

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 29

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Blessed John Paul I, 'The Smiling Pope,' Showed God's Goodness, Pope Says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Beatifying Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis praised the late pope for showing the world God's goodness and for living the Gospel without compromise.

"Our new blessed lived that way: in the joy of the Gospel, without compromises, loving to the very end," the pope said.

"He embodied the poverty of the disciple, which is not only detachment from material goods, but also victory over the temptation to put oneself at the center, to seek one's own glory" as he followed the example of Jesus and was "a meek and humble pastor," he said.

The pope spoke during a homily in St. Peter's Square at a Sept. 4 Mass attended by an estimated 25,000 people under dark skies and rain, with an occasional roll of thunder and flash of lightning.

"With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, a Church that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbors resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past," the pope said.

"Let us pray to him, our father and our brother, and ask him to obtain for us 'the smile of the soul' that is 'transparent, that does not deceive,'" Pope Francis said. "Let us pray, in his own words, 'Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be.'"

During the beatification ceremony, which took place at the beginning of the Mass, an image of the new blessed was unveiled on a huge tapestry affixed to the facade of the basilica. The image was a reproduction of an oil painting, "The Smiling Pope," created by Zhang Yan, a Chinese artist whose work combines Eastern and Western painting techniques.

The relic, carried by Lina Petri, the niece of the late pope, was a piece of paper, yellowed with age, upon which the pope had written an outline for a spiri-



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**Pope Francis looks on as devotees of Pope John Paul I come to present relics during the beatification of the late pope in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sept. 4.**

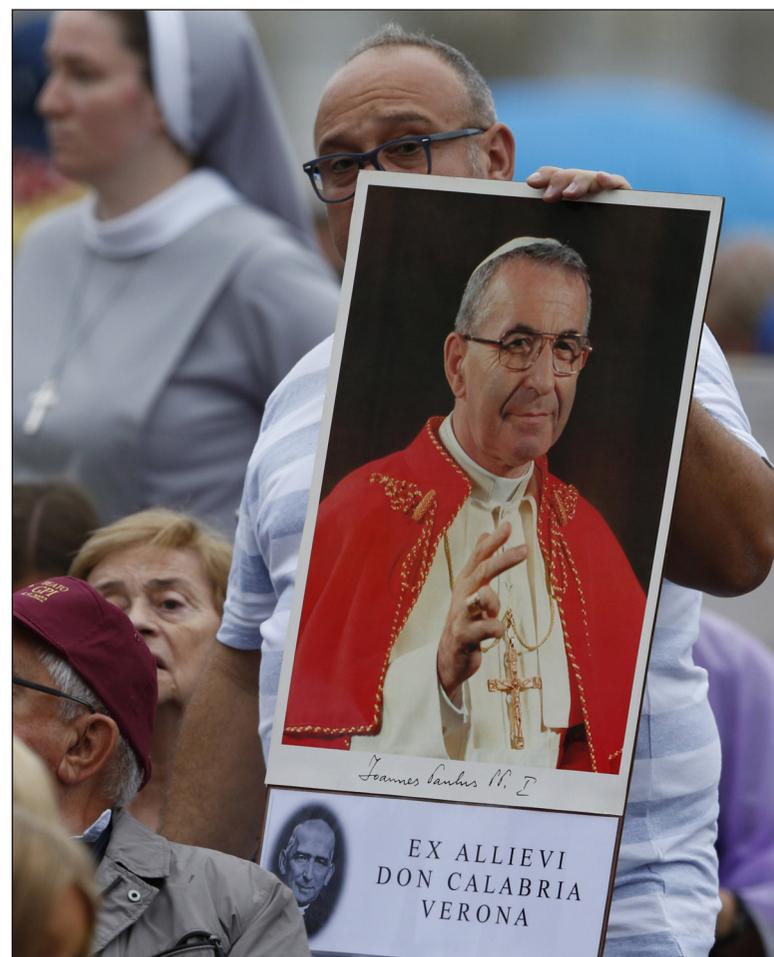
tual reflection on the three theological virtues – faith, hope, and charity – the themes of three of his only four audience talks.

The materials for the reliquary, a sculpted wooden cross on top of a smooth stone, were taken from where Blessed John Paul was born and grew up in northern Italy.

In his homily, Pope Francis connected the day's Gospel reading to the humble and Christ-centered way Blessed John Paul lived his life and to how Christians today are called to live their lives.

The pope said that Jesus attracted large crowds with his teachings, but he did not exploit this popularity the way some teachers or leaders do when they see people look to them as a source of hope for the future.

God, he said, "does not exploit our needs or use our vulnerability for his own aggrandizement. He does not want to seduce us with deceptive promises or to distribute cheap favors; He is not interested in huge crowds. He is not obsessed with numbers; He does not seek approval; he does not idolize personal success."



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**A man holds a photo of Pope John Paul I prior to Pope Francis' celebration of the beatification of Pope John Paul I in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sept. 4.**

JPI, page 3

### USF Looks to Future

*'A Good Day to be a Cougar'*

Pages 4-5

### Worship Through Song

*Notre Dame Choirs Pass*

*Liturgical Music onto Children*

Page 8

### Potential Black Saints

*Local Author Profiles Six*

*Candidates*

Page 11

### 'Adoration Changes Your Life'

*Priest Podcast 100th Episode*

*Points to Jesus*

Page 16

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)  
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend  
P.O. Box 11169  
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

## Editorial Department

PUBLICATION MANAGER:

ASSISTANT PUBLICATION MANAGER:

Jennifer Barton

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

## Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

260-456-2824

Published weekly, except for the last Sunday in December and every other week from the fourth Sunday in May through the last Sunday in August by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: [circulation@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:circulation@diocesefwsb.org)

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or email:[editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org)

## Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB](http://www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB)

## Follow us on Twitter

@diocesefwsb

## Follow us on Instagram



## Navy Chaplain Remembered on 55th Anniversary of Death in Vietnam

BY BETH GRIFFIN

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. (CNS) — On the 55th anniversary of his death in Vietnam, Maryknoll Father Vincent Capodanno was remembered at a Mass celebrated in his hometown in a chapel that bears his name.

More than 250 people filled the Father Capodanno Memorial Chapel at Fort Wadsworth in the Staten Island borough of New York to honor the chaplain's selfless service and pray for his canonization.

The Mass took place just weeks after the chaplain's sainthood cause gained public attention over a recommendation by a group of theological consultants to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican that the cause be suspended.

Bishop Peter J. Byrne, an auxiliary bishop of New York, who celebrated the memorial Mass, said in his homily that the recommendation by the theological consultants is a "pause" in a process that involves human beings evaluating information and considering how relevant the testimony of a potential saint's life was to the time in which they lived.

"Ultimately, it is in God's hands. God intervenes when it's appropriate for somebody to be canonized," and Father Capodanno's canonization might not happen in our lifetime, Bishop Byrne said.

"Father Capodanno gave his life in order to be sure his Marines were able to receive the sacraments," he added at the Mass that drew Father Capodanno's extended family, friends, military veterans, active duty service members, emergency responders, and local officials.

The bishop also pointed out that the suspension of the chaplain's cause will be appealed by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Father Capodanno, known as the "Grunt Padre", was serving a second tour of duty in Vietnam as a Navy chaplain ministering to Marines when he was wounded during a North Vietnamese ambush in the Que Son Valley on Sept. 4, 1967.

Despite his injuries, he went to the aid of a fellow corpsman who was pinned down by an enemy machine gunner. While he administered medical and spiritual attention, the unarmed chaplain was struck by 27 bullets and died at age 38.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1969, in addition to the Purple Heart, Navy Bronze Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Father Capodanno was born

in New York in 1929, the 10th child of Italian immigrants. He was ordained a Maryknoll missionary in 1958 and served in Taiwan and Hong Kong before asking permission from his religious superiors to join the Navy Chaplain Corps. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the spring of 1966 and went to Vietnam.

His sainthood cause was officially opened in 2002 and he was declared a Servant of God in 2006.

In 2013, Archbishop Broglio presided over the formal renewal of the opening of the cause. He formally closed the archdiocesan phase of the cause in May of 2017 and the findings of the local tribunal were sent to the (then-named) Congregation for Saints' Causes for review. The positio — a formal brief arguing for canonization — was submitted in May of 2020.

Mary Preece of the Archdiocese for the Military Services is vice-postulator of the chaplain's cause. She told Catholic News Service that the concerns of the theological consultants seemed superficial and will be addressed by Nicola Gori, the Rome-based postulator of the cause.

The concerns include that the positio focuses on the last year of Father Capodanno's life and shows little evidence of his spiritual growth; that he was fastidious about his personal appearance; that Maryknoll was not the primary supporter of his cause; and that with ongoing military actions in the world today, raising someone from the military for veneration may not be appropriate for the Church.

During a veterans' memorial ceremony after Mass on the lawn adjacent to the chapel, Al Lambert, a cousin of Father Capodanno, dismissed the consultants' concerns as "shallow reasons."

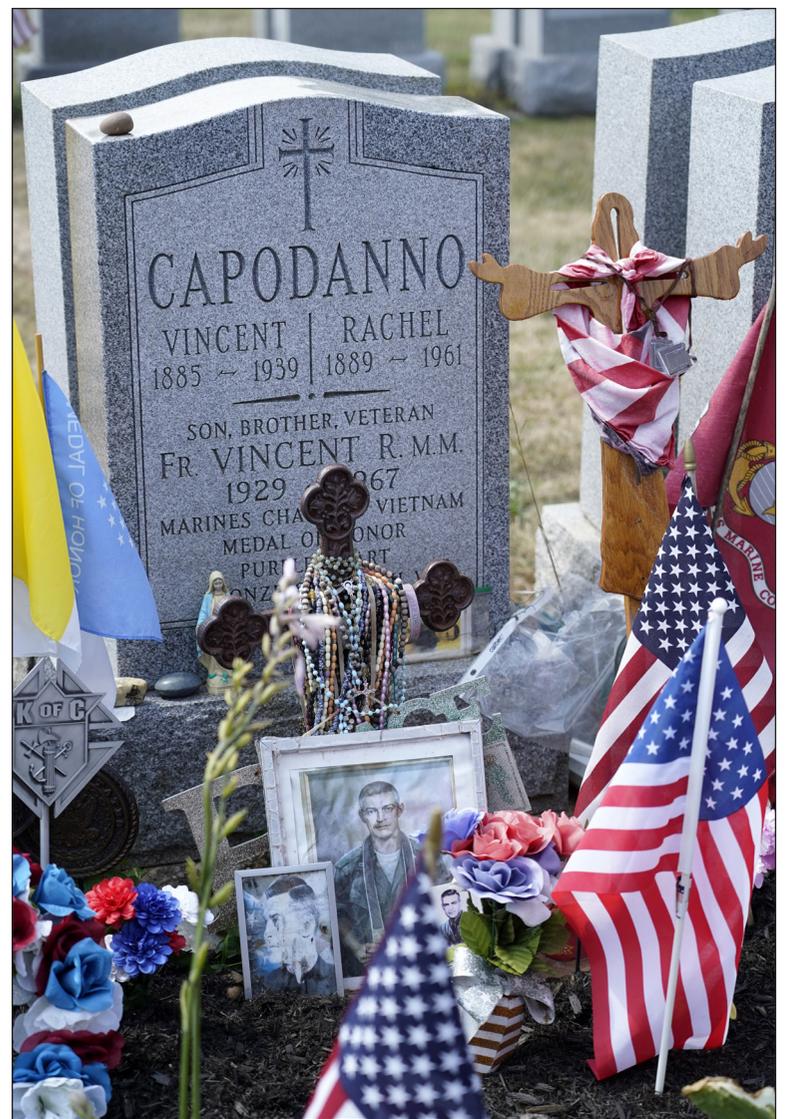
After repudiating each of the concerns, he said, to applause: "Making Father Vincent a saint right now wouldn't be a bad idea."

