aspect that many people, even parishioners, did not know about. It is a shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and weekly devotions to her have been reinstated on Wednesday evenings prior to Mass.

The parish festival was only the beginning of the celebration. Father Hake commented that the next event will be a scavenger hunt through the parish and Jacob Laskowski, who has been coordinating the anniversary events, said, “Every month we have a different thing that we are focused on, just to really bring the community in to St. Peter’s: the Catholic community, the neighborhood, and the greater Fort Wayne community, to help them experience the beauty that we have here.”

One of these is a collaboration between the parish and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to present tours of the artwork inside the church in February. The researcher for that project, interestingly, is a recent hire of the museum and a new member of the parish.

The high point for the parish festivities will be a Mass of rededication celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on January 8. For updates on parish activities, please visit saint-petersfortwayne.org/.

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Saturday, October 1, 2022

7:30 a.m.: Sacramental Confession, Holy Rosary, 1st Saturday Devotions

9 a.m.: Holy Sacrifice of the Mass @ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

11 a.m.: Breakfast at Grand Wayne Center with Guest Speaker
Dr. Paul Kengor
Author of *The Pope and The President* and *The Devil and Karl Marx*

Tickets: Adult ~ \$15 ~ Children 6-10 ~ \$5
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Historic Legislative Session Advances Cause of Protecting Human Life, Provides Economic Relief for Families

Following the historic special session of the state legislature that concluded on Aug. 5 after two weeks of emotional debate, the Catholic Church in Indiana hailed the strides made in protecting life and supporting mothers and families while calling for more work to be done.

This month, Indiana became the first state in the nation to enact a new law extending legal protection to unborn babies in the wake of the June 24 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The *Dobbs* decision overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that had declared a constitutional right to an abortion, returning the regulation of the procedure to the states.

The Indiana Statehouse was the epicenter of intense debate on all sides of the abortion issue beginning on July 25, when lawmakers returned to Indianapolis for the special legislative session that originally had been intended to focus solely on providing relief for Hoosiers from soaring inflation. The two-week effort culminated in a marathon session on Aug. 5, resulting in the passage of groundbreaking legislation including Senate Bill 1, a measure significantly limiting abortion that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law late that night.

"Following the overturning of *Roe*, I stated clearly that I would be willing to support legislation that made progress in protecting life," Holcomb said. "In my view, Senate Enrolled Act 1 accomplishes this goal following its passage in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly with a solid majority of support. These actions followed

long days of hearings filled with sobering and personal testimony from citizens and elected representatives on this emotional and complex topic. Ultimately, those voices shaped and informed the final contents of the legislation and its carefully negotiated exceptions to address some of the unthinkable circumstances a woman or unborn child might face."

The legislation, which goes into effect Sept. 15, bans both surgical and chemical abortions with some exceptions. Those include pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (within 10 weeks of fertilization), and in cases of lethal fetal anomalies or to save the life of the mother (up to 20 weeks post-fertilization).

In addition, the measure terminates the licensure of all abortion centers and requires abortions to be performed in hospitals or surgical centers owned by hospitals. Currently, nearly all abortions in Indiana take place in abortion centers.

The five Catholic bishops of Indiana hailed the legislation as an important step forward in respecting the dignity of life, which is at the apex of Catholic social teaching.

"With Senate Enrolled Act 1 passed and signed into law by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, we remain steadfast in our efforts to build a culture of life and to protect the God-given dignity and humanity of all unborn babies and their mothers in our state," said Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. "Our faith calls us to be voices for the voiceless, and we will continue to support all efforts to legally protect human life from the moment of conception until natural death."

Leaders of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), which

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

represents the state's Catholic bishops and serves as the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana, were among those to offer testimony during the special session. While praising lawmakers for their "difficult work," the ICC had called for additional clarification on certain aspects of the legislation – including stronger definitions for the exceptions.

"We support the general prohibition of abortion and the exception for the life of the mother because there are two human persons involved – each with a distinct right to life," said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, during testimony before a House committee.

The two-week special session, which garnered national media attention, was marked by regular protests outside and inside the Statehouse, with shouts from activists often reaching inside the chambers.

"The atmosphere was tense but mostly respectful," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC. "Both sides acknowledged that they felt

much was at stake. I believe that most just wanted to be heard even if they didn't change any hearts or minds.

"From our standpoint, while this legislation doesn't completely line up with Catholic social teaching, it does get us much closer to protecting more lives," Espada added. "It was a difficult two weeks, and many people turned to prayer and searched their hearts regarding this matter. This was evident in the testimonies from the public and the statements of the legislators. I appreciate the honesty and civility of all those involved."

Although not as contentious or emotionally charged, debate surrounding the other key objective of the special session – providing inflation relief for the people of Indiana – was also of keen interest to the ICC. Senate Bill 2, which was also signed into law on Aug. 5, includes a \$200 tax refund to Hoosiers, along with \$45 million to support pregnant women, postpartum mothers, babies, and families.

The ICC had testified on the similar House Bill 1001, which was ultimately absorbed into Senate Bill 2. The legislation includes other provisions to support families, including increasing the adoption tax credit, suspending the sales tax on diapers, and extending postpartum care under Medicaid to 12 months.

"Today, I proudly signed Senate Enrolled Act 2 to return

\$1 billion back to Hoosier taxpayers," Holcomb said in a statement on Aug. 5. "This fulfills what I set out to accomplish when calling the General Assembly into special session in order to help Hoosiers hurting from historically high inflation."

The governor added that he appreciates the "long overdue increased funding to support the health of our Hoosier mothers and babies."

"While there is still more to do, better access and awareness of all of our programs will be critical to improving our infant and maternal mortality rates – a long-standing priority of my administration," Holcomb said.

An amendment to the legislation allows for funds for natural family planning education, which is encouraged by the Church.

Looking ahead to the regular legislative session that will begin in January, the ICC vows to redouble its efforts to promote a culture of life and help mothers and children in need.

"Mothers and babies will need our support like never before," Espada said. "As always, the Catholic Church will be at the forefront of those endeavors."

For more information and ways to get involved with the ICC and its mission, visit www.indi-anacc.org.

Claire Dwyer - Heather King - Father Jason Smith - Mary Jo Parrish

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Hong Kong: Five-Day Trial Set for Cardinal Zen, Four Defendants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – At a pre-trial hearing in Hong Kong, a judge set a five-day trial for Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium and four other defendants who face charges of failing to properly register a now-defunct fund to help anti-government protesters. According to an Aug. 9 report by the Hong Kong Free Press news agency, Magistrate Ada Yim announced that the trial will take place on Sept. 19-23 after asking prosecutors and the defendants' lawyers if five days would be sufficient for the court to hear the case. Both sides agreed. The 90-year-old cardinal was detained on May 11 under China's national security law. However, he and the four others were charged with failing to properly register the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, set up to offer financial assistance to those involved in anti-government protests in 2019. It was disbanded last year after coming under scrutiny by authorities. Lawyers for both sides will argue whether the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund fell under Hong Kong's Societies Ordinance, which regulates registered and exempted associations. The Hong Kong Free Press reported that prosecutors and defense lawyers also will argue whether the defendants held any positions of authority within the relief fund.

Berra, Hodges Lead Winners in Balloting for Catholic Baseball All-Star Team

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) – Yogi Berra, Gil Hodges, Derek Jeter, Babe Ruth, Whitey Ford, and Connie Mack were among the first-place winners Catholic voters chose in online balloting for an all-time Catholic baseball all-star team. Nearly 2,000 Catholic baseball fans across the country cast their votes in a ballot hosted by Catholic Athletes for Christ. The Alexandria-based nonprofit organization hosted the online voting platform during June and July, and 1,969 fans selected their top choice at each baseball position, including three selections for outfielder and pitcher, as well as for manager, general manager, and broadcaster. Winners were announced on July 19. The platform included links to background information on all 92 candidates on the ballot; it also identified players as members of the Baseball Hall of Fame and noted if they were members of the Knights of Columbus. "The all-time Catholic baseball all-star team campaign created a buzz on social media and highlighted just how many great players were practicing Catholics," Ray McKenna, President and

NEWS BRIEFS

Lightning Suspected in Fire at Rockford, Illinois' Oldest Catholic Church



CNS photo/Penny Wiegert, Diocese of Rockford

Looking for more hotspots, firefighters cut away sections of the roof at St. James Church in Rockford, Ill. on Aug. 8, 2022. Lightning is thought to have caused the three-alarm fire at the 155-year-old Catholic church, the oldest in the city of Rockford.

Founder of Catholic Athletes for Christ, said in a statement. "The winners in each category represent the very best players in baseball history and Catholic gentlemen both on and off the baseball diamond," he said.

Health Care Workers Denied Religious Exemption on Vaccine Win Settlement

CHICAGO (CNS) – Liberty Counsel, a Christian legal group, announced that a settlement it called historic has been reached with an Illinois hospital system over denying its employees a religious exemption to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The NorthShore University HealthSystem has agreed to pay out more than \$10.3 million in a "historic, first-of-its-kind class-action settlement" against a private employer, the group said. The settlement was filed on July 29 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois' eastern division. The Evanston-based health care system, which recently merged with Edward-Elmhurst Health, is the third-largest health care deliv-

ery system in the state. It has nine hospitals and more than 300 local offices offering various clinical services; the merged system now stretches across six northeast Illinois counties. The court must approve the settlement, the Chicago-based Liberty Counsel said in a statement. "Employees of NorthShore who were denied religious exemptions will receive notice of the settlement," it said, "and will have an opportunity to comment, object, request to opt out, or submit a claim form for payment out of the settlement fund, all in accordance with deadlines that will be set by the court."

Catholic Agencies Feel Pinch of Fewer Donations for School-Supply Drives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – Each year at back-to-school-time, many parents are in sticker shock about school-supply costs. This year, with inflation, is no exception as parents pay more for everything from notebooks to backpacks and calculators. Never mind shoes and clothes, and for some, laptops.

The National Retail Federation reported in June that school-supply prices were expected to increase by 40 percent and one loan company said 37 percent of parents with school-age children said they are unable to afford back-to-school shopping. Last year, many families had help with these purchases through the government's monthly payments with its child tax credit. This year, not only are families feeling the pinch, but service agencies are seeing a decrease in donations. Catholic Charities agencies around the country are helping with annual school-supply drives to get backpacks and notebooks in the hands of as many students as possible. "Unfortunately, the decrease in donations makes it harder to serve those that are in need the most," said Amy Lambert, community resources coordinator for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

Nigerian Officials Say They've Arrested Six Linked to Pentecost Attacks

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS) –

Nigerian officials identified six suspects arrested in connection with the June 5 attack that killed 40 people at St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo. Maj. Gen. Jimmy Akpor, Defense Department Spokesman, said all were linked to the Islamic State West Africa Province group. He said the arrests were made through a joint effort of military and defense officials. Akpor said a preliminary investigation showed that "Idris Abdulmalik Omeiza was the mastermind of the terror attack on the Catholic Church in Owo as well as the attack on a police station" in Kogi state on June 23. In the second attack, a police officer was killed and weapons were stolen. Omeiza is sometimes known as Bin Malik. Police also arrested Momoh Otohu Abubakar, Aliyu Yusuf Itopa, and Auwal Ishaq Onimisi for the Owo attack, in which attackers sneaked into a Pentecost Mass with explosives. Akpor confirmed on Aug. 10 that the four were arrested on Aug. 1. On Aug. 11, Akpor said officials had arrested two more suspects: Al-Qasim Idris and Abdulhaleem Idris. Officials did not release a motive for the attack.