Lambert urged participants to pray and stay focused on the cause. He paraphrased Father Capodanno's last words, "Be calm soldier. Remember today God is here with us."

Deacon Charles Carroll, a New York City Police Department detective who also assisted at Mass, said he became a deacon because of Father Capodanno's example.

"He touched many people. We don't need Rome to tell us he's a saint because we know he is," he said. Deacon Carroll led a blessing service at Father Capodanno's grave at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Paddy Giblin, a retired New York City Police Department



CNS photos/Gregory A. Shemitz

The grave site of Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno is seen at St. Peter's Cemetery in Staten Island, N.Y., Sept. 4, 2022, the 55th anniversary of the priest's death. The plot also contains the remains of Father Capodanno's parents, Vincent and Rachel Capodanno. Father Capodanno, a native of Staten Island, was killed while ministering as a U.S. Navy chaplain to wounded Marines on a battlefield in Vietnam.



Jimmy Capodanno, nephew of Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, salutes during a memorial service marking the 55th anniversary of the priest's death.

officer played the bagpipes before the Mass and during the outdoor services. He said he and his family are seeking Father Capodanno's intervention to heal his daughter, Nina.

The 11-year-old was diagnosed with a rare, life-threatening lung disease three years ago. Because she has Down syndrome, the child is not a candidate for the only known treatment available. "We're praying for a miracle," the father said.

Preece said news of the theological consultants' response to the chaplain's sainthood

cause has boosted interest in the Father Vincent Capodanno Guild, an association established in 2013 to promote his canonization.

She also noted that people have recently come out of the woodwork with stories about Father Capodanno.

"We now have a bankable miracle for the next step in the process," Preece said, noting that the case of a woman cured of multiple sclerosis through the chaplain's intervention has been fully investigated and determined to be miraculous.

# Indiana court sides with archdiocese over teacher firing

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – The Indiana Supreme Court said the state could not interfere in a Catholic school's firing of a teacher in a same-sex marriage because of the school's religious freedom rights.

The court, in its Aug. 31 ruling, sided with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in supporting Cathedral High School's 2019 decision to fire Joshua Payne-Elliott, a social studies and world language teacher.

The opinion in the court's 4-0 decision, written by Judge Geoffrey G. Slaughter, emphasized that the "Constitution encompasses the right of religious institutions to decide for themselves, free from state interference, in matters of church government as well as those of faith and doctrine."

Payne-Elliott filed a lawsuit against the archdiocese for his firing, saying it went against his contract with the school. The firing took place after the Indianapolis Archdiocese mandated that all Catholic schools in the archdiocese enforce a morality clause that did not permit employees to be in same-sex marriages.

An Indiana trial court originally dismissed the lawsuit in favor of the archdiocese, but the former teacher appealed the decision. After the Indiana Court of Appeals reinstated the lawsuit, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, representing the archdiocese, asked the Indiana Supreme Court to review it.

Luke Goodrich, Vice President and Senior Counsel



CNS photo/John Shaughnessy, The Criterion

Cathedral High School in Indianapolis is seen in this 2018 file photo.

for Becket, is pleased with the final outcome.

"Courts can't decide what it means to be Catholic – only the Church can do that," he said in an Aug. 31 statement.

"By keeping the judiciary out of religious identity, the Indiana Supreme Court just protected all religious institutions to be free from government interference in deciding their core religious values," he added.

He also called the decision a "commonsense ruling in favor of our most fundamental rights," noting that "religious schools will only be able to pass down the faith to the next generation if they can freely receive guidance from their churches on what their faith is. We are grateful the court recognized this healthy form of separation of church and state."



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, Sept. 12: 9 a.m. – USCCB Doctrine Committee Meeting, Washington, D.C.  
 Wednesday, Sept. 14: 6 p.m. – Mass for Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, Sept. 15: 4 p.m. – Meeting of Board of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Sunday, Sept. 18: 11 a.m. – Wedding Anniversary Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

An emailed statement to the Indianapolis Star daily newspaper from Payne-Elliott's lawyer, Kathleen DeLaney, said she was disappointed with the ruling and was evaluating all options as next steps for the former teacher.

"We lament this decision's movement toward immunity from civil liability for religious institutions that discriminate against their employees," she said, but added that the court also allowed Payne-Elliott to "file a new complaint and start the case anew."

As part of the same emailed statement, Payne-Elliott said he still stands by his claim that Cathedral High School breached his contract even after he had alerted to them of his marriage.

He also said he has concerns about taxpayer dollars going toward voucher programs for private schools that he said "target LGBTQ employees." He said he fears for the "well-being of LGBTQ students and faculty in Catholic schools."

Just days before Cathedral High School fired Payne-Elliott, Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson removed the Catholic status of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis since it refused to dismiss its teacher, Layton

Payne-Elliott, who married Joshua Payne-Elliott in 2017.

In 2019, the Midwest province of the Society of Jesus, which administers Brebeuf, appealed the decree, taking away the school's Catholic status to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

In late September of that year, the congregation announced it was temporarily lifting the decree until it made a final decision, which has still not been announced.

In a news conference at the time, Archbishop Thompson said the issue involving the two schools came down to the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage.

While stressing that "one's (sexual) orientation is not a sin," the archbishop said the issue involving the two schools "is about public witness of church teaching on the dignity of marriage as (between) one man and one woman. That is our Church teaching."

"In this particular case we're dealing with, those are ministers in our church. Teachers, guidance counselors, other leaders, leaders of the schools, and other leaders in the archdiocese are bound to live out these principles," he said.

### JPI, from page 1

Christians are called to love, "to be purified of our distorted ideas of God and of our self-absorption, and to love God and others, in the church and society, including those who do not think the way we do, to love even our enemies," he said.

Christians must "love even at the cost of sacrifice, silence, misunderstanding, solitude, resistance, and persecution," he said. Because, as Blessed John Paul said, "if you want to kiss Jesus crucified, 'you cannot help bending over the cross and letting yourself be pricked by a few thorns of the crown on the Lord's head.'"

Among the family members and devotees who carried candles to place before the relic was Sister Margherita Marin, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Child Mary, who assisted in the papal apartments and was one of the sisters who found the deceased

pope on Sept. 28, 1978.

Candela Giarda, the young Argentine woman whose miracle cleared the path for Blessed John Paul's beatification, was unable to come to Rome because of a fractured foot from playing sports. She was 11 years old when she developed a severe case of acute encephalitis, experienced uncontrollable and life-threatening brain seizures, and eventually entered septic shock.

After doctors told family members her death was "imminent," Father Juan José Dabusti, who attended the beatification ceremony, encouraged the family, nurses, and others to pray to the late pope for his intercession. In 2011, a panel of experts studying the cause determined there was no scientific explanation for her complete recovery and that it could be attributed to the late pope's intercession.

Blessed John Paul, an Italian who was born Albino Luciani,

served only 33 days as pontiff; he died just three weeks shy of his 66th birthday, shocking the world and a Church that had just mourned the death of St. Paul VI.

Although his was one of the shortest papacies in history, Blessed John Paul left a lasting impression on the church that fondly remembers him as "the smiling pope."

In his Angelus address after the Mass, Pope Francis asked everyone to pray to Our Lady, "that she may obtain the gift of peace throughout the world, especially in the martyred Ukraine."

"May she, the first and perfect disciple of the Lord, help us to follow the example and holiness of life of John Paul I," he said.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Sister Margherita Marin, center, who served Pope John Paul I, is seen after presenting relics during the beatification of the late pope by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sept. 4.





Staff and students at the University of Saint Francis celebrate the beginning of a new school year with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Aug. 31. University President Father Eric Zimmer spoke of the future of the campus.



Bishop Rhoades addresses students in their educational experience, exhorting them to grow in faith and through the Holy Spirit.

of growth and transformation. Now in his second year as president, he shared some of his plans to enhance campus life. The growing business school has been moved from its former downtown location back to the heart of the campus. By purchasing a former credit union across from the campus, the school will be able to move offices to that location to better utilize spaces in the main buildings for programs like business.

One of the main future goals for the university is to deepen its Catholic nature. More scholarships will be offered for Catholic students. The advent of the Assisi Scholars Program, and expansion of campus ministry are all part of this plan. As Father Zimmer put it, the university intends to "invest in the things that make us unique."

"It's a great day to be a Cougar," he stated, noting how the school will continue to "invest in our people ... and their lives."

After the ceremony, Father Zimmer took a few moments

to expand on his plans for the university's future. "We have to grow. We talked about that transformational process, but there's three pillars." Those three pillars are as follows: increasing the student population, improving finances, and bettering the campus experience for the students. Much of those changes revolve around

evaluating practices and spaces at the university to ensure the best transformative experience possible for current and future students.

"I have a desire to always have a crane in the air, figuratively. So we say we're doing these things and it's for these reasons. ... We want to offer a transformational experience for



Make a **legacy gift** to the  
Saint Mother Theodore Guerin  
FOUNDATION

You make an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more.



You receive payments for life based on your age; a portion of those payments are even tax free.



You receive a charitable deduction; you are building the future of the sisters through a gift to the Sisters of Providence.



**ONE LIFE**

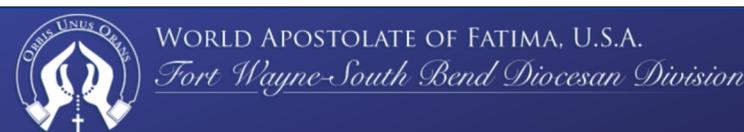
AGE	60	65	70	75	80	85	90+
RATE	3.9%	4.2%	4.7%	5.4%	6.5%	7.6%	8.6%

Rates Subject to change based on the ACCGA.

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, you will receive immediate tax savings and a guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream for life. Best of all, while you're doing something good for yourself, you'll be doing something wonderful for our sisters.

Your gift today will have an impact on the Sisters of Providence for years to come! Please call us for two-life or deferred gift annuity rates.

To request a free proposal, contact Connie Gualano, manager of planned giving, at 812-535-2811  
[PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org](http://PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org)



**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  
5 and younger: FREE  
RSVP @ [FatimaFWSB.org](http://FatimaFWSB.org)

**JOIN THE MISSION**  
[www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe](http://www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe)

## Catholic Charities Sets Up Water Distribution in Response to Miss. Flooding

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS) — Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, has begun distributing water to help residents besieged by a failing water system in the state's capital city. They are gearing up to provide water to the community through the help of Catholic Charities USA and with Catholic Charities affiliates in neighboring Louisiana. Currently, the Catholic Charities disaster response team is assisting displaced families as a result of the Pearl River flooding and it is coordinating with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to become a distribution site for water at their office in Jackson. "We are pleased that President Biden, Governor Tate Reeves, and Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba are working together to address the water situation in Jackson," said Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson in a Sept. 1 statement. "We pray for long-term solutions to this problem, and a swift response to get water flowing back into all Jackson homes and businesses." Flooding of the Pearl River is just the latest in a long string of water-related woes in Jackson. The city's water treatment plant has struggled for years to deliver clean, safe drinking water to all sections of Jackson, its primary service area. Some days, the water comes out of taps clear; some days, it comes out brown.

## Pope Calls for Prayers for Iraq, Whose People Desire Normality, Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a series of deadly clashes erupted in Iraq, Pope Francis said "dialogue and fraternity" were needed to overcome the current situation and to become a nation of diverse communities living in peace. The pope said he was following the news of "violent events" unfolding in the country, which he fondly recalled visiting in 2021. It was during that visit, he said at the end of his weekly general audience on Aug. 31, that he experienced firsthand the people's "great desire for normality and peaceful coexistence among the different religious communities" in Iraq. "Dialogue and fraternity are the right path for facing the current difficulties and to reach this goal" of peace, he said. He asked that people pray that God give the gift of peace to the Iraqi people. At least 30 people were killed and hundreds more injured in Baghdad in clashes on Aug. 29 and Aug. 30 when supporters

## CRS Provides Food to Pakistanis after Floods



CNS photo/Yasir Rajput, Reuters

Pakistanis reach out for food aid following heavy rains during the monsoon season in Sehwan, Pakistan on Sept. 1, 2022. Catholic Relief Services is working with partners to distribute aid for thousands affected by floods that have devastated the region.

of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr stormed the presidential palace after fighting with Iraqi security forces and militia groups allied with Iran.

## Agencies Join Bishop's Call for Passage of Afghan Adjustment Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — Two Catholic agencies have joined a call by the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration for passage of a bipartisan bill that would provide newly arrived Afghans the opportunity to become lawful permanent U.S. residents. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network and Catholic Charities USA said action on the Afghan Adjustment Act is needed to allow Afghans who arrived in the country in the year since the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Afghanistan to rebuild their lives. Companion bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate would define the legal status of the 76,000 Afghans who arrived in the U.S. after the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan last August. They also would require President Joe Biden to establish an Interagency Task Force on Afghan Ally Strategy and increase support for those who assisted the U.S. mission

in Afghanistan. The agencies' advocacy for the legislation and changes in how immigration officials process the Afghan arrivals follows an Aug. 10 letter from Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, the Migration Committee Chairman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He urged members of the Senate and House to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act "without delay."

## Pope Prays for 'Beloved Argentina' After Assassination Attempt Against VP

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following the attempted assassination of Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Pope Francis expressed his concern and prayers that his home nation choose to uphold the values of a democracy and avoid the path of violence. Video showed an individual aiming a handgun at point-blank range to the vice president's head as she was greeting people outside her home in Buenos Aires late Sept. 1. The sound of the trigger being pulled could be heard in the video, but the handgun did not fire. President Alberto

Fernández said the weapon was loaded with five bullets. The suspect was apprehended immediately. In a telegram sent to the vice president, Pope Francis said he received the "troubling news of the attack endured by Your Excellency. I wish to express my solidarity and closeness during this delicate time," he said in the message, which the Vatican published on Sept. 2. "I am praying that social harmony and the respect for democratic values always prevail against all forms of violence and aggression in beloved Argentina," he said in the telegram.

## Gorbachev, St. John Paul had Great Appreciation for Each Other

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who died at age 91 on Aug. 30 in Moscow after a long illness, met several times with St. John Paul II, and the two often exchanged words of appreciation for each other. The two leaders met in 1989 and again in 1990, when Gorbachev was still president of the Soviet Union and was introducing political and economic reforms in his country, as well as on

other occasions. Both men were key in the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Gorbachev won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, who served as papal spokesman for St. John Paul II and often reported on their meetings, later called Gorbachev the most important figure in the fall of the Berlin Wall. Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the wall in an article published on Nov. 5, 2009, in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica, Navarro-Valls cited Pope John Paul's support for the Polish labor union Solidarity as a key development in the pro-democracy movement in the region. But he said Gorbachev saw that the political movement in Eastern Europe was popular and unstoppable, and the Soviet leader avoided military repression and even verbal opposition. Navarro-Valls said that when Gorbachev first met with Pope John Paul in December of 1989, less than a month after the wall's collapse, the two leaders "understood each other immediately." "Both clearly understood the direction that history had begun to take. Both felt that freedom was not a political fact but a human dimension that was essential and not able to be suppressed," Navarro-Valls said.

## Ethiopian Bishops say 'No More War!' as Fighting Resumes

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — As fighting resumed in northern Ethiopia, the nation's bishops urged both parties to prioritize peace, saying women, children, and the elderly had been most affected. In an appeal titled "No More War!" the bishops urged "all parties to cede their weapons and return to the peace option, to prioritize dialogue and an option that will end the suffering of our citizens." The statement was dated Aug. 18 but was released on Sept. 2. The fighting has shaped into a full-scale war between the federal government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front since Aug. 24. The renewed fighting broke a five-month humanitarian truce the government announced in May to allow aid to reach millions of needy people in the state of Tigray. During the period, some food, medicines, and other basic needs reached the region, but Church leaders there feared it was too little, too late. Each side is blaming the opposite for the fresh fighting. The bishops said the fighting resumed as people had hopes for peace and noted that many people "are suffering from hunger, disease, and psychological damage" and have been displaced from their homes. "Our entire country is struggling under the pressure of the cost of living."

# Four Holy Cross Men Profess Final Vows

With joy and thanksgiving, the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the final profession of vows of four men in formation on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

Father William M. Lies, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, presided at the Mass and received the vows of Deacon Andrew Fritz, CSC, Brother James Henke, CSC, and Brother James Walters, CSC. He was joined by the Provincial Superior of the Moreau Province, Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC, who received the vows of Deacon John Sebastian Gutierrez, CSC,

Deacon Fritz, and Deacon Gutierrez, were ordained to the Order of the Deacon on Sunday, Aug. 28, in the Moreau Seminary Chapel by Bishop William A. Wack, CSC.

According to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the four men profess perpetual vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. For the past several years, they have been in a period of temporary vows, which they renewed annually. On Aug. 27, they committed their lives and work to the communal life and ministry of Holy Cross.

Deacon Fritz was born in Columbia, Maryland, the second of four children of David and Peggy Fritz. His home parish is St. Louis Catholic Church in Clarksville, Maryland. He enrolled at the University of Notre Dame in 2012 and began his formation with Holy Cross that same year as a member of the Old College Undergraduate Seminary. During his time in Old College, he earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in Anthropology and Philosophy. He earned his Master of Divinity from Notre Dame in 2021.

While in Old College, Fritz visited priests at Holy Cross House; taught second-, third-, and fourth-grade religious education at two parishes in South Bend; and served the poor and homeless with organizations including Catholic Worker's Our Lady of the Road in South Bend. He taught marriage preparation for couples at St. Pius X Parish in Granger from 2019-2020. He will continue serving as a deacon at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Arizona.

Deacon Gutierrez, born in San Antonio, is the oldest of two children of Patricia Sanchez. His home parish is Prince of Peace Catholic Church in San Antonio. He attended the University of the Incarnate

Word in San Antonio, earning a degree in Communication Arts with a concentration in Production in 2015. He received his Master of Divinity from Notre Dame in 2022.

Gutierrez began his formation ministry as a volunteer at Dujarié House and Quinn Memory Center at Holy Cross Village and served as a mission team leader for Holy Cross College's Campus Ministry from 2015-2016. He spent 2019-2020 teaching online theology courses in Spanish for the Camino Program at Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life. From 2020-2021, he worked with Notre Dame Campus Ministry's Multicultural Ministry. Most recently, he served as Assistant Hall Director at Holy Cross College. Following his final vows, Gutierrez will spend his diaconate year assigned to St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church in Austin, Texas.

Born in Indianapolis, Brother Henke is the oldest of three children of Robert and Ellen Henke. Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church in Greenwood, Indiana, is his home parish. He enrolled at Notre Dame in 2012 and began his formation with Holy Cross by joining Old College in 2014. He graduated in 2016 after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy/Theology. He received his Master of Divinity from Notre Dame in 2021.

Brother Henke's first ministry placement was as a CCD catechist at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend from 2014-2015, followed by a year working with Hope Ministries in South Bend. He spent the summer of 2016 at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Oregon, then spent 2016-2017 assisting Notre Dame's Campus Ministry with Bible studies and volunteering at André House in Phoenix. During the summer of 2020, Henke was a teaching assistant serving high schoolers who attended the Vocations Office's Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP) at Notre Dame. He then served as the Club President of Notre Dame's Catholic Peace Fellowship (2020-2021). Following final vows, Henke begins his apostolate as a brother working with King's College's Campus Ministry. He is also a volunteer at the Shoval Center, the college's service-engagement center.

Brother Walters was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, as the only child of Rodney and Lisa Walters. His home parish is Holy Angels in Sidney, Ohio. He earned his Bachelor's in Theology from Holy Cross College from 2013-2017 and began his formation with Holy



Provided by Julie Clark

The Congregation of Holy Cross celebrate the profession of vows of two brothers and the ordination of two deacons on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. From left are Brother James Walters, CSC, Deacon John Sebastian Gutierrez, CSC, Brother James Henke, CSC, and Deacon Andrew Fritz, CSC.

Cross as a member of Old College in 2014. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2021.

During Brother Walters' time in Old College, he served as a catechist at Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Parish from 2014-2015, interned at the Logan Center in South Bend in 2015, and wrapped up that year teaching English at St. Joseph's Hill Secondary School in Kyarusozzi, Uganda. During 2016, he volunteered at St. Patrick's Parish in London, UK, served as an RCIC instructor, ministered to the homebound at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, and interned at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Oregon. Brother Walters worked as a chaplain intern at Elkhart General Hospital in Elkhart. He served as Sacristan Coordinator at Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart from 2020-2021. He will continue to serve as Campus Minister for Retreats and Faith Formation at Stonehill College.