Amid Grief and Loss, Long-Term Recovery is on Horizon for Eastern Kentucky

LEXINGTON, KY. (CNS) – Mother of Good Counsel Church in Hazard, Kentucky, tolled its bell as Mass ended on Aug. 7, while parishioners named a litany of communities devastated by deadly flooding at the end of July. The Mass began with a candle lighting in memory of the 37 confirmed deaths when floodwaters swept away whole communities in eastern Kentucky. The paschal candle burned in memory of those still missing. "You could see it was emotional for those who were affected," said Lori Helfrich, the Parish Life Director. During the litany, "people named the places as they came (to mind) and the community said, 'We remember.' Everyone can tell you about someone who has lost their house and nearly everyone can tell you about someone who has died or is missing or unaccounted for," she said, noting that three parish families had to abandon their homes. "It's important to do that ritual piece because it helps us process it and it says we're not forgetting this." Helfrich hopes everyone continues to remember eastern Kentucky for at least the next year, as people and their communities recover. "It will be a long haul," she said. "There truly is a lot of destruction. It looks like the remnants of a tornado or a hurricane." Donations to recovery efforts can be made at catholiccharitieslexington.org. Designate contributions for disasters.

Family-owned Businesses Support Terminally Ill

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

On July 29, Tom's Car Care Center in South Bend sponsored their 17th Lube-A-Thon, with all proceeds going to the Center for Hospice Care and the Hospice Foundation.

At the time of the first Lube-A-Thon in 1998, customers and friends had praised the compassionate approach of hospice, but the Zmyslo family, founders of Tom's Car Care, had no personal experience with it. Since that time, current owner Dennis Zmyslo's grandparents have benefited from hospice care, making the cause even more meaningful.

There is a popular misconception that enrolling in hospice is almost like a death sentence, an admission of defeat. However, the hospice philosophy is to help patients and their loved ones experience the best possible quality of life, even as they face the end of their lives. It is designed for individuals who have chosen to forego aggressive or life-extending treatment for a progressive or incurable illness. They choose instead to spend their final days with minimal pain.

The local community-based Center for Hospice Care serves nine counties in north-central Indiana. Part of its hospice care includes three programs focused on specialized attention for those facing chronic challenges: HeartWize, BreatheEasy, and DementiaCare. In addition to home health care, caregiver support, education, and grief support, the organization sponsors a seven-bed facility in Elkhart, Esther's House, and the twelve-bed Ernestine M. Raclin House on the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka. They regard as essential not only skilled nursing care and pain management, but also mental, emotional, spiritual, and whole-family support.

The Hospice Foundation of America is a national organization. Its role is to provide leadership in the hospice movement, with particular emphasis on the vital role of



Provided by Jill Boughton

The Zmyslo men, Dennis with his sons Johnathon, Kevin, Zachary, and his father Tom help give to those in need of hospice care through three businesses: Tom's Car Care, Water Works Car Wash, and Coffee Spots Café.



Cars lined up for a previous Lube-A-Thon.

Hospice within the U.S. health care system. This not-for-profit organization funds professional development, research, and public education about caregiving, grieving, and advance planning. The Hospice Foundation helps places like Center for Hospice Care to raise funds to assure that no one is ever turned away, regardless of ability to pay. That's why fundraisers like the Lube-A-Thon play a vital role.

During the all-day Lube-A-Thon, a \$45 minimum

donation gets customers an oil change, a basic car wash, a goodie bag, and breakfast or lunch. The entire amount is given to hospice. The oil company provides the oil; other supplies and labor are donated.

Tom's Car Care was founded in 1988 by Tom and Diane Zmyslo and moved three years later to its current location at the corner where Sugar Maple Court intersects Bendix Drive. On that block, the Zmyslos run three related businesses:

– Tom's Car Care offers

10-minute oil changes, tire rotation, and replacement of parts like lights, belts, and wiper blades.

– Water Works Car Wash enables customers to clean their vehicles after service visits via an automatic drive-through wash and self-serve bays. The car wash is the only one of the three businesses open on Sundays, due to popular demand.

– Coffee Spot Café began as a place where customers could await the servicing of their vehicles, but soon evolved from coffee to homemade soups and sandwiches. It is now a stand-alone neighborhood food spot.

Before adding in this year's donations, the Zmyslo family had raised more than \$82,000 in total for compassionate end-of-life care.

"It's never too soon to start thinking about end-of-life

finance committee, but that's all he can manage given the long hours he puts in at the business. He's proud of the fact that the parish gives a percentage of its collections back to the community, so he finds ways to do the same.

Without any pressure, Dennis's customers are given the opportunity to donate to every school or parish sale, and he'll even promote fundraisers on behalf of customers. However, life issues are particularly dear to his heart. Faithful to Catholic social teaching, he donates generously not only to hospice but also to beginning-of-life causes like Right to Life Michiana and the Women's Care Center.

"I believe you get back what you give to the community. In fact, we get more than we give. We're appreciative of the tremendous response to our Lube-A-Thon every time we hold the event."

Dennis began working at Tom's right out of high school and learned on the job until he and wife Christine were ready to purchase the business from his parents. Christine stayed home when their three children were small, but now works as an occupational therapist at South Bend Orthopedics. She has also frequently pitched in at Tom's, as have all the children. Founders Tom and Diane have also been on hand to help with the Lube-A-Thon event.

"We feel a special connection to our community since three generations of our family have been engaged in the business. The Lube-A-Thon is a nice way for us to show support for the community that supports us," Dennis said. "It's also a lot of fun. We enjoy coming together with employees and volunteers to help Center for Hospice Care by staging our Lube-A-Thon."

issues," said Dennis.

Like his parents Tom and Diane, who founded the business, Dennis has belonged to Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend all his life. Dennis serves as an usher and is on the

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And they were filled with the Holy Spirit
Acts 2:4

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION RETREAT

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Saint Joseph High School

diocesefwsb.org/confirmation-retreat

Letter art courtesy of Carmen Stephanie Nunez, Saint Joseph High School

Celebrating the Joys of Priesthood at Golden Jubilee Mass

BY ERIC PEAT

A few days before his Golden Jubilee Mass celebrating 50 years as a priest, Father Bill Sullivan opened up a box that had been sitting in storage for quite some time. Inside it were all the cards he received at his ordination to the priesthood back in 1972.

"I always told myself, if I ever get to my 50th, I'm going to read them all again," said Father Sullivan. "So, I did just the other day, and all the memories just came flooding back."

These memories from the last half century – along with many of the friends and family members who helped make them – were at the forefront of Father Sullivan's mind as he celebrated his Golden Jubilee Mass on Aug. 7 at his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne.

"Just your presence blows me away," remarked Father Sullivan to begin Mass, as he greeted the nearly 30 priests and hundreds of lay people in attendance. "Thank all of you for gathering today. In a very special way, I'd like to thank Bishop Rhoades, my brother priests, my family sitting here, and each and every one of you."

Indeed, represented in the congregation were former parishioners from each and every one of Father Sullivan's priestly assignments. But the connections extended even



Photos by Eric Peat

Hundreds of former parishioners, family members, and friends filled the pews at Father Sullivan's Golden Jubilee Mass at St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne on Aug. 7.

beyond that, as Father Wayne Jenkins, a classmate of Father Sullivan at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati was present to proclaim the Gospel.

Then it was Father Sullivan's turn to address those gathered. In his homily, he credited "two giants of this diocese" with giving him a firm foundation: Monsignor

Edward Hession, with whom Father Sullivan spent his diaconate, and Monsignor William Lester, who served alongside Father Sullivan at his first parish. He also referenced St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, and the joys of ministering to others as a member of the clergy.

"How blessed I have been,

as my brother priests are as well, to serve as a mediator between God and God's children," said Father Sullivan. "As a priest, each of us has been walking with you, guiding you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that at the end of our pilgrimage here on earth, we may be reunited with those who have gone before us in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Throughout his homily, Father Sullivan reflected on his different stops on his priestly journey. From St. Jude in Fort Wayne, where Father Sullivan first engaged in hospital ministry, to Bishop Dwenger High School, where he served as chaplain and teacher – though "my family disowned me" as a proud alum of rival Bishop Luers High School – Father Sullivan recalled key memories and events along the way. He recounted his travels from St. Joseph in Fort Wayne to St. Monica in Mishawaka, then to St. Thomas in Elkhart and

finally to St. John the Baptist in New Haven. However, his church family continues to grow in retirement, as Father Sullivan has been active filling in wherever he is needed.

"I've been fortunate since I retired to go to 15 parishes to say Mass, and many others to hear confessions. Some of these parishes I had never been to before in my 50 years. Some of the priests I hardly knew at all, but now I know them a lot better. We have a fraternity that is very, very special."

Father Sullivan ended his homily by sharing a personal message affirming the sacramental life of the Church. He highlighted three sacraments in particular – the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and the Anointing of the Sick – and recalled various ways that each have touched his life.

"To sum it all up," said Father Sullivan, "if one of you were to ask me, 'Would you do it all over again,' my response

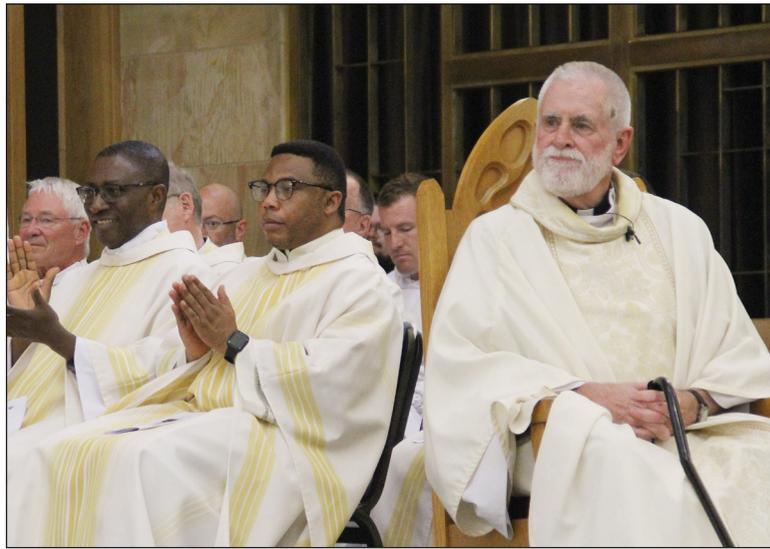
Father Bill,
we are forever grateful for your service to our parish!
Congratulations on your 50th Jubilee!
Love,
the faith family of St. Monica



ST. THOMAS PARISH CONGRATULATES

FATHER BILL SULLIVAN ON HIS 50 YEAR JUBILEE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR PARISH.



Father Sullivan is congratulated by nearly 30 priests in attendance at his Golden Jubilee Mass.

would be a resounding, "Yes."

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stepped forward to share a few words of gratitude to Father Sullivan. Describing him as "a gift to our diocese," Bishop Rhoades thanked Father Sullivan for his leadership, charity, and dedicated service, particularly to those less fortunate.

"One thing that has edified me so much since I've been here has been Father Bill's devotion to the service of the poor, the sick, the disabled, the elderly, and those in hospitals and nursing homes," said Bishop Rhoades. "Father Bill, that's really the heart of the good shepherd, and I thank you for that."

Bishop Rhoades also commended Father Sullivan for championing Catholic education throughout his priesthood, from his time teaching at Bishop Dwenger to his contin-

ued support of Bishop Luers, and every stop in between. Bishop's final blessing captured the love of Christ that Father Sullivan so often shared with his parishioners.

"Father Bill, I thank you for being a truly exemplary servant of the Lord. I join my voice to so many who have been touched by God's grace through your priestly life and ministry. May the Lord continue to pour out his graces upon you, bless you with good health, and watch over you."

Following Mass, a reception was held at St. John the Baptist School. As hundreds gathered to offer congratulations and thank Father Sullivan for the gift of his priesthood, the words of his homily illustrating the reciprocal nature of his vocation rang true: "How fortunate I was to have ministered with you and having been ministered by you."

Holy Smokes! – Serving Up Communal Life

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Grilling brings people together, no doubt about that. The scent of cooking meat floating on the summer breeze, chairs gathered around a sizzling grill, and laughter and conversations all draw people in like nothing else in American culture.

A love of cooking over an open fire motivated Father Michael Ammer, Parochial Vicar at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, to use his gifts – and his Yoder pellet smoker – to dish up a hearty portion of communal life along with brisket and pulled pork. "In order to have brisket or pulled pork or ribs, you can't really make it just for yourself, you have to cook it in large portions, so I'm forced to have people over," he joked. That's what his ministry is about – getting to know his parishioners and building community at St. Jude.

Open to members of the parish community, Father Ammer began his ministry – now called Holy Smokes – last year. Almost immediately after his ordination, he went to Warsaw to pick up his new grill and got cooking.

He recalled one of his first parishioner cookouts, in which two families who had been active in the parish for years met each other for the first time. "That was a good one," he said.

Since its kickoff, Father Ammer has worked to expand the ministry,

hosting a neighborhood cookout and a handful of "Barbeque and Bourbon" nights. Though he doesn't plan any talks in advance and likes the more relaxed atmosphere of these nights, he has been party to fruitful conversations during these events. The next event is scheduled for Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. and interested parties can RSVP by calling Kris Church at the parish office.

Father Ammer has also hosted other priests from around the Fort Wayne-area for fellowship and outreach. And certainly, Monsignor Robert Schulte, Pastor of St. Jude Parish, "has not complained" at all about Father Ammer's savory ministry.

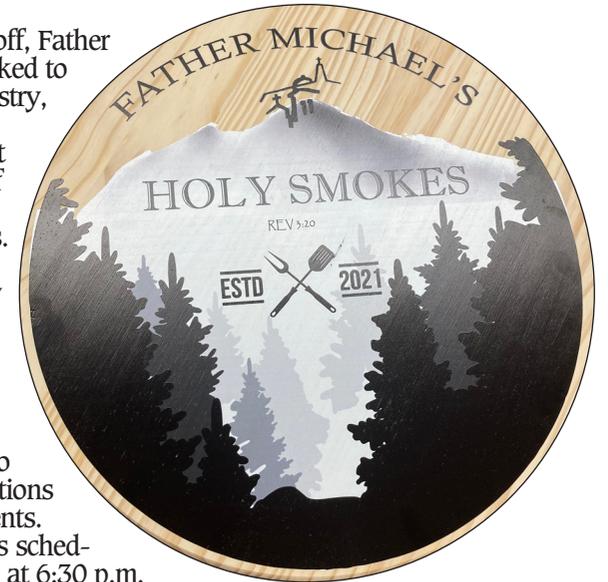
Additionally, there's something to be said for the collective experience of grilling. "I have a lot of guys come up to me, especially before Mass, saying, 'so what are you cooking now?' The funny thing is, I usually do have something on the grill at that moment," Father Ammer said.

Parishioners who want to partake in the priestly cookout can simply call the parish office and request a day. He has received a good deal of interest from members of the parish, but still has many openings available, particularly on Sunday afternoons, that singles, couples, or families can select to attend a cookout at the rectory.

St. Jude parishioner Crystal Myers not only attended a Holy Smokes event, she created a wooden sign for Father Ammer's ministry. She recalls his first Mass at the parish and how he mentioned that parishioners often invite priests into their homes. He turned the tables by opening his home to "those who would like to share a meal with him," she said.

"I recall thinking how bold of an invitation that was, only because I'd never heard of any priest doing something similar. It made me excited to see what else he was planning to bring to our St. Jude."

Myers describes herself as an introvert who would not have been "brave enough" to accept his invitation herself, though her mother-in-law, Elizabeth, was. A group of the Myers family attended the barbeque along with another parish family. They spent the time eating and "getting to know each other in a very welcoming environment where you could feel the Holy



Spirit was present."

She says his ministry is about creating opportunity – "Opportunity to meet someone you may have otherwise never gotten the chance to know. An opportunity to enjoy a home-cooked meal from a priest who genuinely cares about those around him. An opportunity to bring a friend to a welcoming environment where the Holy Spirit can be present and bring comfort. And most importantly, an opportunity to allow conversation about your spiritual life and Jesus' love for us."

With the help of a cousin, Myers created the circular sign based on Father Ammer's fondness for hiking and biking, so it reflects elements of the outdoors. She incorporated the St. Jude logo onto the sign to remind him of his first parish family.

She stated, "I will never understand the struggles and hardships of being a priest, but I can only imagine how difficult they may be. I wanted the sign to be a remembrance for him to keep pushing forward and to answer the callings God is giving him."

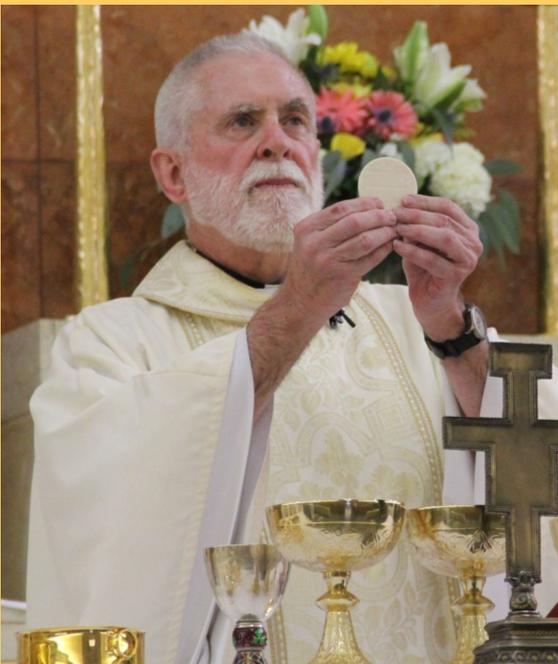
There are several hopes that Father Ammer holds for the future of his ministry. One is that he can use it as a means to feed the poor both physically and spiritually. He also hopes that when the time comes for him to move to another parish, he can continue his ministry there and that whoever takes his place will keep the coals burning at St. Jude. Lastly, he has no ownership of the "Holy Smokes" name and simply wants to be the spark that ignites other fires, where more barbeque aficionados use the name to host their own community-building cookouts.

"I want to show people that there are ministries beyond the church," he concluded.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me." – Rev. 3:20

Fr. Bill Sullivan

Congratulations and God bless you as you celebrate 50 years as a priest! From your parish family at St. John's, New Haven.



May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Nigeria Trip Deepens Relationship with

BY JENNIFER BARTON

“There is a neat bond between our diocese and Nigeria,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades after his two-week trip to Nigeria in July. “I think these visits will help build that bond.”

During his visit, Bishop Rhoades witnessed the extraordinary faith life of the African nation’s Catholic population, as he ordained one deacon and 26 new priests from two separate dioceses, and confirmed 99 children at one parish alone. Father Francis Chukwuma, Administrator of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, accompanied the bishop on his trip and even introduced Bishop Rhoades to his parents at his father’s 90th birthday party. Father Chukwuma called this “the highlight of the day” for his family members.

Bishop Rhoades spent much of his trip in the Awka and Nnewi Dioceses, where he celebrated the ordinations, though he also traveled into the newly created Ekwulobia Diocese – where he was able to meet Cardinal-designate Peter Eberchukwu Okpaleke – and to both Lagos and Onitsha Archdioceses. The parishes and schools that he visited welcomed him warmly, presenting him with generous gifts.

The trip came about in part due to the connection between Father Chukwuma and Bishop Jonas Okoye of the Nnewi Diocese, who previously led Father Chukwuma’s home diocese of Awka. Originally planned for 2020, travel restrictions halted that visit. But when Father Chukwuma visited his home last year and again asked Bishop Okoye if he would still welcome a visit from Bishop Rhoades, he was told that the invitation was indeed open. As Bishop Okoye was transferred from Awka to Nnewi during the planning stage, Bishop Rhoades and Father Chukwuma made it a point to include Nnewi Diocese in the visit. Interestingly, Bishop Okoye once served within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka for two years at the turn of the millennium.

The visit included Masses at one boys’ school and two girls’ schools. “Education is very valued in Nigeria,” Bishop Rhoades commented. “This is the legacy of the Holy Ghost Fathers,” who came mostly from Ireland to spread Catholicism in Africa.

A new Catholic university that administrators are hoping will open at least in part in October demonstrates that. Peter University in Achina-Onneh, Anambra State, is a joint effort of Awka and Ekwulobia Dioceses, focused on areas of study such as nursing, and Bishop Rhoades hopes to see a relationship built between it and the University of Notre Dame.

Father Chukwuma spoke on the importance of this trip and any other

potential visit to his home country. “Each area, they bring a lot to the whole mission of Jesus Christ, you know; bringing the Gospel to every nation, to everybody. And when we have different people and interactions like this, encounters like this will help to build missionaries, so to say, that instructs them and informs them in the global perspective about evangelization, about mission of Christ, about the joy of the Gospel, which then they can communicate.”

He invited other priests and even seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to consider visiting Nigeria. “That partnership is really going a long way to help the mission of the Church in general.”