## St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Newman Center Preparing for 50th Anniversary

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Newman Center at Ball State in Muncie will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 15. Founding Pastor Father James Bates, along with then-Bishop Raymond Gallagher, dedicated the parish and Newman Center in 1972, which grew out of the Newman Apostolate at Ball State, at 1200 W Riverside Avenue, where it still resides today and has served thousands of Ball State Alumni. The parish, now part of the Muncie Catholic Pastorate, currently serves more than 400 families, Ball State faculty and staff, and the more than 2,000 Catholic students of Ball State University. St. Francis will celebrate the milestone with a Mass of Thanksgiving and the long-standing tradition of an Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4 will kick off the festivities with Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dessert pitch-in, and the annual Blessing of the Animals in the courtyard of the Newman House. The Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m. will be concelebrated by current Pastor, Father Eric Underwood, and former Pastor, Father John Kiefer, along with other priests who have served at St. Francis through the years. The Oktoberfest will feature a traditional German dinner, live music, games, and more.

The Newman Center on Ball State's campus has served the

spiritual needs of thousands of Catholic students through its 50-year history. Now it is gearing up to serve the third generation of students. There are multiple opportunities for Ball State students to stay connected with their faith through Cardinal Catholic. FOCUS missionaries maintain a presence at St. Francis of Assisi, offering opportunities for spiritual growth through weekly events and retreats.

In addition to the Mass and festival, the history of St. Francis will be celebrated with a display of historical photos, a series of bulletin articles about the history of the parish, commemorative logo on shirts and other merchandise. Most importantly, organizers look to showcase past students who discovered their vocations through involvement at the Newman Center, both through priestly and religious life as well as the vocation of marriage. Past alumni are welcome to submit photos and stories of how their lives have been impacted during their time at St. Francis of Assisi by emailing Tara Edmondson at tedmondson@parish.dol-in.org. Tickets for the event may be purchased at stfrancisnewman.org.



Photos provided by Mark Doerries

## A Decade of Song Brings Children Into Church Liturgy

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Mark and Hillary Doerries co-founded the Notre Dame Children's Choir 10 years ago at the urging of Margot Fassler, a medievalist brought to the University of Notre Dame from Yale as Director of Sacred Music. Its purpose was twofold: to give graduate students in the field of Sacred Music (Conducting) practical experience and to revitalize the liturgical role children play in the Church. Considering that legacy, 10 years is a short stretch. "Instead of an overnight solution, we're investing in the trenchwork to build a generation of musical Catholics," said Mark.

Instead of paying professional singers to comprise church choirs, Mark's vision as Head of the Graduate Conducting Studio was to grow them "from the ground up;" to train children to lead the musical portions of the liturgy at a high level, whether in parishes or at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart or Church of the Loretto at St. Mary's College. Sacred music is the focus, including Gregorian chant and Renaissance Mass settings. He is "truly invested in the idea that children can be leaders in sacred music" and recovering the Church's musical tradition, so much richer and deeper than the contemporary music many have grown up with in their churches.

Instead of the 20 children the Doerries expected might be interested in the middle school Chamber Choir and elementary school Descant Choir, 50 youths signed up for the program the first year, responding to notices in the South

Bend Tribune and a university employee publication. About 20 families have been involved from the beginning and continue their involvement.

The Notre Dame Children's Choir provides high-quality musical training at no cost to families, but requires at least as much commitment as a travel sports team. Participants come from all over the area, as far as LaPorte, Indiana and Edwardsburg, Michigan. About a quarter of them are homeschooled. Before the pandemic, 300 children were involved in liturgical choirs for different age groups, from toddlers through high schoolers; not surprisingly, 2022-23 is a year of rebuilding.

Before age nine, no audition is required. For older children, a vocal assessment helps determine which choir is the best fit. Mark is convinced that any child can learn how to sing given the right training, from reading music to vocal technique.

In learning liturgical music, children are inevitably learning a great deal of Catholic theology as well. Mark describes the program as "ecumenical

with a Catholic core." About 25 percent of the children, eager to sing classical music, come from other religious traditions or none at all. It is a safe environment for inquisitive conversations.

There are currently 10 different choirs, as well as training in playing the organ. New this year are an ecumenical community children's choir in Elkhart and Voices of Courage choirs at two South Bend primary schools with a special interest in African-American and Hispanic music. Another new initiative grew out of a



desire to serve the range of children in every family. It is a Lyric Choir for Singers of Mixed Abilities, including those with special needs, from the ages of eight to 13. With the exception of the Christmas concert, this choir is not performance-oriented. About half of the classes will take place alongside singers from the

Chamber and Seraphim choirs.

Every other year, the Notre Dame Children's Choir makes a recording; on the alternate year, they go on tour to a different part of the United States or the United Kingdom. Last year, despite the pandemic, they were able to record Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols," a very challenging

work for children's choirs and harp. This year's tour will take them to the east coast, including performing at Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a concert at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

In honor of the 10th anniversary, every choir will learn a setting of the Magnificat, including new music commissioned specifically for the Notre Dame Children's Choir. Singing for Vespers has always been part of the experience, so it makes sense to Mark to have every child thoroughly learn the canticle that forms the centerpiece of the Church's evening prayer.

Other performances dur-



ing the 10th anniversary year include a Dec. 9 Christmas event, involvement in a May performance of "Carmina Burana," and a medieval mystery play about Jonah and the whale, set to the historical text by a contemporary composer.

The Notre Dame Children's Choir is generously supported by the University of Notre Dame. Its inception was underwritten by a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Foundation. Before retiring this spring, Fassler helped secure an endowment that ensures its continuation.

"We love what we do," Mark said. "Working with kids is infectious. Some of our graduate students who haven't had much experience with children are terrified at first, but they find this so life-giving! We believe that young people singing sacred music has the power to change and heal communities."

*In honor of the 10th anniversary, every choir will learn a setting of the Magnificat, including new music commissioned specifically for the Notre Dame Children's Choir.*

# Local Company Produces Film on Servant of God Thea Bowman

BY ERIN LYNCH

Watching the outbreaks of violence centered around the last couple of years' racial tensions in America, Sister Judith Zielinski, the Director of Faith and Values Programming at New Group Media, a media company based out of South Bend, found herself wondering what was next. Sister Judith said that the experience was "really profound, it really touched me." As she reflected, she thought to herself, "I am a writer, a storyteller. What can we do next? Thea Bowman immediately came to the forefront." Thus was born "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood," a documentary on the Black Catholic religious sister who passed away in 1990. Her cause for canonization is currently open.

The company has already produced other documentaries on prominent American Catholics, so creating one on Sister Thea Bowman made sense. The film covers Sister Thea's life and path to sainthood through both interviews and extensive footage and photos of her. Sister Judith said she felt it was very important to interview people who actually knew Sister Thea when she was alive, and so they were able to go to all the places of significance for her and conduct those interviews. Sister Judith noted that it was truly amazing to be able to interview childhood friends of Sister Thea's who remembered playing with dolls with her on her family's front porch.

Sister Thea was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, in 1937, with the given name Bertha Elizabeth. Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz, Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, was the one to initiate her cause for sainthood in 2019. Sister Judith contacted Bishop Kopacz, who agreed to come onboard as the Executive Producer for the documentary.

Sister Thea's family moved to Canton, Mississippi, shortly after she was born. When she was nine years old, she became Catholic and received her First Communion. When she was 12 years old, she was enrolled at Holy Child Jesus School, a school run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She fell in love with the order and at the age of 15 told her parents that she wanted to join the Franciscans, which they were resistant to initially. She staged a hunger strike in order to convey her deep desire, and her parents relented. Sister Thea moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she became the first African American member of her religious community. At her profession, she

took the name Sister Mary Thea, in honor of her father, Theon. Sister Thea became a teacher for people of all ages. She earned her doctorate from Catholic University of America and went on to become a college professor of English and linguistics.

During the 1960s, Sister Thea went through a time of spiritual and cultural reawakening. She became motivated to share the beauty and depth of her African-American culture and spirituality. Sister Thea began to travel throughout the country as an evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer.

Larry Bilinski, the Post-Production Director and Editor of the documentary said, "Had she not become a Catholic nun, she probably could have been a Broadway performer."

"She had an amazing singing voice which she loved to share. She could be the most intense and engaging speaker but often laced her talks with a delightful and, dare I say, an almost wicked sense of humor. She was a natural performer who engaged intimately with her audience. It's easy to see why she was such a beloved speaker, and how she was able to touch so many lives."

In 1978, Sister Thea returned to Canton to help care for her aging parents. She was appointed to direct the Office of Intercultural Affairs for the Diocese of Jackson. In 1984, both of her parents died and she was diagnosed with breast cancer. In 1989, she was invited to speak to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at their annual meeting on the topic of racial inclusivity and inter-cultural respect.

This is a topic that is very relevant today. Sister Judith said, "I wanted to connect Thea's message to the issue of systemic racism today. We are so polarized and so fearful and so worried about people who are not 'our tribe.' I am hoping this spurs some energy in the Church to speak out more about racism." Sister Judith continued by saying how Sister Thea "was talking about the challenge of the Gospel to love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. This has everything to do with us and what's going on today."

Marie Smith, a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka, said she was excited to see the documentary and shared, "Sister Bowman made it her mission to seek peace and justice for all, and she wanted to help break down racial and cultural barriers. These causes are close to my heart as well. And as a teacher, I did my best to show my students that we are all children of God and hold dignity, no matter our race or culture. It will be

good to have a saint who looks like me, and who can relate to my struggles."

She had first been introduced to Sister Thea when she was in college and now, "I cannot wait for the day when we can officially say 'St. Thea Bowman, pray for us.'"

"Going Home Like a Shooting Star" will air on ABC stations nationwide beginning in October. Check local listings for dates and times.

**A crewman from New Group Media, a media company based in South Bend, and the actress playing Servant of God Thea Bowman film a scene from for the documentary "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood." The film is scheduled to air on ABC stations in October.**



Provided by Christopher Salvatore

## KEELEY VATICAN LECTURE

*My Contacts with Saint John Paul II  
at the Fall of the Soviet Union*



**His Excellency, The Most Reverend Claudio Gugerotti**

*Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain and the Titular Archbishop of Rebellum*

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

Eck Visitors Center Auditorium



Free and open to the public  
Livestream at [nanovic.nd.edu/vatican](https://nanovic.nd.edu/vatican)

KEOUGH SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Nanovic Institute  
for European Studies

UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

# Building Support Systems for Families in Need

BY KATIE MURRAY

The overturning of Roe v. Wade has brought greater attention to the fact that many families desperately need support, whether it's because they are facing an unplanned pregnancy or hardships such as food insecurity, housing, financial crisis, or severe illness. What's more, they need social support. Parents know all too well the stressors of everyday life when it comes to child rearing, and one thing they lack most is social support, whether it's from family, friends, or another person they know they can trust and rely on. In an article published in UCA Health, it was found that "Social support ... entails many things, including help with tasks or material assistance, but also emotional support, including acceptance, listening, and making someone feel cared for and valued."

As children of God, Christians are called upon to help those less fortunate, and those that need help the most right now are the smallest and most vulnerable within the local community. They need help to have the best start in life, and it begins in the womb. Stress is a major factor during pregnancy, whether it's planned or unplanned.

Research has shown that stress "... [can lead] to adverse pregnancy outcomes such as low birth weight, pre-term delivery, or miscarriage."