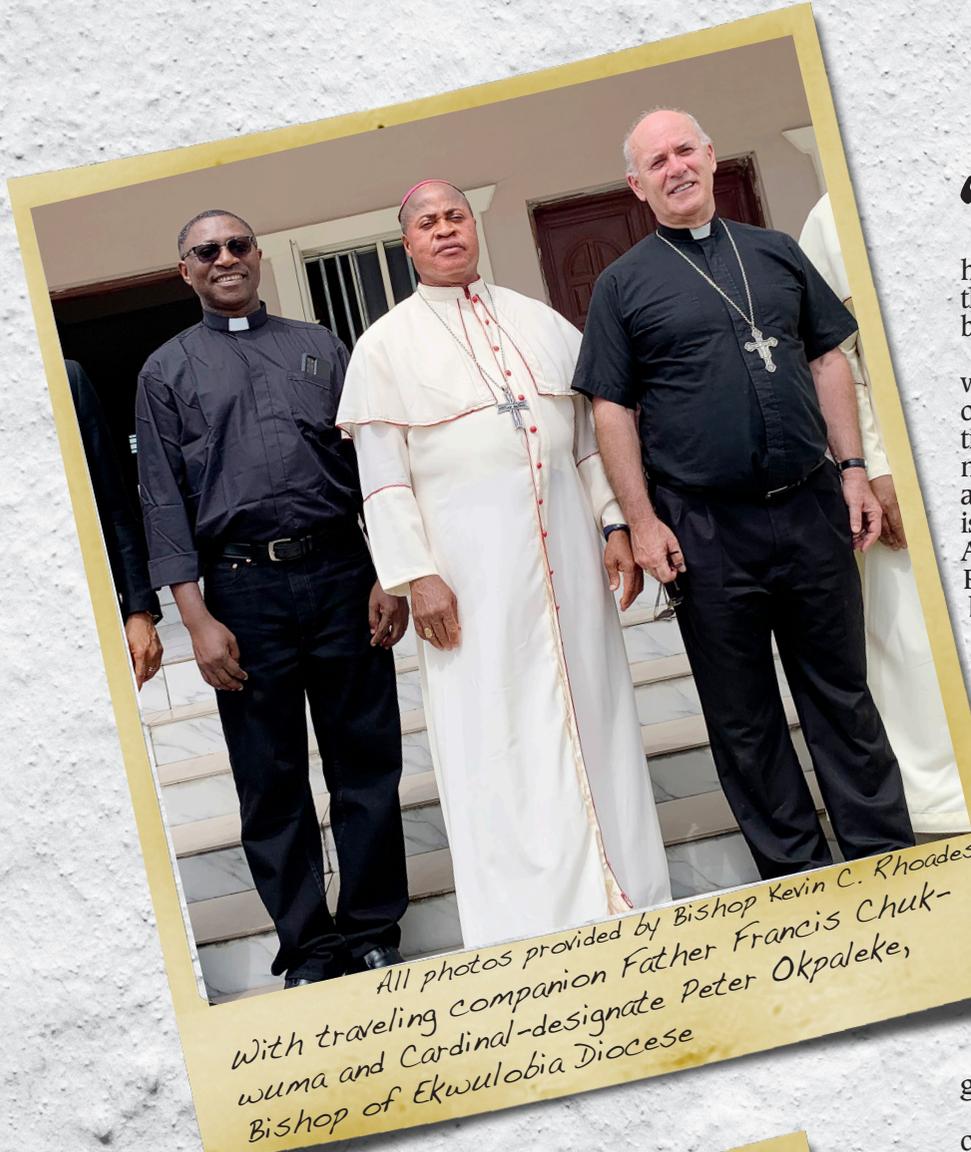
Witnessing the country’s culture, he believes, will make local priests better able to minister to the Nigerian people who have made their home in northeast Indiana. “It will make them feel at home more, it will encounter them. So that’s a lot of good that will come out of that partnership.”

“We appreciate that the bishop is also very open to us,” Father Chukwuma added, stating that a trip to Nigeria is “not the easiest thing to do.”

It certainly wasn’t. Bishop Rhoades expressed his appreciation to Father Kenneth Amadi, Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph in Mishawaka, for helping him obtain his entry visa. The trip was not without its dangers, either. Nigeria is a country in conflict, where Christians

– particularly Catholic priests – are often targets of Islamic Fulani herdsman from the northern part of the country. In one area where his party was traveling, villagers warned them of terrorist abductors on the road ahead so that they were able to avoid danger. “I pray for the people. The violence is so bad,” Bishop Rhoades said.

He prays also for the priests from the nation. “I hope for a spiritual unity between our diocese and them; they have so many vocations. So many applications to the seminary that they have to turn people away. There are a few young men who I am considering. I stressed to them what a gift they are to the world.”



All photos provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with traveling companion Father Francis Chukwuma and Cardinal-designate Peter Okpaleke, Bishop of Ekwulobia Diocese



Students from Bubendorff Memorial Grammar school play percussion at Mass



Mass at Rosa Mystica S

h Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



With Archbishop Valerian Maduka Okeke on the balcony of his residence overlooking Niger River; Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity in background



Father Chukwuma with his parents and Bishop Jonas Okoye at his father's 90th birthday party



Altar servers at Mass in Nigeria



School for girls



Presented with a gift at ordination in Nnewi Diocese



Some of the 26 newly ordained priests from both the Nnewi and Awka Dioceses

VOWS, from page 1

her vows are “a gift from the Lord” and has “experienced God’s faithfulness, especially in the valleys” of life.

Her next assignment with the Sisters will take her to Dyer, Illinois, and mission work in healthcare.

“I’m just so grateful to make this step – it’s just the beginning” of her new life, in an intimate relationship with the Lord.

“I get to live eternity now,” she said joyfully.

In his homily for the day, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the love of God. “Sister Mary Augustine and Sister Mercy, you have both experienced deeply the gracious and merciful love of God. You have come to know and to believe in the love God has for you. That is why today you will stand before us to profess the evangelical counsels. You do so under the impulse of love which the Holy Spirit has poured into your hearts. It is this love which has moved you to follow Jesus in this beautiful vocation in which you give your whole life to God and are resolved to live more and more for Jesus and for His Body, the Church.”

He then focused on the order’s foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, who so inspired Sister Mercy in her vocation. Blessed Maria Theresia had a great love for the Old Testament book Song of Songs, which provided the day’s first reading. Bishop Rhoades said, “There have been many interpretations of these love songs, including that



Sister Ignatia Henneberry, OSF

Sister Mary Augustine Warrell, OSF, professes her perpetual vows to Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration on Aug. 2.

of the love between spouses as well as God’s love for His people. Consecrated men and women also have seen in this book a reflection of God’s personal love for them, revealing a God who desires us and seeks after us.”

“Sister Mary Augustine and Sister Mercy, the Lover will hear your voice today as you profess your love to Him in the vows you make to Him.”

He concluded by calling their vocation “a vocation to

love” and encouraged them to be a “living testament” to the Eucharist during the three-year revival; to aid in revealing God’s love through their charism – adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – “the sacrament of His love unto the end.”

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Sister Ignatia Henneberry, OSF

Sister M. Mercy Briola, OSF, is endowed with the ring, blessed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, that marks her as a bride of Christ.



Molly Gettinger

The newest fully professed members of the order receive a blessing from Bishop Rhoades at the end of the ceremony.

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Milestones Celebrated at Mishawaka Convent

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration celebrated on Monday, Aug. 1, as two of their members professed their first vows at the convent's chapel in Mishawaka. Sister Emmanuel Kurtzweg, OSF, and Sister Chiara Luce Brinkman, OSF, committed themselves to the religious life at a Mass celebrated by Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Also present were other priests from the diocese including Fathers Mark Hellinger, Ben Landrigan, and Logan Parrish.

During the ceremony and in the presence of family members of both sisters, they promised before Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, the order's Provincial Superior, to live "in poverty, obedience, and chastity," according to the order's rule.

At the ceremony, the two women received their black veils, in which they exchanged the white veil of a novice for the black veil. No longer novices, they are now considered "temporarily professed." Their formation will continue, and while a sister who has professed first vows can still discern out of religious life, this demonstrates her intent to become a fully professed sister in three to five years, depending on her order. In the case of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, that is usually a three-year process.

The sisters took similar paths to their vocation, as both were called to the religious life at Franciscan colleges.

Originally from San Antonio, Texas, it was at Franciscan University of Steubenville where Sister Chiara Luce first encountered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. She said, "I was really drawn to their joy. I never had experienced the joy they had and their simplicity of life."

She had first considered a religious vocation as a junior in high school, but did not move on that idea until her college years. Part of the reason she was drawn to the Franciscan sisters was their charism. "Perpetual adoration is very important in my faith life," she said.

Going into her first vows, Sister Chiara Luce felt "very excited, a little nervous," but she saw it as "an opportunity to give my trust to the Lord."

Her parents, aunts, and uncles came from Texas to witness her vows that day. Her first assignment with the sisters will be as a middle-school math teacher at St. Agnes School in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Sister Chiara Luce anticipates the beauty of her life going forward from her first vows. She remarked, "I'm

really excited to be married to Jesus in my vows."

Sister Emmanuel is a Fort Wayne native, the second-oldest child of Eric and Missy Kurtzweg, parishioners at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish. After graduating from Bishop Dwenger High School, Sister Emmanuel studied nursing at the University of Saint Francis, where she met the sisters who run the university. Spending much of her time in the campus ministry office where she served as a peer minister gave Sister Emmanuel greater exposure to religious life. She didn't think God was calling her to that life, though she attended a discernment retreat.

In her junior year, she felt "a great attraction to religious life." She knew that the university strove to embody the ideas of Franciscan spirituality, but it was in watching the sisters' "joy and love of the Eucharist" that she fully understood it.

Finally, "It was through time before the Blessed Sacrament that I felt the call from Jesus to be His bride."

To prepare for their profession of vows, Canon Law requires a five-day canonical retreat; the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration requires that to be a silent retreat. Sister Emmanuel was grateful for that time in prayer and was "open to what the Holy Spirit is going to do on the retreat."

Father Gurtner, who celebrated the Mass of profession, is also the pastor of her home parish, so for Sister Emmanuel it was "very special" to have him there that day.

Of the occasion, Father Gurtner commented: "We are so proud that a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Hope, Elise Kurtzweg (now Sister



Photos by Molly Gettinger

Sister Emmanuel Kurtzweg, OSF, a daughter of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne, and Sister Chiara Luce Brinkman, OSF, pray after professing their first vows with the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration on Monday, Aug. 1 at the motherhouse in Mishawaka. The Mass was celebrated by Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Emmanuel), will be making temporary profession with the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, on Aug. 1, 2022. May God bless her and raise up more young women to give themselves to God in religious life!"

The week brought other spiritual fruits for the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, as two new novices, Sister Solana Voegele and Sister Stella Marie Armes, received their habits and new names the same day, and Sister Fiat Staley and Sister Marie Thérèse Lolmaugh renewed their vows the day prior.