How can individuals help to reduce the stress and burdens of pregnant mothers and give their babies the best start to life? The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) instituted the "Walking With Moms in Need" campaign two years ago to promote resources so that Catholics know how to support these families, and can point them in the right direction during times of need.

Healthier Moms and Babies of Fort Wayne, whose mission is to reduce the infant mortality rate, provides a wide variety of programs to assist low-income and minority families, which are the most vulnerable to infant mortality and maternal death. They provide education and in-home counseling for mothers and fathers while also building a support circle for them. Paige Wilkins, Director of the organization, shared that many women come to them with unplanned pregnancies and are facing many hardships in their life and experiencing a lack of confidence in their abilities to be a mother.

"We really try to take care of their initial needs to get them stable while building that healthy relationship. Once we



Provided by Paige Wilkins

**Healthier Moms and Babies provides programming such as counseling and education to low-income and minority families in the Fort Wayne-area.**

get the moms to feel empowered and know they can count on us for support, they can kind of start building their confidence and then take the education that we provide them and make some life-impacting changes."

The CDC announced in 2020 that the average mortality rate in the United States was 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, with Indiana sitting in the top tier at 6.5. According to Wilkins, this can be combated through more education. "The education that we provide really says something about what our families are learning, and it's very evident because our preterm rate of the population we're serving, which is the community's most at-risk pregnant women ... Allen county's preterm rate is about 12 percent and ours is 7 percent. So we're half of what the county is."

Other than lack of education, food insecurity is another concern at the top of the list of risk factors families face, especially those with young children. WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is a federal program administered at the state level that provides nutritional foods for pregnant and nursing women, infants, and children up to 5 years old. This free program aims to help families obtain the sustenance they need to thrive. Not only does it provide food, but also educational programs such as nutritional counseling, breastfeeding support, loaning breast pumps, a support group, and a 24-hour support line. WIC workers can even help breastfeeding moms to obtain breast pumps they can keep.

"Many people think that they don't qualify for this assistance, but that's not true. Some think that others need it more than them. I want them to know that's not how our program works. If you think you don't qualify, you actually might," said Tiann Aughinbaugh, WIC Director for Allen, Noble, and DeKalb counties.

Another organization that spans nationally is Safe Families for Children. Their mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect. "We get referrals from a mix of places like parents just finding us on their own and sometimes DCS caseworkers who want to provide some support to a family without bringing kids into foster care. Our goal is to always reunite the children with their biological family," said Josh Frey, Director of the Fort Wayne chapter.

The program focuses on helping families in crisis. It is structured differently than any other program. Its aim is to build a support system for families who may not have any close family or friends they can turn to in times of need, such as when a parent experiences a financial crisis or a long-term illness/recovery period. Safe Families literally does what its name says: provides a safe, temporary home for these children. "The parents we help

love their kids and they're honestly just really scared that they might lose their kids. And I think that's a nightmare scenario for any parent. Our family coaches will kind of work with them, help them navigate their options, and build a plan that will help them reach the point of reunification as quickly as possible," said Frey.

All host families who take children in on a short-term basis are volunteers trained to deal with a variety of situations. The "placing families," the parents in need, are able to keep an open line of communication with their child or children while they take care of the situation at hand in order to bring them home to a safe and loving environment. All families who come to the program place their kids with a carefully vetted host family voluntarily.

So many families are unfamiliar with the abundance of resources out there to help them in their time of need. Building encouraging relationships with others prevents adverse outcomes and connects them to resources that can put them on the right path for them and their families. Relationships are the foundation to success. This is the goal of the USCCB's Walking With Moms in Need campaign.

The Healthier Moms and Babies program is in need of volunteers for their campaign to distribute free diapers. They can be reached at 260-469-4076. The Safe Families program is also in need of partners to provide more resources for families in need of assistance. They can be reached through their website: [northeastindiana.safe-families.org/](http://northeastindiana.safe-families.org/).



Provided by Josh Frey

**Safe Families for Children provides care for parents who find themselves in a crisis situation and need to place their children temporarily with a host family while they work through their difficulties to bring their children back to a safe, loving home.**

## Kermes

Food Sale,  
Children's  
games, Bingo,  
Beer Tent,  
Raffle,  
and more!

### Family Fun

Diversión Familiar

Sat., Sept. 10
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 11

Sáb. 10 de Sep
Dom, 11 de Sep

St. Joseph Church • 2213 Brooklyn Ave. • Fort Wayne

## Mind & Heart

LECTURE SERIES

### The Role of Healing in Evangelization

a talk by Dr. Mary Healy  
Professor of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Thursday, September 22 | 7:30 p.m.  
Driscoll Auditorium, Holy Cross College

This talk is free and open to the public.

**HOLY CROSS COLLEGE**  
at Notre Dame, Indiana

SCHOLAR | CITIZEN | LEADER | DISCIPLE

[hcc-nd.edu](http://hcc-nd.edu)

# Fort Wayne Author's Award-Winning Book Highlights African-American Candidates for Sainthood as Models for Today

BY KEVIN KILBANE

As Michael R. Heinlein watched racial violence and counter-protests erupt across America during the summer of 2020, he kept thinking about what he and others could do with their gifts and talents to contribute to healing and the greater good.

An editor and writer, Heinlein, 36, of Fort Wayne, created the book, "Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood," which profiles the six African-American Catholics who are candidates for canonization.

"What I was hoping to do with this book," Heinlein explained, "is to show holiness is the answer, sanctity is the answer, and that these six individuals in particular are a model for us of how to address the questions that were re-emerging in our society again. That's what kept coming back to me in prayer."

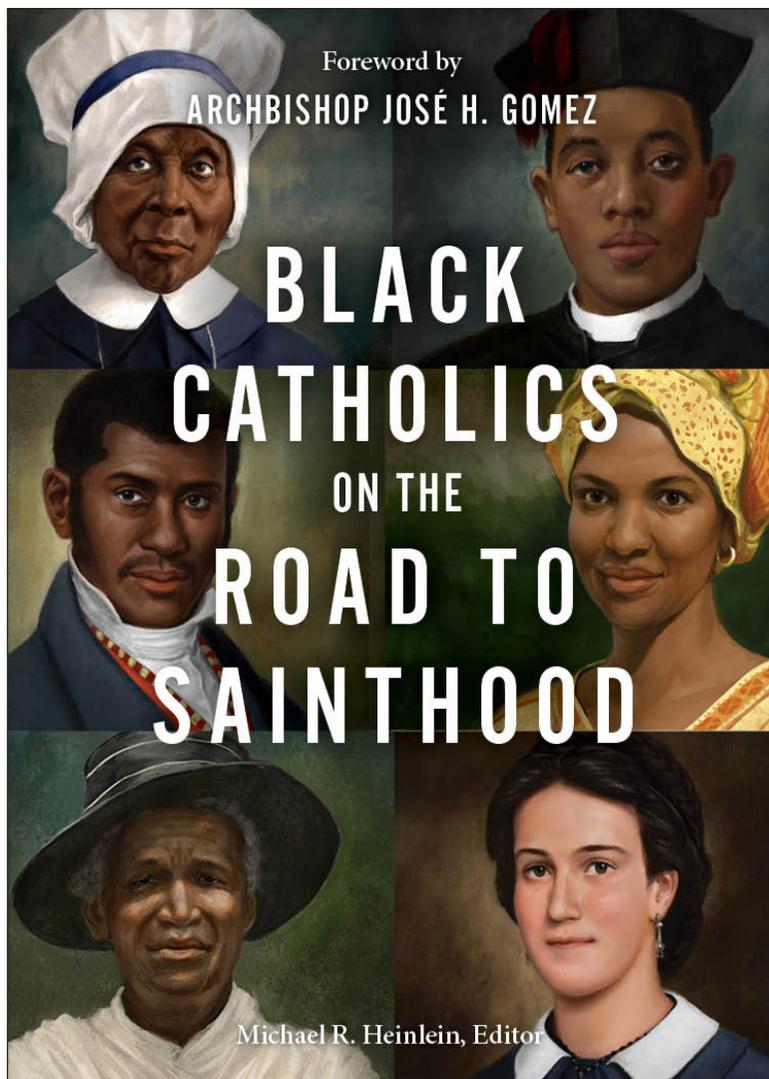
The 120-page book recently received first place in the Newly Canonized Saints category of the Catholic Media Association's national 2022 Book Awards. His "Teeny, Tiny Theology" series, which introduces young children to basic Catholic theology and some theological terms, also received an honorable mention in the Best New Religious Book Series award category.

Born in 1985 in Kankakee, Illinois, Heinlein grew up in Crown Point in northwest Indiana after his family moved there when he was six. He went on to earn a degree in theology from The Catholic University of America and to become editor of The Catholic Answer magazine.

After moving to Fort Wayne in 2014, he taught theology for three years at Bishop Dwenger High School. When he and his wife, Gretchen, began preparing for the arrival of their first child, Joseph, now five, Heinlein left Bishop Dwenger to do writing and editing work from home. Their family now also includes Anne, three, and John, three months.

Today, Heinlein works as editor of the website SimplyCatholic.com and its e-newsletter, both of which are published by Catholic media nonprofit Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington. He contributes articles to Our Sunday Visitor's weekly newspaper and to its The Priest magazine. He has also written several Our Sunday Visitor booklets and pamphlets and serves as theological adviser for OSV Kids magazine.

In addition to his work, Heinlein serves as one of the



Fort Wayne author Michael R. Heinlein's book, "Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood," received first place in the Newly Canonized Saints category at the Catholic Media Association's national 2022 Book Awards. Heinlein believes the six African-American candidates for sainthood, who rose above racial prejudice, serve as good role models for all people today.

masters of ceremony for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Heinlein and his wife are also going through formation to make promises with the Association of Pauline Cooperators, a lay-oriented group within the Pauline Family founded by Blessed Father James Alberione of Italy.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March of 2020, Heinlein quickly expanded his writing to produce books intended to help people navigate the new challenges in their faith life.

"A lot of my writing is, I guess, the fruit of prayer," he said. "These aren't anything that I just kind of want to do. I feel compelled to do it."

"I think anyone in Catholic media ought to be reading the 'signs of the times,'" he said. "But this cannot be done apart from Christ, which should make prayer so vital to our work. I can trust that my work is a cooperation with Christ's work when I consider in prayer anything I'm working on. I can always point out ways that prayer shapes and informs my work because it helps me to discern the ways today that I can contribute to the mission of helping draw others into closer

relationship with Christ."

"The Handy Little Guide to Spiritual Communion," which was published in May 2020, explains the practice of spiritual communion, which came into widespread use while Catholic churches were closed during the early months of the pandemic.

In late summer of 2020, Heinlein and Father Harrison Ayre, the co-host of the popular podcast "Clerically Speaking," authored the book, "Finding Christ in the Crisis: What the Pandemic Can Teach Us."

Just as many other people, Heinlein was moved by the racial divide tearing America apart during the summer of 2020. He submitted a manuscript idea for a book about African-American candidates for sainthood, and Our Sunday Visitor approved it.

The candidates are in the early stages of the canonization process, which can begin after a person's death: Mother Mary Lange (circa 1784-1882), Julia Greeley (circa 1833-1918), and Sister Thea Bowman (1937-1990) each have been named a Servant of God, the initial step in the process. Pierre Toussaint

## Steps to sainthood

Foreword by

After death, a person's journey to possible Catholic sainthood begins with a cause for their sainthood being opened and the person being declared a Servant of God.

A saint candidate can be declared Venerable by the Pope if the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints reviews evidence collected about the person's life and finds he or she died as a martyr for the faith, offered his or her life for others, or exhibited "heroic virtue," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said on their website, usccb.org.

A candidate who has been declared Venerable then can be beatified, or declared Blessed, if she or he died for the faith or for others, or, if named Venerable because of heroic virtue, that a miracle can be attributed to her or his intercession with God.

Candidates who have been named Blessed can be canonized a saint if it can be proven a miracle took place through their intercession with God after they were named Blessed.

The Pope has the authority to waive the requirements above and approve a candidate's canonization, the USCCB website said.



MICHAEL R. HEINLEIN

(1766-1853), Henriette Delille (1812-1862), and Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) have been declared Venerable, which means the Vatican's Congregation

for the Causes of Saints has reviewed evidence collected about the candidate's life and has found he or she died as a martyr for the faith, offered his or her life for others, or exhibited "heroic virtue."

The book, which was released in February of 2021, seems to be the first one profiling all six African-American candidates for sainthood, said Heinlein, who is distantly related to Delille through an ancestor in the 1700s. The book costs \$9.95 in paperback and also is available as an e-book.

Heinlein wrote a brief biography of each saint candidate, as well as an introduction and afterword. Each biography is followed by a reflection on the candidate by a Catholic writer, most of whom had been actively commenting on the racial division during the summer of 2020. Heinlein wanted the book to include the voices of Black Catholics and others in the Church because it is a universal church, and he wanted voices who also believed holiness is the key to healing.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles wrote the book's foreword.

The award "speaks of these six," Heinlein said. "It was nothing I did. It's just that these six, I think, especially when they are all together in this book, sock a punch that really lands in the minds and hearts of the reader.

"I've have gotten a lot of

positive feedback about it," he noted, "and I'm grateful for that."

He has always been interested in sainthood causes, he said, and especially in the stories of these six candidates.

"They excelled in the virtues," he explained. "In these six cases, they all experienced racism but they never dished the hate back. They were very Christ-like in that way. So, they serve as a model for us today, not only talking about the issues of racial justice, but we all experience the violence and hate of a divisive culture, a divisive society. And how do we do our part to bring the light of Christ to the world around us? I think these six all offer something to every Catholic."

During their lives, Heinlein said the African-American candidates for sainthood lived and ministered at the margins of the Church because of their race. The Catholic Church began recognizing the contributions of holy men and women at the margins after the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s. He supports that effort, saying the canon of saints need to be "a little more representative" of the many types of people and cultures within the Church.

"I hope people can fall in love with these individuals and promote their causes," Heinlein said, "so that they will be beatified and eventually canonized because we need that recognition of their holiness in the Church."

**Learn more:** "Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood," edited and partially written by Michael R. Heinlein, and his other books are available wherever books are sold, including Our Sunday Visitor at [www.orderosv.com](http://www.orderosv.com).

## A Tree Falls and is Noticed

I've never lost a tree before. Our property had three magnificent oaks, each more than a hundred, maybe 150 years old. Like J.R.R. Tolkien's Ents, each had its own gravitas.

One died after a long decline, and we finally had it taken down. It was so large that I couldn't reach my arms around it. So lofty it could easily be seen across the street or around the block. It was home to squirrels and a way station for woodpeckers and mourning doves, blue jays, and mockingbirds. Even the occasional ill-tempered crow.

This week I watched it being dismantled by fearless men scaling its eroding trunk and severing its limbs with chain saws, standing on doomed branches that for so long knew only the footfalls of much smaller creatures. I felt a deep sadness at the loss.

My tree was born when this land was a woodland escape for city dwellers. Its green sprout may have seen soldiers who had fought in the Civil War. As a sapling, it certainly saw veterans of the Spanish-American War. It looked down upon the first horseless carriages, and looked up to see the first airplanes buzzing overhead.

After World War I, it saw houses erected nearby. After World War II, it became part of the property we now live on. Under its encompassing bower,

families came together, grew up, and departed. It is unlikely children tried to scale it, by then towering above a two-story house.

My aged sentry witnessed births and probably deaths, joy and sadness. It watched generations of homeowners rake its fallen leaves in autumn, and rejoice at its first buds in spring. My oak provided cool shade during hot, sticky summers, and stoically bore the occasional snowfall that would edge its dark branches.

By the time I had entered its domain, its age was showing. Branches occasionally tumbled to the ground – first small ones, then larger. A pruning meant to restore it to some health instead most likely precipitated its final decline. A massive branch fell one night, waking the neighbors and crushing a chain-link fence.

It was time to say goodbye to my humbled giant.

Perhaps my sadness at its passing comes with seeing my own reflection in it.

I too look out on a changing landscape, marveling at all I've witnessed, yet with some sadness at what has passed. That tree and I, we have each done our duty. We've fulfilled our given roles with diligence, and honored our commitments.

We have done our best to comfort and support those who depended on us, providing hospitality to those who passed our way. We witnessed not



GREG ERLANDSON

### AMID THE FRAY

just the changing of seasons, but the changing of eras. I look back on all that I have seen and experienced in my family and my work. The children are gone now, finding their own way. The profession I chose is changing. The chain saws are growling.

Yet we can only be responsible for our time and our place. Somewhere, perhaps nearby, a new oak is taking root, a sapling growing stronger each day. It grows heavenward, and in its time it will see new seasons and new eras.

Like a memento, the stump remains. Squirrels play on it, and already the vines are preparing to swallow it up. We can count the rings that mark its years, but that data does not adequately record all that it witnessed, all it sheltered. It is for me now to note its passing and to wonder what new giants, what unnoticed signs of hope are just now being born.

Greg Erlandson, Director and Editor-in-Chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at [gerlandson@catholicnews.com](mailto:gerlandson@catholicnews.com).

## Following the Path of Inspiration

During his down time at work, a Minnesota surgeon often browses the New Yorker in the hospital library. One day he spotted its famed cartoon caption contest – a caption-less cartoon that calls on readers to submit captions and then vote on their favorites, to be published in the following issue of the magazine.

The fun is trying to explain an oddity or the juxtaposition of two disparate elements in a single sentence. The contest generates some 5,000 to 10,000 entries a week. And this doctor was intrigued by the cartoon he saw: a husband and wife lying in bed behind prison bars.

"I stared at the cartoon for several minutes and typed a few duds," he wrote. "Then I was called to start a surgery and, literally, in those few seconds before I logged off, the caption came to me."

He typed: "How about we just stay in tonight?"

The caption won the contest. What happened in the span of those three or four seconds? Inspiration struck.

As a Catholic journalist, I have always been fascinated by that Eureka moment. I often ask people to describe the scene in detail: room, time of day, beverage at hand, music in the background. There's



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

### TWENTY SOMETHING

something satisfying about painting a picture, pinning down all the elements in place when the elusive experience occurred.

A criminal prosecutor told me he sets his alarm for 4 a.m. and makes Cuban coffee so he can write fiction before his kids wake up. His preferred method: paper and pen.

"This morning, right after my prayer, this story I've been thinking about for 18 months just kind of came together," he said.

What made it click?

"Who knows?" he said. "I like to think it was grace and a bit of the Holy Spirit."

The late novelist John Hassler found it helpful to read his old journals. "Between novels," he said, "I will browse through my 30 years of journal entries looking for topics to write about, and this, together with my memory and imagination, produces the fiction." If

CAPECCHI, page 13

## God's Forgiveness Welcomes us Back into the Fold



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

#### Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 15:1-32

This weekend's first reading is from the Book of Exodus, which chronicles the passage of the Hebrew people from Egypt, where they had been slaves.

Moses guided them, but essentially, in Hebrew eyes, God guided them, since Moses could not have accomplished such a task without God's help. So, while they had Moses to thank for their successful and safe passage across the Sinai Peninsula to the land God had promised them, the thanks ultimately were due to Almighty God.

In this reading, God speaks to Moses. God indicts the

people for sinning. They indeed had committed the greatest of sins by constructing and then worshipping an idol, a calf crafted from gold, nothing but a lifeless piece of metal.

Harsh punishment properly would follow, not because of divine meanness, but because they had pushed God away. They would reap the whirlwind. It reflected the ancient Jewish thought that rejecting God totally upset a person's life, flawed the person's decision-making, weakened a person, and brought unwanted consequences.

Moses implored God to forgive the people. Moses pleaded with God to remain the people's guide and protector despite their sin.

The First Epistle to Timothy provides the second reading. Timothy was St. Paul's disciple. Together with Silvanus, Timothy had accompanied Paul on some of Paul's missionary travels.

While elsewhere in his writings Paul seems to express some doubts about Timothy's skills for leadership, Paul nevertheless regarded him as a special associate and faithful

disciple.

To fortify Timothy's fidelity, Paul explains his own personal devotion to Christ. Paul makes very clear that he himself was a sinner, but, despite this, Paul insists, God saved him from eternal death, through Jesus the Redeemer.

St. Luke's Gospel is the last reading. It is a story of the Lord's willingness to associate with tax collectors and sinners. It is easy to imagine why the critics of Jesus disdained sinners. After all, sinners insulted God by breaking the divine law, but why were tax collectors despised as terrible sinners?

The reason was two-fold. In the first place, they were turncoats and traitors, willing tools of the detested Roman occupation, collecting taxes for the imperial treasury.

Secondly, they were legalized thieves and extortionists. Under the Roman system, tax collectors assessed taxes in amounts they themselves chose. Then they could take whatever they received above and beyond what was sent to Rome and put it in their own pockets.

Jesus associated with these despicable tax collectors. He even called one of them, Matthew, to be an apostle! Of course, people criticized Jesus, unable to believe their own eyes.

The Lord answered critics with three beautiful parables. Their lessons are clear. God's mercy never ends, nor is it ever limited. It awaits even the worst of sinners, if only they repent. God reaches out to us in our need.

He can give us the strength to see the way and to withstand whatever.

### Reflection

Displayed in the Vatican Museum is a splendid item given to Pope Leo XIII in 1903 on his 25th anniversary as Roman pontiff by the Austrian emperor and Hungarian king, Francis Joseph I. Mounted on a magnificent black marble pedestal are wonderfully carved gold figures of 99 sheep, following a shepherd carrying one sheep on his shoulders.

The scene recalls the good shepherd who searched for and found the stray sheep.

This beautiful work of art illustrates the first of this weekend's parables. If we turn to the Lord but are still weak, the loving, merciful Lord literally will carry us to fertile pastures.

First, we must admit our own blindness, limitations, and stubbornness. It is not easy. We need God's strength and enlightenment.