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Chapel in Rome City Designated an Oratory

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

God makes all things new, yet sometimes that renewal can take longer than expected. For years, the Marian shrine in Rome City dedicated to the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of America, has been a place of prayer and devotion, but not without complications. On Aug. 6, the feast of the Transfiguration, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited this site to celebrate Mass and further reconfirm its identity in the love of the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family.

The property was originally founded as a sanitarium in 1897 by Dr. W. G. Geiermann. He sold it to the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 1901, who ran the sanitarium to remedy infectious diseases using water treatments from the nearby Kneipp Springs. In 1903, the sisters built an addition with a chapel and continued to make additions. For 75 years, these sisters prayed,

adored the Blessed Sacrament, and charitably served those who came to seek healing. However, for financial reasons, the property was sold to a group that did not maintain the Catholic identity of the property.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades explained, "This was once a sacred place, but this oratory lost its sacred character after it and the sanitarium were sold by the sisters and eventually fell into the hands of a unitarian sect with heretical beliefs. They denied the divinity of both Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Thankfully, they did not tear down this oratory. Now, today, we can again call this a sacred place since it has been blessed with holy water, a sign of the cleansing waters of salvation in which we have been washed in Christ and made temples of the Holy Spirit. From this day forward, this oratory is again a place for divine worship."

In addition to the blessing, Bishop Rhoades announced a new name of the chapel, the



Jennifer Barton

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses the crucifix at the newly named Oratory of the Holy Family at the Patroness of America Center in Rome City on Aug. 6.

Congratulations on reaching the milestone of

40 years of priesthood!

Father Dale Bauman

**From your faith families
at St. Joseph, Roanoke and
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Nix Settlement**

Oratory of the Holy Family. This name underscores the Marian nature of the shrine and its particular emphasis on living with purity in the example of St. Joseph, while centering all its activity on Jesus Christ, who was always the primary focus in the lives of Joseph and Mary. As an officially erected oratory of the diocese, the Blessed Sacrament may now be permanently reserved in the tabernacle for prayer and adoration. Bishop emphasized, "no Marian Center would be complete without the Holy Eucharist. Mary teaches us to open ourselves to Jesus' presence, to receive His Body and Blood with faith, and to live what we receive. Mary allowed herself to be penetrated by God's love and she lived the self-giving Eucharistic love of her Son. She helps us to do the same."

More than 700 people were in attendance for the Mass and outdoor reception, with some even traveling from other states. Given the limited capacity of the chapel, numerous participants watched the ceremony on digital screens in adjacent rooms and outside. Part of the draw for the event was the exciting announcement that Bishop Rhoades would be consecrating a new altar for the oratory, designed by local sacred architect Phillip Breckler. Unfortunately, on the evening prior to the Mass, the marble altarpiece was irreparably damaged during installation and will need to be replaced. Although the consecration of the altar has been postponed, the events of the day were still a resounding success in the eyes of Al Langsenkamp, President of the Mother of Mercy Foundation, and Larry Young, Property Manager.

According to Langsenkamp, God continues to take care of them. Regarding the work of

Divine Providence in the course of events, he shared, "we are excited that Bishop Rhoades will be coming back to do another Mass now!"

Since the altar could not be consecrated, the Mass was instead celebrated for the feast of the Transfiguration. Bishop Rhoades remarked, "It seems to me that it is more than a coincidence that this chapel is blessed today since the Transfiguration reveals Christ's divinity, the great truth denied by the unitarian sect that came to own and occupy this site several years ago."

He continued, "The Transfiguration was certainly an amazing and unforgettable experience for Peter, James, and John. Jesus' face changed in appearance and shone like the sun, and His clothing became dazzling white. God is light, and Jesus wishes to give His closest friends the experience of this light which dwells within Him. He wants to protect them from any assault of darkness. The same with us. We all need that inner light of God and His love in order to overcome the trials of life and the assaults of darkness. I pray that people who come here to this center and chapel will receive and grow in this light, especially those who are hurting or suffering in any way."

Bishop concluded, "Mary helps us to receive this light. We already know that this has happened through the years here at this center and here in this chapel, which today has again become sacred. Of course, this will only happen if we obey the words of the Father at the Transfiguration: 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.' This is a place where I hope many people will come to pray, which is fundamentally listening to Jesus. In Hebrew idiom, to listen to someone's voice means not only to hear, but also to obey. This means that we listen in our minds and hearts to what Jesus teaches us in the Gospels and that we strive to put them into practice. Mary teaches us basically the same thing the Father commands us in her words to the waiters at the wedding feast of Cana: 'Do whatever He tells you.' She waits for us and she prays for us. May she shine upon all who visit and pray in this sacred oratory!"

In addition to the First Saturday Masses and devotions held monthly at the shrine, the First Annual Walking Pilgrimage from Kendallville to the Oratory of the Holy Family will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 1 p.m. Pilgrims are directed to park at the oratory, located at 2730 E. Northport Road, where shuttles will be available to transport to various starting points based upon desired walking distance. At 4:30 p.m., the pilgrimage will continue with Benediction at the oratory and a cookout. All are welcome.

Mural Dedication Part of Blessed Father Solanus Casey Celebration

The Blessed Father Solanus Casey 5th Annual Feast Day Celebration was held on Saturday, July 30, at the St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington. Nearly 100 people participated in a patriotic rosary and Mass in the chapel, which included the blessing of a Blessed Solanus Casey mural. The celebration marked many special anniversaries related to Blessed Solanus Casey. The day marked the 65th anniversary of his passing on July 31, 1957, and the 5th

anniversary of his beatification. It was also the 10th anniversary of the Father Solanus Guild – Huntington Extension, which was established in 2012. Mass with Father Tony Steinacker included a prayer for the canonization of Blessed Solanus Casey and was followed by an opportunity for each person in attendance to be blessed with a relic. Blessed Solanus Casey medals were given as gifts to those in attendance at a reception following Mass.



Nicole Hahn

Artwork highlights Blessed Solanus Casey celebration at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington.

Celebrating 100 Years of OLVN Sisters

HUNTINGTON — The culmination of a year honoring a century of presence and service, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters held its Centennial Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 6, at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll. The Sisters welcomed family, friends, co-workers, Victory Noll Associates, volunteers, former members, and other supporters for the special Mass commemorating the creation of the community in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein.

As a young priest in Chicago, Father Sigstein made a trip to the American Southwest, where he saw the poor, immigrant population being underserved by the Church. He vowed to do what he could to not only provide Catholic education, but to give voice to those who had been marginalized by society. Father Sigstein founded the Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory in Chicago in 1922, sending his original two catechists, Marie Benes and Julia Doyle, on their initial mission to Watrous, New Mexico. They arrived in Santa Fe on Aug. 5, 1922, the date now used as the start of the community.

The congregation came to Huntington in 1925 with the help of Bishop John Francis Noll, who had founded the weekly "Our Sunday Visitor" in the city. Bishop Noll provided land and built the Victory Noll motherhouse, with financial



Celebrating a Century of Presence & Service

assistance from retired Chicago policeman Peter O'Donnell and his wife, Julia. The Society later changed its name to Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, and Victory Noll has been their home for nearly a century. From Victory Noll, sisters have been missioned in 36 states where they have held to their mission to proclaim the word of God, foster justice, stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression, and to promote the development of leaders.

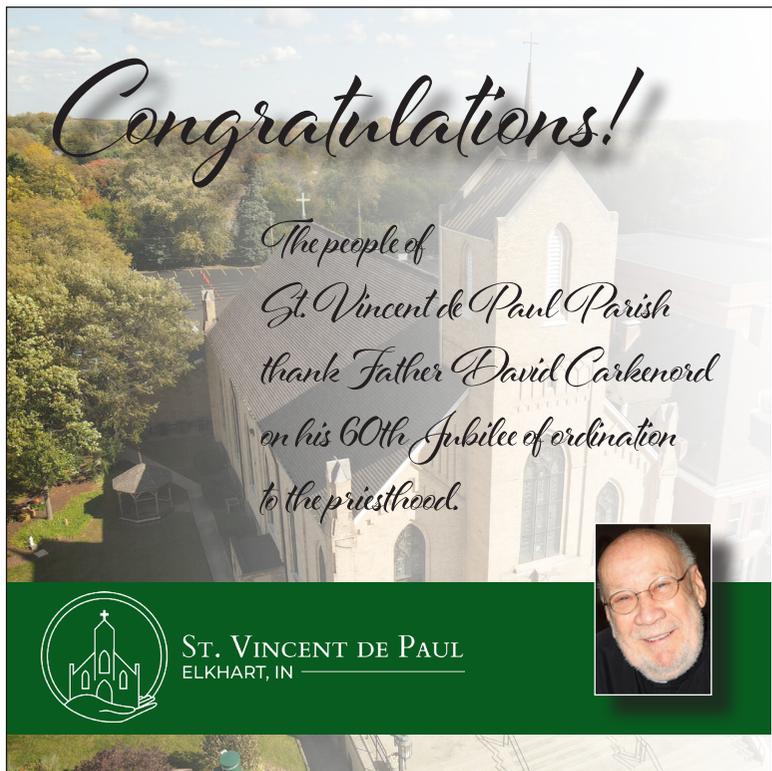
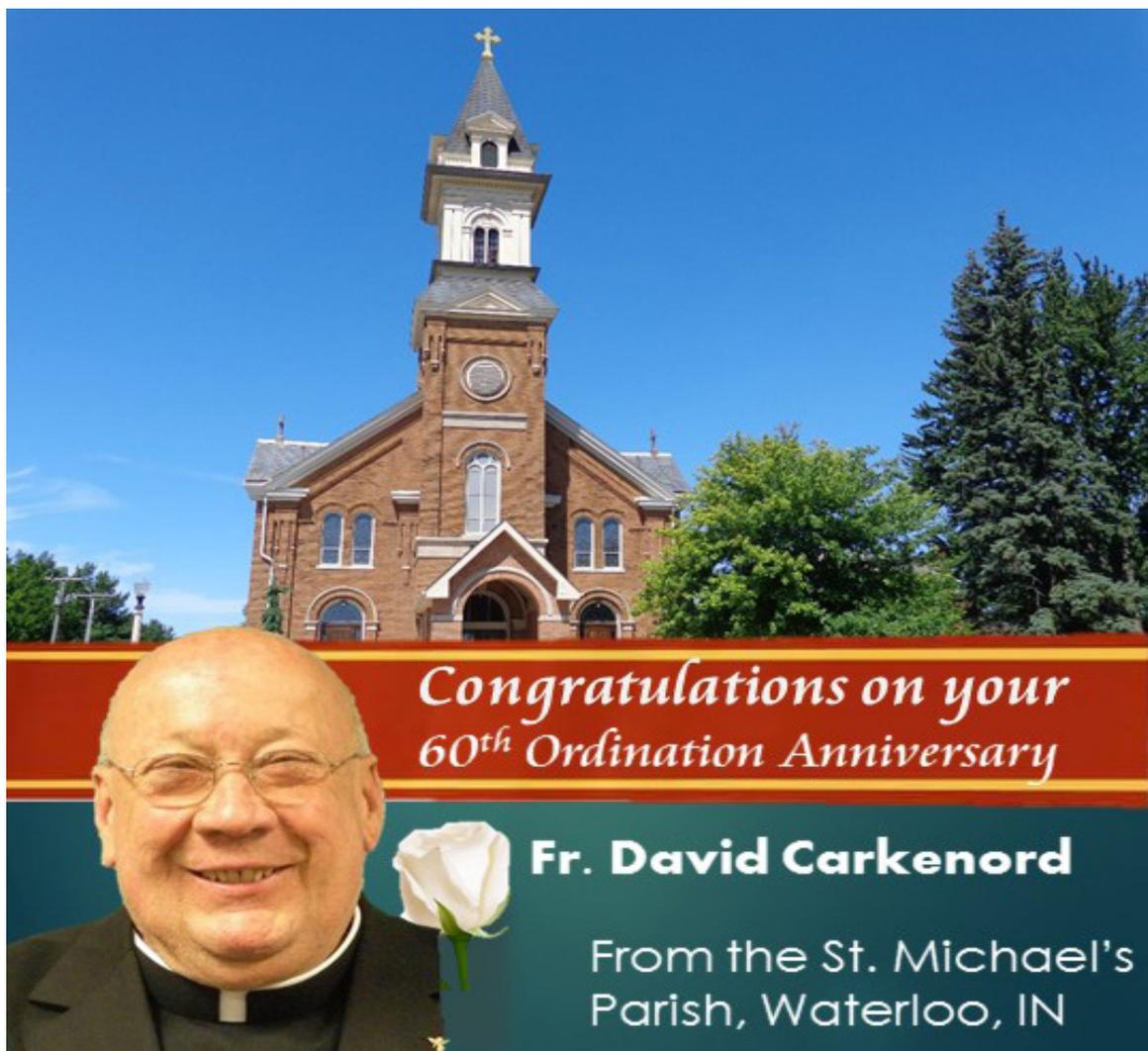
The presider for the Mass was Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino, California, who received his early Catholic education from Victory Noll Sisters as a youth in Los Angeles. In his homily, Bishop Barnes reflected on his close relationship with OLVN Sisters throughout his life and religious career, and the far-reaching impact of the Sisters in the areas where they have been mis-

sioned. Additional priests taking part were Fathers Phil DeVolder, Tim Gray, Kurt Klismet, and Monsignor Michael Foltz. Special music was provided by Jaime Cortez, Kari Magwire-Cortez, and Rick Elliot.

In addition to the Mass, the Sisters hosted their guests at a dinner at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll. A new film documenting the history and future of the OLVN was available for viewing, and tours were given of the former OLV building, which the Sisters recently sold to Huntington County and is now known as the O'Donnell Center, serving as home to Huntington County Community Corrections.

Faced with an aging population and diminishing numbers, OLVN is in a time of transition. Along with the sale of buildings to the county, the health care facility is now owned and managed by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as Saint Anne Communities, and the remaining open land has been sold to Acres Land Trust. Governance of the community is also undergoing change, with no Sisters in position to fill leadership roles. Later in August, leadership will transfer to a commissary, a Sister from another community who will take over the role of congregational leader.

For photos from this event, visit TodaysCatholic.org.



A Right to Contraception?

July 25 marked the 54th anniversary of St. Paul VI's encyclical "Humanae Vitae," reaffirming the Church's teaching on contraception and openness to the gift of new life.

Four days earlier, the House of Representatives voted to make it illegal for Catholic institutions to follow that teaching.

The proposal is H.R. 8373, the Right to Contraception Act. The pretext for it is that when the Supreme Court issued its Dobbs decision reversing Roe v. Wade, Justice Clarence Thomas suggested in a concurring opinion that past Supreme Court decisions on contraception might be reconsidered.

Sponsors say the act is needed to create a federal "right" to contraception when the constitutional right falls.

But Thomas was alone in his view. The majority opinion declares that Dobbs does not undermine decisions on marriage, sex, and contraception "in any way," saying repeatedly that abortion is different because it takes a life.

Dissenting justices wanted to uphold Roe itself, and of course strongly support a right to contraception. That makes eight votes against one.

So why this legislation? We need to look at what it says and tries to do.

It declares: "The right to contraception is a fundamental right, central to a person's privacy, health, wellbeing, dignity, liberty, equality, and ability to participate in the social and economic life of the Nation."

I have known quite a few people who enjoy those other rights without relying on this one. Contraception is declared to be "safe, essential health care," which will be news to women whose contraceptive use led to blood clots or breast cancer.

Based on these assumptions, "a person has a statutory right under this act to obtain contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and a health care provider has a corresponding right to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception."

But past Supreme Court decisions are about freedom from active governmental interference in one's private use of contraceptives. This bill creates something else: a positive entitlement to obtain them. The health care provider's "right" is an obligation, and lawsuits are authorized against state policies that may limit ready access.

Any ambiguity on this is resolved by the act's condemnation of laws allowing health care providers to opt out of providing contraceptives for moral or religious reasons.

And the act nullifies use of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to defend against its national mandate. That law saved the Little Sisters of the Poor and other Catholic entities from being forced to provide contraceptive coverage under the Obama health care legislation.

As noted in that litigation, some drugs the Food and Drug Administration calls "contraceptives" can prevent implan-



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

tation, ending the life of a newly conceived human being. Catholic teaching rejects such activity as abortifacient.

It gets worse. The act defines a "contraceptive" as "any drug, device or biological product intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy, whether specifically intended to prevent pregnancy or for other health needs, that is legally marketed under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act."

The president and most House members see abortion as one of those "other" needs. They favor legislation to create a nationwide abortion mandate — including abortions by mifepristone (RU-486), which the FDA allows for abortion through the 10th week of gestation.

That legislation failed in the Senate. But the medical literature says RU-486 also is an effective "emergency contraceptive." So this act could be used to maximize its distribution, even in states with laws against abortion.

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

Honoring the Legacy of a (Priestly) Father and Friend

Last summer, I wrote about my family's friendship with Father Bill Sullivan, who had recently retired from being a pastor — our pastor — in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. While I've been blessed to know many other wonderful priests, he's still our favorite. That part hasn't changed.

But what I didn't know then that, thankfully, I know now is that the reception after his final Mass at St. John the Baptist in New Haven in June of 2021 wasn't a goodbye at all; it was a "see you later." I assumed (wrongly) that our friendship was built exclusively on him being our pastor and we being among his flock, and once that connection was severed, so too, I thought, would our friendship. That has proven not to be the case, thanks be to God.

In late June, we had Father Bill over for dinner. We hadn't seen him in some time, and it was clear that retirement suited him. Many of us can only imagine the stress that today's priests are under. It is a unique and blessed vocation, to be sure, but one in which those who answer its call are duty-bound to wear many hats. While a priest's primary responsibility is to tend to the souls of his parishioners (largely through the administration of the sacraments), the

GUEST COMMENTARY

SCOTT WARDEN

scope of the job does not end there. The priest is his parish's CEO, to be certain, but often he is also its accountant, its human resources executive, its maintenance man, its school administrator, its therapist, and the list goes on. Relieved of all of these duties, Father Bill looked 10 years younger. It was clear that the tremendous burden placed upon his shoulders for the better part of 50 years had been removed.

Over the past week or so, I've thought often about Father Bill — about all our good and holy priests and the fulfilling yet difficult lives that they lead, and about how we lay men and women must continue to pray for an increase in vocations so that lives can continue to be touched by their presence.

First, on Aug. 4, the Church celebrated the feast of one of my favorite saints — St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests. I read an excellent

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Choosing Eternal Life with Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 13:22-30

The Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for this weekend. Isaiah is a fascinating book of Scripture, covering a long period of Hebrew history. Its early chapters deal with events and conditions in the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah, before the kingdom's conquest by the mighty Babylonian army.

Then, as the book progresses, it tells of the plight of the Hebrews taken to Babylon, the imperial capital, where they and their descendants languished for four

generations.

At last, the Hebrews were allowed to return, but the homeland that they found was hardly the "land flowing with milk and honey." It was sterile, lifeless, and bleak. It must have been difficult not to succumb to cynicism or outright rejection of God. Why did God lead them to this awful place after all that they have experienced in Babylon? How was this God's confirmation of the Covenant?

This dreary situation clearly appears in this weekend's reading, but, nevertheless, the prophet unceasingly and without any doubt calls the people to reaffirm their devotion to God. God always will rescue them and care for them.

For its second reading, the Church presents a reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews. In the late part of the first century AD, when this epistle was composed, the plight of the Jews was not good. In 70 AD, the Jews rose up against the Romans, and they paid a dreadful price for their audacity.

Things were as bad as they

were in the days of the last part of Isaiah, from which came the reading heard earlier this weekend.

Even so, as the prophets so often had encouraged the people in the past, the author of Hebrews assured the people of the first century that God would protect them and, after all the trials, would lead them to life eternal, in Christ Jesus, the lamb of God.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a somber reading, indeed a warning; Life is eternal. God lives and reigns in an eternal kingdom. Jesus has the key to the gate, but all who are true to God and who obey God's law will be admitted to this wonderful kingdom. Others will not.

Reflection

For several weeks, the Church, either directly or indirectly, has taught us in the weekend readings at Mass that earthly life is not the only experience of living for humans.

Life does not end with

earthly death. Life is eternal. After life on earth, in time, eternity awaits everyone, for the good, heaven; or for the bad, everlasting misery and remorse.

God offers us every opportunity and every aid in our way to reach heaven. He could show us no greater love than to give us Jesus as our redeemer and companion as we move toward heaven. The Son of God, one with the Father in divine eternity and power, forgives us, strengthens us, guides us, restores us, and finally places us at the banquet table of heaven.

Humans, therefore, create their own destiny. They can ignore or outrightly reject God's love, so lavishly given in Jesus, and bring upon themselves the consequences — eternal pain. They choose everlasting despair and pain.

The saved choose to be with God. It is that simple.

God drags no one, kicking and screaming, into heaven, and virtue is not always easy to achieve, but God opens wide the gate and shows us the way,

helping us along when we stumble.

God mercifully and lovingly assists us through Jesus. Jesus is our teacher. In Jesus and through Jesus, our sins are forgiven. In Jesus, the just are empowered and enlightened.

While God gives us free will, therefore, we are sustained, strengthened, and shown the way.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 66:18-21 Ps 117:1-2 Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12 Ps 96:1-5 Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10-13 Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: Rv 21:9b-14

Ps 145:10-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-7

Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5 10-11 Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-21 Mt 25:14-30

Archie Battersbee's Story Highlights the Risks Of Legal Euthanasia

Archie Battersbee's life tragically ended in a London hospital on Saturday, Aug. 6, when the 12-year-old was removed from the critical life support his family legally fought to continue. Archie's mother, Hollie Dance, told reporters gathered outside the hospital where he died, "I'm the proudest mum in the world." Dance said through tears, "Such a beautiful little boy, and he fought right until the very end."

On April 7, Archie was found at the family's home with a ligature around his neck. He suffered severe injuries, including acute brain damage. After the accident — which his parents believed he suffered as a result of a social media challenge gone wrong — Archie never regained consciousness.

There is no doubt that Archie was being sustained by a ventilator and life-saving medicine. However, after a High Court judge declared in June that Archie be removed from life support, the family won an initial appeal, arguing that there was not enough evidence to demonstrate that Archie was in fact brain dead, as physicians claimed. When asked whether there was sufficient evidence for a reliable diagnosis of death in Archie's case, one expert witness told the court "absolutely not."

Ultimately, Lords Hodge, Kitchin, and Stephens of the U.K. Supreme Court decided that "even if life-sustaining treatment were to be maintained, Archie would die in the course of the next few weeks through organ failure and then heart failure." The Anscombe Bioethics Centre, which serves Catholics in the U.K. and Ireland, emphasized the key medical concern in Archie's case, saying: "It seems extraordinary that questions of life and death should be matters of

a balance of probability rather than determination beyond reasonable doubt." Judges ruled on a "balance of probabilities" that Archie was dead, but being mostly or probably dead is not the same thing as being absolutely dead.

Peter Williams, spokesman for Anscombe, summarized the months-long legal battle waged by Archie's parents, saying, "This decision has come after four hearings in the High Court, two in the Appeals Court, two decisions by the Supreme Court, one by the European Court of Human Rights and an intervention by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities." Through it all, Archie's mother never lost hope. She told a BBC program in August, "I'm just asking for a realistic time for my child to recover from a brain injury ... within two weeks, we were in court because they wanted to turn the [life support] machine off within three weeks." Dance added, "Let's not forget, these doctors said Archie wouldn't last 24 hours. He's not going backwards ... he's actually progressing."

Archie's death was devastating. No parent should have to mourn the loss of a child. And, in part, that's what's being denied: the natural course of mourning. Archie's parents were even denied, ostensibly on the basis of medical reasons, their request in Archie's last days to transport their son to a hospice facility so that he could experience more peace in his final hours.

But even more fundamentally, it should be the parents — those who have a child's best interests at heart — who are making medical decisions for the well-being of their child, and no one else. From a Catholic perspective, Archie's case offered legitimate differences in what a prudent course

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

of action might have been. The Catholic Church teaches, "Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2278). A ventilator and other aspects of Archie's treatment constitute extraordinary and burdensome care, which justly and morally, could be discontinued. At the same time, a patient may well choose to continue to pursue an extraordinary and burdensome treatment. And in the case of a minor, those making that decision on the minor's behalf should be his or her parents. For the state to intervene and dictate Archie's medical care directly against the wishes of his parents constitutes an egregious violation of his parents' natural rights.

Archie Battersbee's death is precisely the situation opponents of euthanasia warn against: legal and medical teams determining when patients die, against their wishes or the wishes of their families. After Archie's death, his parents said in a statement provided by the Christian Legal Centre that they "have been forced to fight a relentless legal battle by the Hospital Trust while faced with an unimaginable tragedy." They added, "No parent or family must go through this again." May it be so.

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden, and York Young.

where Father Bill was. It's likely she wanted to get one of his patented fist bumps that she's become so accustomed to when seeing him. "He's in the back of church waiting for Mass to start," we told her, pointing. It was then we realized that, in the narthex, he was joined by dozens of his brother priests, all vested similarly to celebrate with him. Seeing this sea of holy priests, all there to honor the legacy of their brother and our friend, Gemma said, shocked, "Whoa, that's millions of fathers."

From her lips to God's ears.

Scott Warden is Managing Editor at Our Sunday Visitor.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 21, 2022

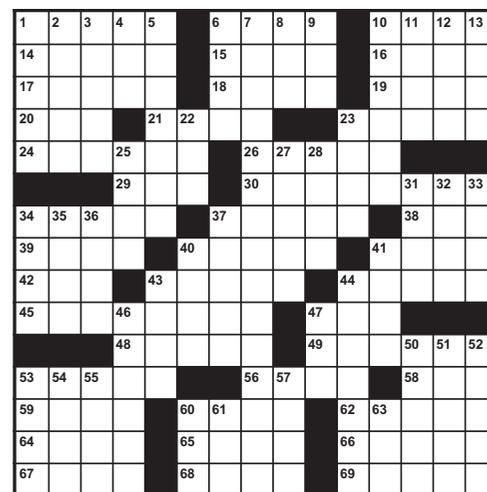
Luke 13: 22-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Who will be first and last? The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| JESUS STRIVE IN REPLY STREETS WHEN YOU SEE JACOB WEST | JERUSALEM HOUSE WE ATE EVILDOERS ABRAHAM KINGDOM NORTH | A FEW OUTSIDE YOU TAUGHT TEETH ISAAC EAST BE FIRST |
|---|--|--|

WHEN YOU SEE

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



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ACROSS

- 1 Sister suit
- 6 Some CEOs
- 10 Mawkish sentimentality
- 14 Sitcom dingbat
- 15 Summer month in Paris
- 16 Nobel Institute city
- 17 Word on a shampoo bottle
- 18 Going well
- 19 People in Lystra called Barnabas this
- 20 Brit. reference book
- 21 Hay stack
- 23 ___ Pio
- 24 Wiped
- 26 Opposite one of two
- 29 Bar opening?
- 30 Ritual breaking of bread during Mass
- 34 Catholic sports figure Lombardi
- 37 They have their "ears" on
- 38 Bigger than med.
- 39 A way to run
- 40 Bundled hay
- 41 Killed
- 42 "A Shropshire ___"
- 43 Supped

- 44 Ancient law man
- 45 According to Tobit 13, the gates of Jerusalem will be built with sapphires and these precious stones
- 47 OT prophetic book
- 48 Follows orders
- 49 Reply
- 53 Jesus' description of the Pharisees
- 56 A contraction
- 58 Armed ser. mail service
- 59 ___ gin fizz
- 60 Sicilian volcano
- 62 Eskimo dwelling
- 64 Having wings
- 65 ___ of the Cross
- 66 Of necessity
- 67 Rave
- 68 Piece of work
- 69 Atlas blowup

DOWN

- 1 He ordered the slaughter of the Innocents
- 2 Farewell, from Jacques
- 3 Bandages
- 4 Genderless possessive

- 5 Saint of Lisieux
- 6 Artist Chagall
- 7 Previously called the Roman Ritual
- 8 From, in Bonn
- 9 Pen
- 10 Catholic Austrian composer of "The Marriage of Figaro"
- 11 Applied
- 12 Insult
- 13 Flexible tube
- 22 "Altared" words
- 23 They're above abs
- 25 Bloodsucking insect
- 27 Wooded
- 28 Solid
- 31 Evils
- 32 Double curve
- 33 Good ___
- 34 Dell
- 35 Officiating priest of a mosque
- 36 Protuberance
- 37 Easter treat
- 40 Liquid secreted by the liver
- 41 ___ of Thunder
- 43 Pats gently
- 44 Surname of Pope Paul VI
- 46 Bellarmine, a Doctor of the Church
- 47 The Solemnity of Mary is celebrated in this month (abbr.)
- 50 Division of the United Kingdom
- 51 Lyric poem
- 52 Perch
- 53 Former Russian ruler
- 54 Spanish pot
- 55 Grumble
- 57 Subsided
- 60 Superlative finish
- 61 Madre's hermana
- 63 Bk. of the Pentateuch

WARDEN, from page 16

piece in The Priest magazine that detailed his life and drove home his love for the people to whom he ministered. The article's author, D.D. Emmons wrote: "John Vianney was endowed with and practiced all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Everything he did, every decision conformed to the will of God. He was devoted to the people of Ars, giving them every day of his life. His charity was obvious to all who knew him." Emmons then quotes the great saint, who wrote that the benefits of God "would be of no avail to us without the priest. What would be the use of a house full of gold if you had nobody to open

the door? The priest has the key of the heavenly treasures; it is he who opens the door; he is the steward of the good God, the distributor of His wealth."

This passage came to mind days later when we gathered together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Father Bill's ordination. Clearly, my family is not alone in having our lives touched deeply by the presence of this holy and humble priest. At the Mass, we were surrounded by hundreds of others who shared a special relationship with the man who witnessed their marriages or baptized their children or heard their confessions or fed them the Bread of the living God.

Before the Mass began, our 5-year-old, Gemma, asked

Statue of Blessed Solanus Casey Installed at Cathedral

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Visitors to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne over the past few months have been greeted by a new statue of Blessed Solanus Casey as they enter the building.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades commissioned the statue of Blessed Solanus Casey after encountering representatives from Baker Liturgical Art at the USCCB conference in Baltimore.

"He came up to our suite and we discussed the possibility of a new statue for the cathedral," said Brian Baker, Owner of the Connecticut-based company. "He told me about the subject matter, which was Father Solanus. We told him we could do a design, put it together for him. He showed me the area. I asked if he could send me some photos of exactly where it's going to be. They had a nice area for it."

Blessed Solanus Casey resided at St. Felix Friary in Huntington from 1946 to 1954. St. John Paul II declared him venerable in 1995, and he was beatified in 2017.

He was ordained as a simple priest due to academic limitations. This means that, unlike a typical priest, he could not preach at Mass or hear confessions. While assigned in Detroit, he became well known for his services for the sick, and many considered his intercession to be instrumental in their healings from illness.

Baker said that the style and size of the statue of Blessed Solanus Casey were specially curtailed to fit the unique niche near the entrance of the cathedral, and that another special request was incorporated into the design.

"They wanted to put a relic



Samantha Rohloff

A new statue of Blessed Solanus Casey, created by Baker Liturgical Art, rests in the entryway of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The Capuchin priest resided at St. Felix Friary in Huntington for a portion of his priestly life.

in, and we had to accommodate that too. So we had to do a custom design, with a reliquary where the relic would be able to be put in and on display. That's really the information I needed to start going along."

The statues that Baker sells in the U.S. are sculpted by a family in Val Gardena, a valley in northern Italy. He said that, for the statue of Blessed Solanus Casey, he traveled to Europe to meet with the sculptors and to check in on the statue's progress.

"We really are hands-on. Our customer gets what we expect and what they expect."

He said that the Baker family has had a good relationship with the family of sculptors for several decades. His father had been working with them for six decades, and he had been working with them for around 40 years.

Brothers Mauro and Hans were the artists behind the hand-carved, linden wood rendition of Blessed Solanus Casey with his notable beard and Capuchin attire, explained Baker. "Linden wood is very soft wood that you're able to really get the features very sharp," he noted, adding how "real" the statue appears.

He said its creation took about eight months ... and to provide "a harder finish," he said, this specific statue was detailed with oil-based paint as well.

The gold-plated and lacquered reliquary that was requested "will hold a first-class relic from the body of Blessed Solanus himself," said Father Jacob Runyon, Pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The relic is a piece of Blessed Solanus Casey's bone.

Baker's son, Garrett, was

present at the installation of the statue at the cathedral in May.

"He recently has come into the business with me," Brian said, indicating that the induction of Garrett into the company brings the business into the third generation in the Baker family.

"He grew up in the business. He went away to school; he became a chef, a culinary. Then he decided he wanted to try his hand in the business. I made him go back and get a business degree, and now he's working for us."

Besides fulfilling Bishop Rhoades' request for the statue, the Baker family has kept itself busy with several high-profile projects over the last several years, and have even played a role in papal visits to the U.S.

"The Catholic Church is very busy, especially in Florida, where things are just absolutely blossoming down there with people moving down, and the Catholic Church is strong. We love what we do. We've been doing it a long time. We gained the trust of the bishops and the archbishops and the cardinals that we work with.

"We also do a lot of work when the Holy Father comes to America. We design his vestments and all the staging and stuff for some of the events when he comes in."

Baker indicated that Bishop Rhoades and Father Runyon were very pleased with the final design and installation of the statue of Blessed Solanus Casey, and he stated that it "looks like it's always been there."

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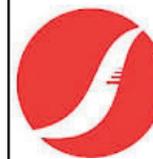
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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.

Flyin' Lion 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

GRANGER — St. Pius X Church, 52553 Fir Rd., welcomes the Michiana commu-

nity to the Sixth Annual Flyin' Lion 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, Aug. 27. The 5K race starts at 8 a.m. and the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk begins immediately following the start of the 5K. Featuring a chip-timed race and a post-race celebration, this community event kicks off a day of festivities for the Parish. Visit stpius.net/FlyinLion for details. Contact Audrey Lewis at 574-272-8462 or alewis@stpius.net.

and Car Show on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop the parking lot where more than 30 sellers will be offering garage sale items, antiques, collectibles, and crafts, making bargain shopping easy! Then check out the Classic Car Show on the surrounding lawn. A concession stand with food and drink will be available for purchase.

St. Aloysius Festival

YODER — St. Aloysius Parish, 14623 Bluffton Rd., will be hosting a festival on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A farmer's market and flea market begin at 8 a.m. Children's games

Queen of Peace Peacefest Trunk Sale and Car Show

MISHAWAKA — Queen of Peace Parish, 4508 Vistula Rd., will host a Peacefest Trunk Sale

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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 C. 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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Thomas Steele, 75, St. Charles Borromeo

Eugene Tippmann, 83, St. Charles Borromeo

Kevin Dunkelberger, 31, St. Jude

William Hinkle, 66, St. Jude

David Powell, 80, St. Jude

Donna M. Dent, 63, St. Vincent de Paul

Rita C. Glass, 98, St. Vincent de Paul

Nicholas Reith Jr., 59, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

George Forray, 89, St. Pius X

Eugene Ladewski, 95, St. Pius X

Robert Poor, 83, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Helen Bennett, 93, St. Bavo

Patricia Chodzinski, 76, St. Bavo

Mary Lou Staples, 84, St. Bavo

Larry R. Howland, 75, St. Monica

New Haven

Carol S. Fox, 65, St. John the Baptist

Edward J. Paragi, 75, St. John the Baptist

William R. Robinson, 83, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

Patricia Albert, 74, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Daniel Geist, 52, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Ralph Warrell, 96, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Hugh Tomchak, 89, Christ the King

Diane Klee, 67, Holy Cross

Eleanor Ryan, 104, Holy Cross

Robert Ryll, 92, Holy Family

Michael J. Carrico, 75, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Thomas Grzesiak, 73, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lucille Budny, 89, St. Adalbert

Evelyn Carbjal, 22, St. Adalbert

Jeanette Ciesielski, 98, St. Adalbert

Ted Pecina, 92, St. Adalbert

Frank Koloszar, 90, St. John The Baptist

Wabash

Larry D. White, 90, St. Bernard

will run from 10 a.m. to noon and a chicken dinner with ice cream will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chicken dinner will be \$12 for adult meals and \$6

for kids' meals. Raffle tickets available for drawing at 1 p.m. Contact Amanda Freiburger at amandafreiburger@yahoo.com for information.



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Catholic High Schools Gear up for Football Season

The days are getting shorter, the weather is turning crisper, and school is back in session. For area sports fans, that means another season of high school football has arrived. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is blessed to have a quartet of parochial prep pigskin programs: Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers, Marian, and St. Joseph. Together, these teams have achieved an unparalleled level of success over the years, accounting for a combined 76 sectional titles, 57 regional crowns, and 20 state championships. With a new season kicking off this week, Today's Catholic checks in on our four diocesan high school squads. — *By Eric Peat*

BISHOP DWENGER SAINTS

Head Coach: Jason Garrett, 5th Year
Returning Starters: 4 Offensive, 4 Defensive
2021 Record: 7-5 (5-4 in Summit Athletic Conference)
2021 Tournament: Lost 5A Regional Championship at Zionsville, 35-14



It didn't take long for Bishop Dwenger head coach Jason Garrett to notice something different about his 2022 football team.

"I've said all along, this is probably one of the closest teams that I've been associated with in any sport," said Garrett. "I really feel good about our senior leadership."

A trio of seniors comprise the Saints' defensive front, as Ashton Skarie, Elijah Douge, and Ethan Pflueger look to set the tone for the Dwenger defense. They're joined by senior Teddy Steele at corner and plenty of new faces at the linebacker core. "It's young, but we got some hungry guys," said Garrett. "The junior and sophomore classes are strong."

The Saints' offensive attack will revolve around Sam Campbell. After waiting his turn and lining up at slot receiver, corner, and returner the last two years, the senior gets his

shot at quarterback this season. Garrett said the experience and knowledge that Campbell has soaked up all over the field will pay dividends this year as he transitions to signal caller.

"Campbell's pretty electric with some of the things we look to do with him," said Garrett. "Our job is to put him into position to be creative. If we get the right guys around him and put the scheme together correctly, I think he can do some wonderful things and lead the team."

If Campbell does just that, the Saints could end up hoisting their sixth straight sectional trophy, the second-longest such streak in the program's storied history. Bishop Dwenger opens its season vs. Wayne on Aug. 19.

BISHOP LUERS KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Kyle Lindsay, 10th Year
Returning Starters: 2 Offensive, 7 Defensive
2021 Record: 10-2 (8-1 in Summit Athletic Conference)
2021 Tournament: Lost 2A Sectional Championship vs. Eastside, 21-16



Even though the calendar has flipped, the Bishop Luers Knights are carrying the highs and the lows of last season with them.

"The main lesson about last year is that hard work does pay off," said head coach Kyle Lindsay, whose team was crowned conference tri-champion before falling in the sectional championship. "There's obviously no guarantees – you play each and every down like it's your last."

The Knights were hit hard by graduation, losing nine offensive starters – most notably, record-setting quarterback Carson Clark. Although senior Charlie Stanski is slotted to take his place, Lindsay plans to lean heavily on the ground attack this year.

"One way you replace a Carson Clark is by having a strong running game," explained Lindsay. "I firmly believe we have four or five varsity-ready running backs that probably share

the load a bit." Among them are RJ Hogue, Gio Jimenez and "an absolute monster running the ball" in Mickey Daring. Helping pave the way will be twin tackles Jaden and Jordan Sykes.

The Luers defense is led by Nick Thompson, an impact player as a corner on defense and the primary receiver on offense. Daring will also get the nod at middle linebacker to lead a fast and experienced unit.

"Our defense really got better week in and week out last year," said Lindsay. "I'm excited to see how strong they can play. I do believe that they have the capability to be a championship-level defense."

Bishop Luers opens its season vs. Carroll on Aug. 19.

SAINT JOSEPH INDIANS

Head Coach: Ben Downey, 7th Year (Non-Consecutive)
Returning Starters: 6 Offensive, 9 Defensive
2021 Record: 4-8 (0-5 in Northern Indiana Conference)
2021 Tournament: Lost 4A Sectional Championship at New Prairie, 35-3



A familiar face to Saint Joseph football fans has returned to the sidelines this fall. Ben Downey is back in his second stint as head coach of the Indians, seven years after stepping down from the same position.

"I was in the building," explained Downey of his return, "teaching at a school whose student athletes and football program I care deeply about." The position opened up when previous head coach Byron Whitten resigned in December after six seasons at the helm of the program.

Downey inherits a squad boasting 15 returning starters, including nine on defense. Linebackers Austin Futa and Elijah Keultjes look to anchor the defense, while senior Marvin Lopez will line up under center. With Holden Laudeman bolstering the offensive line and capable wideouts in Sam Sparks and Antonio Morrell, the Indians will rely on their "athleticism and feistiness" to keep them competitive.

In Downey's first stint as Saint Joseph's head coach, he guided the Indians to back-to-back state title games and six straight winning seasons. In order for the program to recapture this success, Downey said a number of things need to change.

"We need to overcome adversity, take all steps needed to remain healthy, develop good habits, and combat the negative recruiting that others have used against us," said Downey. "We also need to find builders in the bandwagon era," he said, referencing players and coaches who are willing to put in the time and energy to rebuild a program.

Saint Joseph opens its season at Lakeland on Aug. 19.

MARIAN KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Mike Davidson, 5th Year
Returning Starters: 5 Offensive, 4 Defensive
2021 Record: 10-4 (4-1 in Northern Indiana Conference)
2021 Tournament: Lost 3A Semistate Championship vs. Brebeuf, 17-16



As the old adage says, football is won at the line of scrimmage. That's good news for Marian head coach Mike Davidson.

"On both sides of the ball, our line should be our strength," said Davidson. "And those skill guys are going to have to grow up pretty quick."

The Knights' offensive line welcomes back Giovanni Garcia, Jack Brennan, and Kyle Dennison, while Dennison and Mikey Fuller return to the defensive front. Brian Bultinck and Michael Przygoda will also be back at their safety positions, while Kaden Middleton and Aidan Kelly should provide strength at linebacker.

However, the offensive skill positions were gutted by graduation. That means junior Bryce Lasane, who returns at quarterback, will be tasked with incorporating new faces into the offense. Davidson said he's enjoyed watching Lasane's progress on the field.

"He's got a natural physical skillset, arm strength, and footwork," said Davidson. "To see that leadership and coaching coming out of him – those are a couple intangibles that at the quarterback position you really need."

The Knights will need that leadership if they are to take the next step in the tournament this year. Marian has captured three straight regional titles but has come up short in the semi-state round each time, last year by a single point.

"If we stay healthy and our guys continue to overcome the adversity that's going to hit at some point, I like what ultimately we can become," said Davidson. "It's just a matter of working to get there."

Marian opens its season vs. Mishawaka on Aug. 19.