God will help us if we are humble, as Moses was humble, as Paul was humble.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Ex 32:7-11, 13-14 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 1 Tm 1:12-17 Lk 15:1-32

**Monday:** 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 Ps 40:7-10, 17 Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Ps 100:1b-5 Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11 Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 Jn 19:25-27

**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:12-20 Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b, 15 Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Ps 56:10c-14 Lk 8:4-15

# Homosexual Men and Chaste Friendships

Catholic men facing same-sex attractions often struggle with how they are supposed to handle their homo-romantic feelings. Some clearly understand that the Church invites them to order their feelings and attractions through a life of chaste continence, but they also wrestle with a strong desire for same-sex friendship and bonding.

In the midst of an escalating gay culture that actively promotes and celebrates homosexual sex, even in its most promiscuous forms, how can young men hope to encounter friends with whom they might cultivate healthy and chaste relationships? What role does the Church play in supporting and encouraging this?

A group called Courage offers outstanding spiritual support for those who are struggling with same-sex attraction and desiring to live chastely according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

Founded by Father John Harvey, Courage held its first meeting in 1980 in New York City. Since then, it has expanded into an international ministry. This important apostolate deserves broad recognition and support for its vital work, yet regrettably, resistance still arises at times in some quarters of the Church when Courage seeks to promote clear Catholic teaching on chastity and homosexuality.

Cultivating a chaste heart demands a deep prayer life, strong spiritual support, and good fellowship, not to mention frequent reception of the sacraments, especially holy Communion and Confession. Courage vigorously promotes these practices.

I once visited a large Midwest Catholic parish where there was a group of men with same-sex attraction who attended Mass together. I later learned that each of them had his own room in a common living arrangement where they divided responsibilities, prayed together, discussed their burdens and struggles, and sought to strengthen each other in their shared journey of following the Lord generously and chastely. They were a source of inspiration and an example of hope within the parish, which

supported and encouraged them.

Among same-sex-attracted individuals, cultivating chaste relationships with each other can sometimes be complex. Doing so requires a supportive environment, patience, an understanding of human weakness, a strong sense of hope, and a mutually shared determination to avoid near occasions of sin.

A few years ago, I read a memorable, no-holds-barred commentary on the gay lifestyle by Ronald G. Lee, a librarian in Houston, Texas, in which, based on his own struggles with homosexuality, he offered several helpful observations. He disputed the claim that gay men are supposed to, or are even able to, live in monogamous homosexual relationships. Instead, echoing the wisdom of the Church's teaching, he stressed the fundamental need for a chaste lifestyle.

At the same time, he acknowledged the urgent need for same-sex-attracted individuals to have healthy human friendships with others. He mentioned his best friend Mark, who, like himself, was a refugee from the gay lifestyle and a man of faith. Summing up their relationship, he said, "From Mark

I have learned that two men can love each other profoundly while remaining clothed the entire time. We are told that the Church opposes same-sex love. Not true. The Church opposes homogenital sex, which in my experience is not about love, but about obsession, addiction, and compensation for a compromised masculinity."

The Catholic Church stresses that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered but homosexual persons are not. This distinction is crucial. Moreover, a person's natural inner desire for human bonding should not be considered disordered or problematic in itself. In other words, the desire for friendship, relationship, and communion, even among same-sex-attracted individuals, is not intrinsically disordered, although desiring and pursuing same-sex sexual relations, which always contravene the root purposes of human sexuality, will be unchaste and immoral. The desire for closeness among same-sex-attracted



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

## MAKING SENSE OF

individuals can and should be directed toward non-lustful friendships.

A second distinction is also worth mentioning. If homoerotic desires are allowed to take root, linger and be acted upon, they will be inherently problematic and sinful. If such desires, however, arise spontaneously in a person's mind and are not actively cultivated, entertained, or acted upon, this would not be sinful, insofar as sin always involves a wrongful choice.

The late Father Benedict Groeschel alluded to these nuances surrounding our inclinations and choices when he noted, "Homosexuality is a condition; gay and lesbian is a decision."

The Catholic Church extends a beautiful call to each of us, one of authentic freedom and love. Human sexuality involves powerful drives that must be ordered within God's sacred and providential plan. The Catechism reminds us that same-sex-attracted individuals are called ultimately to holiness, which is the fulfillment of a life of love:

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (n.2359).

That summons is a source of great hope.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 11, 2022

Luke 15: 1-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: The lesson of finding what is lost. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

COLLECTORS	PHARISEES	WELCOMES
EATS	PARABLE	ONE HUNDRED
LOSING ONE	SHOULDERS	FRIENDS
REJOICE	FOUND	IN HEAVEN
ONE SINNER	REPENTS	WOMAN
TEN	COINS	LAMP
SWEEP	HOUSE	CAREFULLY

### FOUND

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

© 2022 TRI-C-A Publications; tri-c-a-publications.com

### CAPECCHI, from page 12

he needed an extra boost "to get the language rolling," he'd craft a letter to a friend.

A chemist described the central role of his Catholic faith when he's stuck in a science experiment. "Then I turn to God for guidance and I am amazed," he said. "Things start to click in my head and problems are solved. I am very appreciative and I thank God — sometimes out loud."

Movement can shake out a new idea, getting outside your head or your office.

"I get some of my best ideas in the morning when I'm thinking in the shower, rubbing my scalp," the artistic director of an acclaimed theater told me. "Maybe it's a scene I'm not satisfied with and I'll rub my scalp really hard and something will pop up."

Unloading the dishwasher helps me. My fingers are free from the keyboard, but my mind keeps turning an idea.

Undertaking a different creative endeavor — especially one

that doesn't involve a deadline or any degree of mastery — can get the juices flowing. Einstein called this tactic "combinatory play" — the act of opening up one mental channel by experimenting in another. That's why he'd play the violin when he was struggling to solve a mathematical puzzle. It worked.

This underscores the Catholic belief that the body, mind, and soul are intimately connected. We can spark one by tapping into another. And the health of one dimension often leads to the health of another. A long walk, a clearer mind. An active prayer life, lower blood pressure.

Reflecting on creativity fills me with hope. We are creative beings, made in the image and likeness of the Creator. We are capable of beautiful things. And a brilliant new idea may arrive any second.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Like us on **facebook!**  
 TODAY'S CATHOLIC

# Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Officially Transfer Leadership

Following years of discernment and planning for the future of their community governance, Our Lady of Victory Missionary (OLVM) Sisters formally transferred leadership on Sunday, Aug. 28, with Sister Jenny Howard of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods stepping into the role as OLVM Congregation Leader.

A special service was held in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll in Huntington to celebrate the new leadership and offer blessings for the future.

In her remarks during the service, outgoing OLVM President Sister Mary Jo Nelson reminded those gathered that this transfer of leadership does not represent an ending, but the beginning of a new chapter in the 100-year history of the Victory Noll Sisters.

"This is not a completion of our community or the ending of our charism and mission," she said. "It is not fulfillment, a sense that we have done everything and can now bask in the goodness of our life. Rather, it is a call to live in the evolution of all life, to live in the deep change and a new consciousness of our universe, of our earth, of the world community, of our country, of our Church, and of the bigger picture and reality of religious life. Our journey is a little seed of what is happening everywhere."

The Sisters of Providence in Terre Haute selected 70-year-old Sister Jenny to be the new OLVM Congregation Leader in April. She has been meeting with the Victory Noll Sisters and staff the past few months in preparation for her new role. In addition, she will serve as President of the new OLVM Corporate Board, which is also part of the new governance structure.

"I'm really humbled by the opportunity," said Sister Jenny, who has been a Sister



Provided by Paul Siegfried

**Outgoing OLVM President Mary Jo Nelson and incoming Congregation Leader Sister Jenny Howard, SP, share an embrace at the end of the Transfer of Leadership service on Sunday, Aug. 28 at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll in Huntington.**

of Providence for 39 years. "I really admire the courage of the Victory Noll community. They have not denied the sense of loss that they feel, but they've also been so good about establishing ways in which the legacy can continue. It's a great gift to be able to be part of that journey with them. It's a great model for the future of religious life."

Sister Mary Jo was confident that Sister Jenny would be a good steward as the OLVM community enters its second century. "Sister Jenny comes with lots of leadership experience and pastoral experience. I think she is a perfect fit for this transition time in our community," she said.

The Victory Noll Sisters, who celebrated their 100th anniversary earlier in August, have faced their reality in recent years that no sisters would be willing or able to serve in lead-

ership. Most of the 31 sisters are older than 80 and there have been no new members in the past 25 years.

They began the process of finding a commissary congregation ... another community to provide them with a congregation leader. In 2020, OLVM Sisters began conversations with three communities about their willingness to become a commissary congregation. OLVM voted to suspend their current governance structure in 2021 and petition officials in Rome for a commissary. In January of 2022, OLVM Sisters recommended the Sisters of Providence to provide the new congregation leader.

Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, Superior General of the Sisters of Providence, said her congregation promises to provide the loving support the OLVM community needs at this time and into the future.

"In order to assure this will happen, our community has called forth Sister Jenny Howard to walk with you as your congregation leader," said Sister Dawn. "We Sisters of Providence know Jenny as a faithful daughter of Providence, someone whose life experiences, like your own, have called her to let go in order to let something new come. Thank you, Victory Noll Sisters, for inviting us into your lives. We accept this invitation with great hope for the future of religious life."

Sister Jenny, a native of Indianapolis, graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and earned a Master's Degree in Biology from Ball State University. She also has a Master's Degree in Guidance Counseling in Secondary Schools from Northeastern Illinois University.

In her time as a Sister of Providence, she has ministered on the Congregation's Leadership Team and as Vocations Director. She has also ministered as a teacher at North Central High School in Indianapolis, as well as Providence-St. Mel School in Chicago and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. Sister Jenny also ministered on the Congregation's Leadership Team from 1996 to 2001 and from 2011-21. With a strong passion for justice, Sister Jenny also serves in part-time ministry at Providence Housing Corporation in West Terre Haute.

OLVM has been addressing their current reality and making plans for the future dating back to 2016. They partnered with Saint Anne Communities to build a new health care and residence facility to care for retiring sisters and lay residents. Natural lands on the Victory Noll campus were sold to ACRES Land Trust to preserve them in accordance with the Victory Noll Land Ethic. Most recently, the remaining campus buildings were sold to Huntington County to be used by Community Corrections in a restorative program for low-level drug offenders and to support their healing and wellness.

"The Victory Noll Sisters are filled with great gratitude for the hard work of change, transition, and transformation," said Sister Mary Jo. "We are also being given a new opportunity to share our lives in a new way with the Sisters of Providence, to offer learnings and wisdom to the whole of religious life to many others who will follow us in some way. And our mission and charism continues in our numerous partnerships throughout the United States."

## La Eucharistia Draws more than 250 to Hear Gomez Speak on the Eucharist



Photos by Esther Terry

Esther Terry, Director for Hispanic Ministry, and Salvador Gomez pose together.

On Sunday, September 4, individuals and families from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered at Marian high school to hear Salvador Gómez speak on "The Eucharist and Evangelization." The day included talks given in Spanish by Gómez, as well as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This event was part of the three-year Eucharistic Revival for the Catholic Church in the United States. Find upcoming events at [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist](https://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist).

# 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](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

### Family Fun 5k Walk/Run

ANGOLA — A Family Fun 5k Walk/Run for all ages will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 9-11 a.m. to help raise funds for youth ministry. Start and finish at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church, 700 W. Maumee St. Everyone is welcome. Sign up at [runsignup.com/Race/IN/Angola/](http://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Angola/)

### Alpha to Begin at St. Vincent de Paul

FORT WAYNE — Alpha is an 11-week series with free dinner, short video, and discussion on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Life Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Come explore life's big questions in a friendly and open atmosphere. Visit [saintv.org/alpha](http://saintv.org/alpha) or contact Monica Aquila at 260-489-3537 or [monicaaquila@saintv.org](mailto:monicaaquila@saintv.org).

### Life in the Spirit Retreat

FORT WAYNE — Life in the Spirit Retreat will be offered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Hall, 1102 S. Calhoun St., on Thursdays Sept. 15 through Oct. 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The retreat is designed to bring people to a deeper knowledge and desire of the Holy Spirit and to experience the presence of the Lord. Call Bev to register at 260-385-5717. Please leave your name and a return phone number. A donation of \$10 for materials can be paid at the first meeting. The Cathedral Hall is handicapped accessible.

### Upcoming Marriage Encounter Experience

FORT WAYNE — The next Marriage Encounter Experience available in Northeast Indiana has been scheduled for the

weekend of October 22-23 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 4916 Trier Rd. Enjoy a week-end of discovery with your spouse during the day on Saturday and Sunday and return to your own home overnight. More information and applications can be found at [www.wvme-ni.org](http://www.wvme-ni.org). Contact the WWME application couple at [application@wvme-ni.org](mailto:application@wvme-ni.org).

### 55th Reunion - Central Catholic High School Class of 1967

FORT WAYNE — A 55th class reunion for the Central Catholic High School Class of 1967 will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 7-11 p.m. at Pine Valley Country Club, 10900 Pine Mills Rd. in Fort Wayne. Please respond via email, ASAP, to Carol Davenport Lepper at [carrollepper@yahoo.com](mailto:carrollepper@yahoo.com).

### Jubilee Anniversary Mass and Reception

SOUTH BEND — All couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th wedding anniversary this year, along with their families, are invited to attend the Jubilee Anniversary Mass with Bishop Rhoades on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral. A ticketed reception will follow in the school gym. Anniversary couples will receive a commemorative certificate and two free tickets to the reception. Additional reception tickets for family and friends may be purchased for \$10 each. Children ages 10 and younger may attend the reception at no charge. To register, please go to [www.diocesefwsb.org/anniversary-masses](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/anniversary-masses).

### Drive-Thru Only Autumn Fish Fry

SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 63568 Old U.S. 31- South, will have a drive-thru-only fish fry on Friday, Sept. 16 from 3:30-7 p.m. Adult tickets are \$13 each, children ages 12 and younger are \$6 and are now available on a presale basis only. Call 574-291-3775 for information.

## REST IN PEACE

**Donaldson**  
Sister Pauline  
Bridegroom, PHJC,  
84, Ancilla Domini  
Chapel

**Fort Wayne**  
Joseph Sopik,  
88, Cathedral of  
the Immaculate  
Conception

Gordan Anthony, 80,  
St. Charles Borromeo  
Judy Smith, 74, St.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton

Richard Borden, 94, St.  
Vincent de Paul  
Pearl Padrique, 43, St.  
Vincent de Paul

**Huntington**  
Eloise L. Parker, 97, SS  
Peter & Paul

**New Haven**  
Eileen Christlieb, 71,  
St. John the Baptist  
Paul A. Mourey, Jr., 94,  
St. John the Baptist

**Notre Dame**  
Sister Mary Brooks,  
CSC, 89, Church of  
Our Lady of Loretto

**South Bend**  
Virginia Kovach, 87,  
Christ the King

Bethcabe Tomas-  
Jimenez, Newborn, St.  
Adalbert  
Elizabeth Keszei, 91,  
St. Jude

**Submit your events at**  
[www.TodaysCatholic.org/event](http://www.TodaysCatholic.org/event)



**Chicken Dinner**

**BINGO  
COUNTRY STORE  
GAMES**

**RAFFLE AND QUILT  
DRAWINGS AT 5 PM!**

**An old-fashioned church dinner  
with delicious fried chicken, homemade noodles,  
and mashed potatoes. Top it off with homemade pie!**

**Sunday, Sept. 11 • Serving noon to 5 p.m.**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
Ege – County Road 400S - 4 miles west of LaOtto



**Wygant  
FLORAL**

Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons | & more!

*Mary Green*  
Owner

574.232.3354  
800.994.2687  
[www.wygants.com](http://www.wygants.com)





**CURRENTLY HIRING**  
for full- and part-time positions including  
**Nurses, CNA, and Nurses' Aide.**

Catherine Kasper Life Center is a faith-based organization. We believe in providing an ecumenical caring work environment for our co-workers. By offering an excellent benefit package, we live our commitment to the well-being of our co-workers and their families.

[CatherineKasperLifeCenter.org](http://CatherineKasperLifeCenter.org)

*Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*



*Partners in the work of the Spirit*

The Catherine Kasper Life Center is part of The Center at Donaldson and a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

# 'Deus Vult' 100th Episode Inspires Encounters with Christ

BY JENNIFER BARTON

**A**round 100 loyal listeners of "The Deus Vult Podcast" congregated in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne to watch Father Stephen Felicichia and Father Dan Koehl record their 100th episode in person. The podcast launched nearly two years ago, and the two priest friends have now completed their second season, growing in listenership for the podcast that explores Catholic life, culture, and issues of the day.

"Deus Vult" listeners may have come to enjoy a few laughs and maybe a glass of Fairlife (the not-so-official drink of "The Deus Vult Podcast"), both of which were certainly available in spades, yet left with a eucharistic experience.

The 100th episode started out as do all "Deus Vult" podcasts, with the friendly banter of Father Felicichia and Father Koehl, but the church setting and the empty, open tabernacle behind the hosts soon led away from humorous quips into the night's topic of Eucharistic Adoration. Father Koehl opened by stating that the prayer practice seemed to have been lost within the Church for several years – decades, probably – but has been "recently rediscovered," and expressed how younger generations are learning about it earlier and other generations are embracing it with great gusto.

Both priests shared powerful stories of their own adoration experiences. Father Koehl spoke of how he began practicing adoration in high school and for the two years he was at Purdue University in West Lafayette, where his group of friends would often stop at a Catholic church to spend time with God before going out on nighttime adventures. To him, it was a joy to spend time with good friends who first wanted to spend time with God before anything else.

Father Felicichia related how, after his first deployment to Afghanistan in the Army, he had returned to Fort Richardson, and a restlessness sent him out into a cold Alaskan night where he discovered an open door at the base chapel. By the red glow of the sanctuary lamp, the only light in the church, he made his way toward the tabernacle and lay before it for hours of prayer, unloading the burdens of war at the feet of Jesus.

Then Father Koehl noted that in the busyness of life, spending time with God at Mass and adoration can sometimes be passed over for lesser important things, but "shouldn't it be the first



Jennifer Barton

**Fathers Dan Koehl and Stephen Felicichia talk about Eucharistic Adoration for the recording of the 100th episode of their popular podcast "The Deus Vult Podcast", recorded at St. Charles Borromeo Church where Father Koehl serves as Parochial Vicar. The open tabernacle behind the two priests served as the focus and inspiration for the talk.**

thing?" he asked rhetorically. He posed another question: What can be gained from adoration? Father Felicichia answered simply: "Adoration changes your life."

At the end of the recording, Father Felicichia pointed out, as he often does in the podcast, that its purpose should always be to draw listeners closer to God, not to himself.

When Jesus was returned to the tabernacle, the crowd remained in the pews, most kneeling in prayer or to rest in the peace of the Lord. The quiet that filled the church continued as the people reverently trickled out to the reception afterward.

The priests' discussion led some audience members to consider their own experiences with the Eucharist. Andrew Wright is a relative newcomer to the Deus Vult fanbase, as he has been listening to the podcast for around three to six months.

"I thought back to when Father Dan and Father Stephen were talking about their first experiences; naturally I thought about my first experience, and it just brought a lot of good memories," he commented.

He said that "what stuck out the most in their entire conversation about adoration was just the love that they had for our Lord and talking about how He's changed their lives. You could just see it radiating from both of them. That is something we're supposed to emulate, that we can, too. Just saw the love and it rekindled, too, to love God the same way."

His wife Caitlyn was glad to be a part of the evening, asserting how appropriate it seemed that a talk on adoration was held inside the church. Her favorite moment was "when Father Stephen

Felicichia said, 'spend time with the Lord, the One who created you.'"

To profess belief in the True Presence is one thing, but it is awe-inspiring for her to contemplate "that you're nothing without God. So, take that and never lose that perspective. Day to day, you get bogged down with everything you have to do, all the tasks and things, you kind of lose sight of that and just being reminded to take the time to sit with Jesus and know that He's the one who made you and let Him love you and just be there with the One you love," she con-

cluded.

Alec A'Hearn and his fiancée Kylie Clawson are recent listeners as well, discovering the podcast through meeting Father Koehl at College Crew over the summer. A'Hearn caught up on all 99 episodes in 50 days.

Clawson just began the RCIA process, and a personal experience of Eucharistic Adoration at College Crew at St. Charles Borromeo solidified her decision to convert. Her experience shared similarities with Father Felicichia's, so "him talking about that was very emotional. I could connect

to that because that was my moment where I was like 'yes, I'm doing the right thing. This is what I want.'"

A'Hearn had his own Eucharistic encounter as a student at Bishop Dwenger High School. "It was freshman year at retreat, it was like 'this is it; this is truth.'" By his senior year, he gave a talk on the Eucharist. "Father Jay Horning was the one who was walking around with the monstrance, kind of blessing everyone, and I got to see the exact same moment I had in my little sister. And that was really cool."

He calls himself a "huge fan" of the podcast; Clawson said she has learned much about the faith through listening. "As somebody who's coming into the faith, it's just so refreshing. Such a personal conversation, where it's like, we're open to talk about anything; good, bad, or ugly, but I get a deeper understanding of my faith and even a deeper connection with Jesus through them."

Clawson also encounters Christ through witnessing the genuine friendship between Fathers Felicichia and Koehl, which models Aristotle's idea of virtuous friendship. She said, "They're a really good example of what healthy fraternity looks like. I think that's really something for our age group that's really difficult to find ... [is] healthy fraternity, healthy sorority, and they are a shining example of that."

Life is a journey that begins and ends with our faith and our family.

The Catholic Community Foundation can help you with your estate planning goals that can benefit those who helped make your journey possible. Contact us today at 260-399-1436.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
**FOUNDATION**  
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA