

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Eucharistic Adoration at a Young Age Fosters Belief in the True Presence

BY LISA MARIE EMRICK

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6.

Eucharistic adoration is the community's opportunity to worship God in His real presence in the Eucharist.

Jessica Hayes, Pastoral Associate at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, believes “the most important thing parents can do to witness to their children about the value of adoration is to spend time regularly before the Blessed Sacrament.” She says many parishes have Eucharistic Adoration on a weekly or monthly basis, and the best way to support this effort (and its expansion) is by committing to an hour. “This shows children of every age that even when life is full, their parents prioritize prayer and draw strength and hope from the Lord's Real Presence among us. It also shows children that they will grow in prayer throughout their lives.”

Children learn much of what they know about the Eucharist while preparing for the sacrament of First Communion. The constant practice of Eucharistic adoration can also foster or preserve a Catholic youth's reverence and belief in the true presence, which is the reality of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Hayes says teaching future generations to be giving of their time to Christ is as important as teaching them to use the treasures and talents that God grants them to serve their communities well. She adds that habitual practice of Eucharistic adoration is a beautiful tool to help children give the gift of their time back to Christ in a way that will become a natural part of their faith life.

Explaining Adoration to Catholic Youth

When teaching children, Father Daniel Whelan, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, first talks about



Lisa Marie Emrick

Mothers in the Catholic community bring their children to Christ during adoration to help foster a deeper love and desire for Him.

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**ADORATION, from page 1**

who is in the tabernacle or monstrance. When asking the children who is in there, Father Whelan explains that "most kids know to say Jesus because parents are the primary educators of the children and they are already giving that to them." He suggests that, with adoration, try to get children to name qualities of God. He navigates the conversation to the fact that He is their friend. Talking about friendship, and giving the gift of time, talking, listening, and laughing are qualities one has with people around them. "This is your best friend right here, so just like with your friends around you, you would not develop a relationship unless you did those things. You need to have that relationship with Jesus." Educating children on why adoration is so important, he says, is helping them learn to bring everything to Him and spend time with Him, as they would their best friend.

According to a 2019 Pew Research survey, one in three Catholics believe that the Eucharist is just a symbol, and do not understand the Church's teaching on transubstantiation.

Father Whelan says that presenting children with the

opportunity to grow their relationship and faith in Christ and explaining that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist to them at a young age can help lead to a better understanding of what happens in the Mass and at adoration.

Ways to Have a Guided Children's Eucharistic Adoration

Father Whelan tries to show the use of one's body ... that one's body can express something about oneself beginning with prostration, or bowing down before God. He suggests explaining who one would bow to, like royalty, but not, for instance, a teacher or a principal. Because He is the only God, teaching children reverence and respect for the Eucharist can be shown in the way we present ourselves to Him. Bowing down and repeating prayers can help nurture one's faith.

When allowing children to get up and move closer to the monstrance or tabernacle, parents are helping feed their curiosity. Father Whelan advocates allowing children the space, while also teaching them reverence for the sanctuary. "It is a wonderful way to show that this is where the Holy Sacrifice occurs."



Students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Fort Wayne are exposed to the Holy Eucharist after weekday Mass on Tuesdays.



Photos by Lisa Marie Emrick

Sarah Bishop engages her daughter through books, saint cards, coloring pages, and rosaries during the children's adoration our at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

Taking over managing the children's adoration hour at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, Sarah Bishop says, "One thing we do is Letters to God. We have a beautiful wooden box, donated to area parishes from someone at St. Vincent, that we place at the foot of the steps for kiddos to say whatever is on their hearts to God. If they are older, they will write letters. Younger kiddos will draw Him pictures."

Bishop says the children will sometimes ask her before they put their paper in the box if she thinks He will like it. "Sometimes they try to put crayons or stickers in the box in case Jesus wants to color too."

Bishop has Seeds books available from Children's Liturgy of the Word for older children. "They have activities about our faith and saints to guide their thoughts and play towards Him. With the older kiddos, it can also spur some wonderful questions and discussion using those."

Starting a Parish Eucharistic Adoration for Children

Before starting Eucharistic adoration for your child at a parish, Bishop suggests, "Go to the parish office and ask who's in charge of the scheduled adorers and ask if you can have an hour you are responsible for." Then, she says, talk to other moms at your parish

about being part of that adoration hour. "Put it in the bulletin and ask that it be announced at Mass. If someone wants designated supplies belonging to the church, ask for donations if the parish doesn't have the budget. But all you really need is Jesus. And if He wills it, it will all fall into place."

Bishop also suggests asking the parish priest to help do a guided children's hour to explain things used during benediction, such as incense and chants. She says, "Finding items to help feed children's curiosity and redirect them to focus on Christ can guide them to a more sustainable time during adoration." She goes on to say that "time spent with loved ones is precious, so getting children to Eucharistic adoration, even for five minutes, creates memories and is time with the One who loves us most."

Matthew 19:14 tells us Jesus said, "let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these".

Father Whelan reminds the community, "we are all God's children" and He wants us to come to Him.

A few resources for parents to use for children's Eucharistic adoration suggested by Jessica Hayes include www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2015/06/adoration-with-kid-printables, www.thekennedyadventures.com/eucharistic-adoration-with-kids, and www.guidedchildrensadoration.com.

In Memoriam: Rev. Richard Warner, CSC, Longtime Leader for Notre Dame, Congregation of Holy Cross

BY DENNIS BROWN

NOTRE DAME – Rev. Richard V. Warner, CSC, a Hesburgh Trustee of the University of Notre Dame, former Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and longtime University Administrator, died on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at Holy Cross House in Notre Dame, Indiana. He was 83.

“Father Dick Warner was a consummate priest, a servant-leader in Holy Cross, fiercely loyal to Notre Dame, and he had an abiding love for our students — a love that was richly reciprocated,” Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, the University’s President, said. “He was to me and many a model, mentor, and friend who generously gave his life to the mission of Notre Dame and the Congregation of Holy Cross.”

A native of Cleveland, Father Warner attended the Holy Cross Brothers’ St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, before joining the Congregation of Holy Cross and professing his final vows in 1962, the same year he graduated from Notre Dame.

He studied theology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, earning a Bachelor’s Degree and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology before being ordained a priest on Dec. 17, 1966. After his ordination, he remained in Chile, teaching English and Theology and serving in the administration of St. George’s College in Santiago until 1973, when he was appointed steward of the congregation’s Indiana (now United States) Province.

Father Warner was elected Provincial Superior of the Indiana Province in 1979,



REV. RICHARD V. WARNER, CSC

...serving in that capacity as an ex officio member of the University’s Board of Fellows and Board of Trustees. During this time, he was invited by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to participate on the committee that drafted “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response,” an influential articulation of the U.S. bishops’ teachings on war and peace in the midst of the Cold War.

Father Warner served for nine years as Provincial Superior before being appointed counselor to Notre Dame’s then-President, Rev. Edward A. Malloy, CSC. His responsibilities as counselor principally concerned the role of the Congregation of Holy Cross at Notre Dame and the University’s relationship with the Catholic Church. He served in that position until 2003.

In 1987, Notre Dame bestowed an honorary degree on Father Warner, stating, “It is fitting that he receive his alma mater’s accolade in this 150th anniversary year of the religious

family which he has led with such insight and wisdom.”

From 1989 to 2010, Father Warner served as Director of Notre Dame’s Office of Campus Ministry, which promotes, encourages, and engages all aspects of faith life on campus. He also served as chair of the board of directors of South Bend’s Center for the Homeless as well as for Memorial Health Systems, and served on the board of regents of the University of Portland.

Father Warner was elected the 12th Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross in 2010. In that role for six years, he devoted his administration to structural and spiritual renewal of a religious order of some 1,500 priests and brothers living and working in 16 countries on five continents. Among the most conspicuous projects during his term was the establishment of the International Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau at the Church of Notre-Dame de Sainte-Croix in Le Mans, France, and the rebuilding of churches, schools, and other institutions after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. He also broadened the involvement and participation of all sectors in the congregation’s governance, organized three Holy Cross Forums in Rome for the order’s young brothers and priests, and presided over the renovation of the Holy Cross Generalate, the congregation’s international headquarters in Rome.

Father Warner is survived by his sister Joanne M. Warner.

A funeral Mass for Father Warner was celebrated on Sept. 27, and was preceded by a wake, both in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

Indiana Abortion Ban Temporarily Blocked as Challenge Moves Forward

BY NATALIE HOEFER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — A judge issued a preliminary injunction on Sept. 22 on a new Indiana abortion law that gives legal protection to most unborn babies.

The ruling temporarily reinstates access to abortion in Indiana up to 22 weeks gestation as allowed by state law prior to Sept. 15, the date when S.B. 1, as the new law is known, went into effect. It banned abortion in Indiana except in cases of rape, incest,

and particular serious medical complications and emergencies.

The injunction puts the law on hold while the judge reviews arguments for a suit filed on Aug. 30 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers operating in the state.

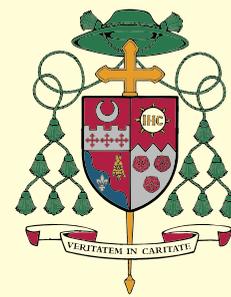
S.B. 1 was passed by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Aug. 5. The preliminary injunction on the law will remain in effect until a decision on the case is made.

On Sept. 19, Special Judge Kelsey Hanlon of the Owen County Circuit Court heard arguments from lawyers for the plaintiff and defendant — listed as members of the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana, et al. — regarding the lawsuit. The case was filed in Bloomington, Indiana, in Monroe County.

Hanlon, a Republican, received the case after three Monroe County judges, all Democrats, passed on it.

In her order granting a

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Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, Oct. 3: 5:30 p.m. — Red Mass, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Oct. 5: 5:15 p.m. — Red Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- Wednesday, Oct. 5: 7 p.m. — Meeting with Saint Thomas More Society, University of Notre Dame
- Friday, Oct. 7: 8:15 a.m. — Men’s and Women’s Dignity and Vocation Class Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Oct. 8: 5 p.m. — Sesquicentennial Mass, Immaculate Conception, Auburn
- Sunday, Oct. 9: 11:30 a.m. — Wedding Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



Priest announcement

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following announcement:

Reverend Emmanuel Abuh to Parochial Vicar, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, effective September 14, 2022.

Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, invites you to this ancient rite to ask God’s blessing on all those who serve the people as lawyers, judges, civil government officials, teachers, and students of the law and political science.

2022 RED MASSES

FORT WAYNE
OCTOBER 3
5:30 P.M.

CATHEDRAL OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SOUTH BEND
OCTOBER 5
5:15 P.M.

BASILICA OF THE
SACRED HEART
UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME



ABORTION BAN, from page 3

preliminary injunction on S.B. 1, Hanlon stated: "With the benefit of additional time to consider the requested injunctive relief, and having considered the record of evidence, the text of the relevant provisions of the Indiana Constitution, the relevant case law, and the thoughtfully presented arguments and submissions of counsel for all parties, the court concludes that injunctive relief is warranted."

"Accordingly, the court grants the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction and prohibits the defendants' enforcement of S.B. 1, pending decision on the merits in this matter," she stated.

In a response to the judge's order, Indiana Right to Life CEO Mike Fichter said that the "blockage of Indiana's new law means over 161 unborn children will continue to lose their lives to abortion every week this injunction stays in effect."

"We are encouraged by the judge's acknowledgment of the

state's legitimate interest in protecting unborn babies and are hopeful the blockage will be brief," he said in a statement.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita also issued a statement: "We plan to appeal and continue to make the case for life in Indiana. Our office remains determined to fight for the lives of the unborn, and this law provides a reasonable way to begin doing that."

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice for the church in Indiana, said it was "encouraged by the new law, S.B. 1, which will protect more pre-born babies."

"We respect the legal process, but are disappointed that while the injunction is in place more lives could be lost," the conference said in a statement. "We pray for an ultimate decision that will promote a culture of life and respect the dignity of the pre-born."

Natalie Hoefler is a staff writer at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



CNS photo/Cheney Orr, Reuters

State lawmakers and members of the public gather in the House chambers in the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis Aug. 2, 2022, during a special session to debate banning abortion.

Seminarian Soccer Team Takes Cup at Annual Tournament

Mount St. Mary's Seminary won the championship game 4 to 2 in the annual Vianney Cup Soccer Tournament hosted this year on Sept. 24 by Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Four East Coast seminaries participate in the event, including Mount St. Mary's, Theological College in Washington, D.C., Saint Mary's in Baltimore, and Saint Charles Borromeo in Philadelphia.

One of the founders of the tournament is Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop Kevin Rhoades, when he worked as Rector of Mount St. Mary's.



Photos provided by Tina Schneider

The Mount St. Mary's Soccer Team, including young men from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, hold the championship trophy after winning the annual Vianney Cup Soccer Tournament in Emmitsburg, Maryland on Sept. 24.



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Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Deacon Brian Florin, Deacon Jake Schneider, and Seminarian Caleb Kruse, representing Mount St. Mary's, hold the championship trophy after winning the annual Vianney Cup Soccer Tournament in Emmitsburg, Maryland on Sept. 24.

Huntington Knights Raise Funds for Charity

BY NICOLE HAHN

Members and volunteers of the Huntington Knights of Columbus Council #1014 held the annual Oktoberfest on Sept. 24 at the club to raise money to give to different charities throughout the year. The event is one of the largest held each year, bringing in thousands of dollars for organizations in need. Now in its 11th year, Oktoberfest has brought in nearly \$35,000 in its history.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Photos by Knights of Columbus Volunteers

Volunteers and members of Huntington Knights of Columbus Council #1014 pose for a group shot to kick off the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser on Sept. 24.



Volunteers Margaret PeGan and Nicole Hahn greet attendee Cindy Zay as the doors opened for the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser on Sept. 24 at the Huntington Knights of Columbus Council #1014.



Event Coordinator and Brother Knight Damian Mason prepares to Emcee the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser on Sept. 24 at the Huntington Knights of Columbus Council #1014.

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Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

Prayers Offered for Victims of Ukraine War, Calls for Peace Renewed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, D.C. joined Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia on Sept. 21 for an ecumenical prayer service to remember those who have been killed in Russia's invasion of Ukraine and to renew calls for peace for that war-ravaged nation. Archbishop Gudziak prayed that God would "in blessed repose grant (the victims of the war) eternal rest" and "render their memory eternal." He also prayed God would "place the souls of his servants, the victims of the war in Ukraine, which have departed from us, in the abode of the just, and give them rest in the bosom of Abraham, and number them among the just." The prayers were offered during the Panakhyda (service for deceased) that was held in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.. The service also marked 200 days since the start of renewed hostilities by Russia against Ukraine. "We join in this evening according to the prayer of the Byzantine Ukrainian tradition to show our solidarity in the one body of Christ," Cardinal Gregory said. "We pray for those defending their homeland so that they may be strengthened to live in the fullness of God's love."

Retired Archbishop Fiorenza Dies; Was Tireless Social Justice Advocate

HOUSTON (CNS) — Retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, the longtime bishop of Galveston-Houston and a tireless social justice advocate throughout his priesthood, episcopacy, and in retirement, died on Sept. 19. He was 91. He lived at the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Retirement Residence, a priest retirement home of about 18 residents. The Beaumont, Texas, native served as Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston from 1985 to 2006 and was made Archbishop in 2004, when the diocese was elevated to the status of archdiocese by St. John Paul II. Archbishop Fiorenza also was a former President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference, now called the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, serving in the role from 1998 to 2001. "Archbishop Fiorenza was known to be a champion of civil rights and a tireless worker in overcoming the presence of racism in our community. He

Pakistan Flooding



CNS photo/ courtesy Father Liam O'Callaghan

Parishioners affected by the flooding sleep in makeshift shelters in Badin, where the Columban missionaries are helping relief efforts. Columban Father Liam O'Callaghan told Catholic News Service there was "an urgent need for relief aid," and he appealed to Catholics worldwide to respond.

was also known as a great promoter of genuine renewal in the church, and in making the teachings of the Second Vatican Council known," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo. The cardinal succeeded Archbishop Fiorenza as head of the archdiocese in 2006.

Jesus, Present in the Eucharist, Inspires Compassion, Sharing, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One cannot love and worship the Eucharist without compassion for the poor and marginalized, Pope Francis said at a Mass concluding Italy's eucharistic congress. "Let us recognize that the Eucharist is the prophecy of a new world, it is the presence of Jesus who asks us to dedicate ourselves to an effective conversion," which includes the conversion from indifference to compassion, from waste to sharing, from selfishness to love, and from individualism to fraternity, he said in his homily on Sept. 25. The pope celebrated the Mass at an outdoor stadium in the southern Italian city of Matera, which was host to Italy's 27th National Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22-25. Rain, thunder, and lightning storms forced the pope to travel by airplane and car rather than by

helicopter from the Vatican. In his homily, the pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading (Lk 16:19-31), in which Jesus tells the parable about the nameless rich man who "dined sumptuously each day" and ignored the poor man, Lazarus, "who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps." Pope Francis said, "It is painful to see that this parable" is still alive today with so many "injustices, inequalities, the unequal distribution of the earth's resources, the abuse of the powerful against the weak, the indifference to the cry of the poor, the abyss we dig every day creating marginalization."

Papal Almoner Visits Newly Discovered Mass Grave Site in Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Standing near a mass grave site in eastern Ukraine and seeing the delicate and solemn removal of bodies, Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, Papal Almoner, said he could only pray. "I knew I would find so many dead, but I met men who showed the beauty that is sometimes hidden in our hearts," Cardinal Krajewski said after visiting the mass grave in the northeastern city of Iziium. "They showed a human beauty in a place where there could have only been revenge. Instead, there wasn't," he told Vatican News

in an interview published on Sept. 19. Russian forces fled the area after Ukraine launched a counteroffensive to regain occupied territory. In a forest near Iziium, soldiers found a mass grave site with the remains of an estimated 500 people. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a video message, said investigators saw evidence that some of the victims had been tortured. Similar mass grave sites were found earlier this year in other areas formerly occupied by Russian forces. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied Russia's involvement in the atrocities, and repeated accusations that mass grave sites were staged by Ukraine, the Reuters news agency reported.

New German Study Finds Osnabrück Diocese Ignored Rights of Abuse Victims

OSNABRÜCK, Germany (CNS) — Church leaders in the northern German Diocese of Osnabrück failed over decades to fulfill their duties in responding to accusations of sexual abuse, according to a study presented by the University of Osnabrück on Sept. 19. The German Catholic news agency KNA said the study found that, until recently, officials had neglected to conduct

adequate monitoring of clerics after they had been removed from their posts following accusations of abuse. The main area requiring improvement was communication with victims, the project leaders said. In addition, the diocese had been defensive and bureaucratic in its handling of cases and "stingy" in its recognition payments. The study found that Bishop Franz-Josef Bode, who has been in office since 1995 and is also Deputy President of the German bishops' conference, violated his duties "in a low single-digit range" of cases. The breaches were "negligent, but not intentional," the study said. It added that while Bishop Bode's plea for forgiveness had gained nationwide attention in 2010 when the abuse scandal came to light in Germany, his promise to provide all possible help to the victims was not implemented in practice in the following years. KNA reported that according to the 600-page first interim report of the study, the diocese of Osnabrück had "in some cases seriously violated its duties" to prevent further offenses even after 2000. Often, greater importance had been placed on preventing cases from becoming public, it said.

Vatican Basilica Provides Background for New Film on St. Peter

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For two weeks in October, the facade of St. Peter's Basilica will be the screen for the nighttime showing of a short film about the life, the call, and the ministry of St. Peter. The eight-minute 3D film, using art from the basilica and from the Vatican Museums, will be projected onto the facade every 15 minutes from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. from Oct. 2 to Oct. 16. The narration is in Italian with subtitles in English. "What are the features of the church? What is its true face? That of the pope?" asked Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, Archpriest of the basilica. While all those are part of the church, the cardinal told reporters on Sept. 20, "sometimes you need to dust off the mirror" and provide a clearer, more basic image of the church to both believers and visitors, which is why the basilica wants to present to the public the life and faith of St. Peter. Conventual Franciscan Father Agnello Stoia, Pastor of the basilica, said the millions of people who cross the basilica's threshold each year include pilgrims wanting to renew their faith, but also many visitors simply attracted by the majesty and beauty of the art, architecture, and history of the basilica. Both types of visitors must be welcomed, he said, and helped to understand why the church, built over the tomb of St. Peter, is so important to Catholics and to Christians in general.

Pairing Fun, Faith on Socks Guides Couple's Journey in Footsteps of Saints

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – Even before Scott Williams shared his unusual idea for a side business during a road trip to Chicago, his wife, Elisabeth, had learned that he is always up for an adventure.

After all, shortly after their wedding six years ago, the Indianapolis couple traveled to Rome to take part in a long-standing tradition at the Vatican.

The tradition holds that if a couple arrives for a Wednesday audience with the pope within six months of their wedding and wears the clothes they were married in (or similar attire), they will be allowed to sit in a reserved section to receive a “blessing of newlyweds” from the Holy Father.

With Scott in a black tuxedo and Elisabeth in her wedding dress on that August day in 2016, the couple met with Pope Francis, talked with him and received a blessing. They also left their meeting with the pontiff's zucchetto, the white skullcap that a pope wears.

Scott had learned of another special papal tradition: If someone has the same size zucchetto as the pope, the pope will make a trade.

So the couple went to Pope Francis' personal tailor in Rome and bought a zucchetto of the same size. They were the only one of the 60 couples from around the world who arrived for the papal audience with a zucchetto. Scott offered it to Pope Francis, who tried it on, and made the exchange.

It was an incredible moment in a wonderful week of adventures in Rome, and Elisabeth believed there were more to come in her life with Scott.

Still, she wasn't prepared for the unusual idea Scott shared with her a year later on that road trip. He wanted to start a side business of making a line of socks featuring scenes and saints of the Catholic faith.

“Scott is a big sock guy,” she told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, where the couple belongs to St. Barnabas Parish. The couple has two children, ages 1 and 4.

“As we're driving up to Chicago,” Elisabeth recalled, “he started talking about how there's a lot of feast days in the church: ‘What if we did socks with saints on them, and I didn't have to wear hamburgers on my socks anymore?’”

After they returned from the Chicago trip, Scott made a rough sketch of the first pair he wanted to make. A friend with artistic talent, Madison Cipoletti, made Scott's sketch



Photos by John Shaughnessy

Scott and Elisabeth Williams are the founders of Sock Religious. The company makes socks that feature images of religious figures, like Pope Francis and several saints, as well as the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the rosary.

come to life – a pair of socks with Pope Francis' image.

Scott found a manufacturer, and he and Elisabeth decided to try to sell them at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in 2017. At the time, Scott was the Director of Youth Ministry for the archdiocese and heavily involved in running the conference.

“Pope Francis was super-popular, especially with high school kids,” Scott said. “We thought if this brand is going to do something, we have a test pool of 20,000 high school students to see if it has legs.”

Scott wanted to order 1,200 pairs of socks to try to sell at the conference, while his wife, who is more cautious, said they should start with 600 pairs.

“We ended up selling out in eight hours and just sat around wishing we had more to sell,” said Elisabeth, who ran the booth at the conference.

“We sold about a sock a minute,” Scott added. “We knew we had a very viable product. We set up an online shop after that. We had pre-orders for socks we weren't going to get for another month.”

Since then, Sock Religious has grown and expanded and is now part of a larger company, Catholic Concepts, which includes other businesses. One is States of Faith, which produces T-shirts for all 50 states,



These are a few of the T-shirts made by Sock Religious. The company was founded by Scott and Elisabeth Williams five years ago to make socks featuring images of religious figures, like Pope Francis and various saints. It has branched out with Catholic-themed T-shirt designs.

with the boundaries of a state outlined in a rosary and the crucifix over the state capital.

Another is Live Liturgically, a family-focused brand that revolves around a weekly, faith-related planning calendar. Catholic Concepts also offers a custom printing service for parishes and Catholic schools.

Since that first pair of socks featuring Pope Francis, about 80 other pairs have been cre-

ated, including ones of St. Joseph, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Kolkata, St. Joan of Arc, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Socks featuring the image of the rosary also are customer favorites.

The company also makes faith-related coffee mugs and T-shirts that combine touches of saintliness and whimsy.

A shirt celebrating St. Peter

includes his image and the phrase, “Classic Rock.” A shirt celebrating Pentecost pictures the disciples and proclaims, “We Got Spirit.” One featuring St. Michael the Archangel advises, “Never Go Without Your Wingman.”

“We like to say the clientele for Sock Religious are people who take their faith seriously, but not themselves,” said Jeff Traylor, the company's Chief Operating Officer. “We come up with these funny ideas, laugh about them really hard and then make a product out of it.”

In its first three years, Sock Religious' supply of items was imported. In February of 2021, the company bought 10 sock-manufacturing machines from businesses in Indiana and North Carolina, all of which are functioning in a 10,000 square-foot facility on the south side of Indianapolis.

A staff of three people has grown to 26 employees, many of whom share the Catholic faith, including Scott, Elisabeth, Traylor, and Cipoletti, who has continued to design many of the socks.

“Everything is done in-house now,” said Scott, the company's CEO. To build the company, he left his position with the archdiocese.

“Working in full-time ministry, I always thought the most difficult part of the journey of evangelization is starting the conversation,” he said. “If we can get more people to initiate a conversation about faith and their journey, that's going to put more people down that process of conversion and conversation.”

“The tagline we've always used with Sock Religious is ‘starting conversations through joyful products.’ Our products don't evangelize, people do. We just want to start conversations on faith and the lives of the saints. ... It's also become a way for people to get through difficult times,” he said.

“Whether it's a treatment for cancer, a surgery, giving birth, job interviews – people have worn them, leaning on the saints in difficult times. We know people have been buried in our socks, which is a wild thing to think about,” he added.

“But like anything else,” Scott said, “people depend on saints to get them through difficult times, and this is just a way that has manifested itself in a physical product.”

To learn more about the company and to see all of the products available for purchase, visit www.sockreligious.com.

John Shaughnessy is Assistant Editor at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

St. Charles Borromeo's Young Adult Ministry Hosts Second Retreat

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

When St. Charles Borromeo's pastor, Father Tom Shoemaker, returned from a meeting regarding the need for enhanced young adult formation within the Church, he communicated this need to current St. Charles' Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, Stacey Huneck.

Ultimately, these events led to St. Charles' inaugural young adult retreat last year entitled Abundant Life Retreat. Due to the success of this retreat in 2021, the parish decided to offer a second Abundant Life Retreat this year.

"This retreat is an opportunity to sort of set aside the busyness and open ourselves up to encounter God and realize he's walking us through those sufferings," said Huneck.

As young adults, which the United States Conference of Bishops defines as those between the ages of approximately 18 and 39, experience the challenges that come with entering mature adulthood, they need to be adequately prepared in faith to successfully meet these challenges.

"Young adulthood is a time that many people really encounter suffering for the first time in their life," Huneck said. "In our pain, we can feel that



St. Felix Catholic Center hosted the Abundant Life Young Adult Retreat for St. Charles Borromeo Parish. The Grotto pictured is one of the many reflective areas on the grounds where Blessed Solanus Casey once walked.

Today's Catholic file photo

God is distant or doesn't care, especially if we feel like we are carrying our crosses alone."

Sam Sliger is a young adult on the Abundant Life Retreat planning team. This need to equip young adults with the

mature faith required to meet mature challenges drives Sliger in his work on this team.

"Maturity brings more diverse and complicated problems that only through the Redeemer can be turned into

something of value," he said.

The 2022 Abundant Life Retreat was hosted at St. Felix Catholic Center from Sept. 23 to Sept. 25. The center, a site where Blessed Solanus Casey frequently prayed and reflected, is a peaceful setting located on the grounds of historic St. Felix Friary in Huntington. Approximately 45 young adults attended the 2022 retreat.

"This retreat is a chance to experience the love of the Good Shepherd in community and to respond to the life of

abundance that He directs us to in the Gospel of John 10:10," Huneck continued.

The Abundant Life Retreat featured small group discussion, Mass and adoration, group activities, and opportunities for individual reflection.

By allowing time away from day-to-day life, this itinerary facilitated relationships with God for participants.

"It's always nice to retreat from the world to focus on your relationship with God," expressed participant Mike Havens.

The retreat also facilitated options for fellow participants to grow in relationship with each other.

"It was a beautiful opportunity to grow deeper in relationship with the local young adult community and people I would not normally encounter in my day-to-day life," said participant Anna Laisure.

It even allowed participants to meet new friends and make new connections.

"There were all these people that I didn't know around me that I had so much in common with," Sliger commented. "Now that I've been on retreat, I finally had a chance to meet them."

By the end of the retreat, many participants better understood the meaning behind suffering, including participant Catherine Carroll.

"It is possible to find joy in our suffering," said Carroll.

In 2023, the retreat will be held Oct. 20 to Oct. 22. For more information, contact Stacey Huneck at youthministry@stcharles@gmail.com or visit www.stcharlesfortwayne.org/ya-retreat.

St. Charles Knights Build Habitat Home in Fort Wayne



Photo provided by Justin Purdy and Joe Mikolay

The St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council #451 was busy on Saturday, Sept. 24, volunteering to build a new home for a deserving Fort Wayne family through Habitat for Humanity on Creighton Avenue. Brother Knights Peter Coronato, Dave Lothamer, Joe Mikolay, Jason Wellman, John Murray, Justin Purdy, John Berghoff, Geary Hoy, Mark Russett, and Mike Wass spent the day installing flooring, interior trim, interior doors, and shelving as they worked to "build on faith, build up families and build community together," the mission of Habitat for Humanity. For more photos, visit www.todayscatholic.org.

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The Conclusion and New Beginning of a Love Story



Photos by Jennifer Barton

After years of heartache and separation, Emmon and Monique Schmucker finally professed their wedding vows in the Catholic Church at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen on Sept. 17, completing a love story that began many years ago. Emmon was also received into the Church and confirmed by Father Royce Gregerson, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist. The couple was featured in Today's Catholic in June. You can find the full story at todayscatholic.org/a-love-decades-in-the-making-leads-amish-man-to-the-church. Above Emmon and Monique Schmucker stand with Father Royce Gregerson after exchanging wedding vows.



Emmon Schmucker is received into the Church and confirmed by Father Royce Gregerson at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen on Sept. 17.



ANNIVERSARY MASS

This Mass is for couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th 65th or 70th wedding anniversary this year.

FORT WAYNE
Oct. 9 at 11:30 a.m



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diocesefwsb.org/anniversary-masses

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End of Life

Care of Sick, Dying a Loving Ministry of the Church

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Jesus understood suffering. He understood death; He even cried when His friend Lazarus died. Like all of humanity, He knew that He too, would die. He faced His own suffering and death with apprehension, but also with dignity. He healed those who were sick in mind and body and passed His healing authority on to His apostles and their successors.

Though suffering and death are part of a fallen world, God did not leave His people bereft. Offering comfort to the sick

and dying fulfills the healing mission of the Church through the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, where graces are poured upon a person through the rituals of the sacrament.

Parish priests bring the love of God to their people in a deep manner during times of greatest need. Father Daniel Niezer, Pastor of St. Dominic in Bremen, gave some practical points that all priests – and their parishioners – should keep in mind when a loved one is sick or in the final stages of their life.

“Anointing of the Sick does not mean that the person is going to die,” he said via email.

He explained how there is an old mindset about “Last Rites,” but that there is no such thing. “People should not be afraid when the priest suggests or encourages the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.”

According to paragraph 73 of “Sacrosanctum Concilium,” a document from the Second Vatican Council, Anointing of the Sick “is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.”

As hospitals are no longer able to disclose patient information even to parish priests, Father Niezer stated that it is imperative that families inform a priest that their loved one is in the hospital. A priest cannot visit or pray for someone whose condition they are unaware of, and they greatly desire to be present and comfort their people as Jesus would.

Calling for a priest should never be seen as an inconvenience to him or put off in denial of the “gravity of the situation,” particularly in the greatest hour of need. Father Niezer stressed, “We are not

grim reapers. We are the ministerial presence of the Church bringing the Presence of Christ to the sick and suffering.”

To be anointed with the oil of the sick is not a of superstitious act nor does it guarantee a cure. Anointing may bring healing if God so desires it. It can also be performed prior to major surgeries where there is the possibility of death. Additionally, should a person recover from a surgery or illness, he or she can again receive the graces imparted through the Anointing of the Sick at the hour of need.

Yet not every person who is ill will recover. That is a

**“The
ultimate
test of your greatness
IS THE WAY YOU TREAT
every
human being.”**

— Pope John Paul II

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne



sad reality of a fallen world. Sadder still is that in modern health care, patients at the end stages of life are often treated as a burden; assisted suicide is seen as “the loving option” – in direct contrast to Church teaching on the dignity of human life. In his encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae” (“The Gospel of Life”), Pope John Paul II wrote: “Euthanasia in the strict sense is understood to be an action or omission which of itself and by intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering.”

He distinguishes this from “the decision to forego so-called ‘aggressive medical treatment’” – meaning treatments that might not extend the person’s life with a reasonable quality or might excessively burden the patient and family.

Pope John Paul II, in line with the Magisterium of the Church, confirmed the doctrine that “... euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person. This doctrine is based upon the natural law and upon the written word of God.”

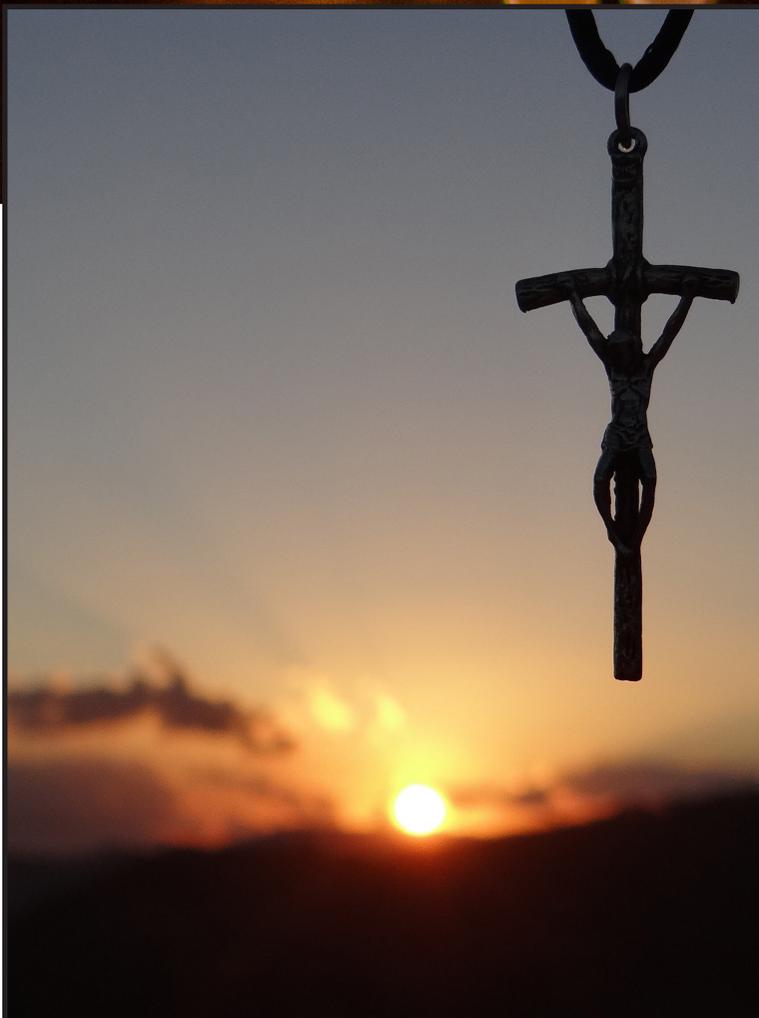
Reducing suffering, he wrote, is a product of the modern culture and detracts from the value of suffering. He stated that suffering in and of itself is not always escapable and a means for personal growth.

There is great joy and grace found in caring for those who are sick and dying. As a young nurse, Rose Hillman witnessed a woman not significantly older than her receive a cancer diagnosis. She was called away before she could talk the woman through her diagnosis. This sparked a desire to work in hospice, with people at the end of their lives.

She is currently in the early stages of opening a Catholic hospice service in Fort Wayne. Heart of Jesus Home for the Dying intends to provide compassionate care for those at the sunset of their lives, “based in Catholic values,” said Hillman. Many of the people on the board of directors have been involved in health care and have a heart for the ministry of the dying. Board members have been hosting lunch and learns to raise awareness of the ministry.

Hillman would like to see the ministry become a free-standing home, complete with patient rooms and showers, all on one level, and intends to work with other hospice organizations in the area to provide care to anyone who needs it, regardless of ability to pay.

In her mother’s last days, Hillman brought her to live in their home and cared for her until the end. She also benefited from hospice care, which allowed Hillman to focus on



being the daughter instead of the nurse. And at the end, a priest was able to come in and perform the Anointing of the Sick.

“There’s quality of life at the end of life as well,” Hillman remarked. In caring for her mother, she was able to witness how her own four adult children lovingly interacted with their grandmother.

Instead of constantly work-

ing to ensure the person’s final days are filled with activity, Hillman noted the importance of leisure. “When they’re sleeping or resting, that’s the most important time. That’s when they’re going through their life and reviewing that. To take that away ... doesn’t prepare them for the next life.”

A hospice diagnosis usually means six months or less, which Hillman states is not

the time to discuss end-of-life issues. That talk should come much sooner. St. John Paul II spoke of suffering as “dying to the Lord” and stated that as all die, all need to be prepared for that day. Part of this for practicing Catholics is to have their final wishes put in writing, including requesting a funeral Mass and ensuring that if cremated, their ashes are treated in conjunction with Church teaching (laid to rest intact, not scattered or separated).

It is also a good idea to have a priest’s number programmed into a cell phone under “ICE” (in case of emergency) so that viaticum can be administered in cases of emergency. It is never bothersome to call a priest, no matter when or what they might be otherwise occupied with. “It’s too important for us not to be there,” Father Niezer stated.

When a person does pass away, trite phrases, bumper stickers, and songs claiming that a person has become an angel might seem comforting, but are simply not theologically accurate and can be misleading. Christians strive to be saints, not angels, and only God can know the state of a person’s soul. Therefore, family members and friends should never cease to pray for those who have passed on, and never assume that a person no longer needs the prayers of their loved ones on earth.

For those facing end-of-life decisions, the National Catholic Bioethics Center has resources on end-of-life issues, advance directives, and living wills as well as numerous other ethical questions. Information can be found at nbccenter.org/bioethics-resources or by calling 215-877-2660. Anyone interested in learning about Catholic hospice care can visit www.heartofjesusfw.org.

“The request which arises from the human heart in the supreme confrontation with suffering and death, especially when faced with the temptation to give up in utter desperation, is above all a request for companionship, sympathy, and support in the time of trial. It is a plea for help to keep on hoping when all human hopes fail.” – Pope John Paul II, “Evangelium Vitae”

RESPECT LIFE

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

-Pope Francis

St. Patrick Church
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“THE CONFLICT
is between a culture that
affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life,
and

a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered ‘unuseful’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection”

-Pope John Paul II

ST. LOUIS BESANCON

Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

— Psalm 100:3

St. Stanislaus Kostka

55756 Tulip Road - New Carlisle



Expanding the Circle of Protection

One of the maddening aspects of America's political landscape for Catholics is the inconsistencies of both political parties.

Some folks may oppose the death penalty but are just fine with abortion, while others proudly declare that life is sacred but support the warehousing and execution of prisoners.

"It is hollow on both parties' part to talk about human dignity by excluding huge swaths about it," said Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas.

Talking about the unborn, the migrant, and the death row inmate, he added, "In the United States, we have a way to exclude people from being considered as within that sort of circle of protection."

In terms of Western countries, the United States is an outlier in its use of the death penalty, in league with countries like China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

Yet the death penalty does not attract the same kind of debate and protest as abortion, even though opponents – including the U.S. bishops and the Catholic Mobilizing Network – consider it a pro-life issue.

One reason is that the United States has slowly been trending away from executions. At least 23 states have done away with the death penalty, and 36 have had no executions in the past 10 years.

After a long hiatus, the federal government executed 13 prisoners in the last year of the Trump administration. President Joe Biden, consistent with the inconsistency of his party, once

again halted federal executions even as he has come out strongly in favor of legalized abortion.

There are many reasons for opposition to the death penalty, including the percentage of poor and minority prisoners on death row and the questions that raises about their legal representation, as well as the rates of exoneration.

The Innocence Project, which uses DNA samples to review convictions, has exonerated 375 prisoners so far, 21 of whom were on death row when they were found to be innocent.

The church has grown increasingly critical of the practice. St. John Paul II updated the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 1997, including a quote from his encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" in saying that "the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity 'are very rare, if not practically nonexistent.'"

In 2018, Pope Francis closed the door all the way, revising the catechism language to say bluntly that "the death penalty is inadmissible."

In his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti," the pope wrote that "the firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe."

Unfortunately, the death penalty has not gone away. Oklahoma last month conducted the first of 29 executions scheduled for the next 30 months.

James Coddington was in many ways a classic death row



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

inmate: Raised under horrendous conditions as a child, he was poor and drug-addicted when he bashed in a friend's head with a hammer for \$500 to buy drugs.

In prison, however, he became something of a model. A former director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Justin Jones called his prison behavior "commendable" and said he didn't think "it would serve the best interest of the state of Oklahoma to execute Mr. Coddington." Coddington was executed on Aug. 25.

Next up on Oklahoma's death row is Richard Glossip, who was scheduled to die this month despite a bipartisan array of supporters who have argued for his innocence and alleged prosecutorial misconduct. His execution has now been pushed back to December.

Oklahoma has tried three times to execute him, each time thwarted by equipment malfunctions.

Glossip has had three "last meals" so far and may soon have a fourth.

Greg Erlandson, Director and Editor-in-Chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

The Rise in Enrollment at Catholic Schools Should Not Be Ignored

Finding silver linings within the destabilizing and tumultuous years of the COVID-19 pandemic is not always easy. But the major shifts that took place in public life as a result of the coronavirus uncertainty provided an opportunity in one unlikely arena: Catholic schools.

Demand for Catholic education began to increase during the 2020-21 school year when many parochial schools returned to in-person instruction even as many public schools opted to continue education online. The result was an influx of students in Catholic schools that continues even today.

According to data released this fall by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), Catholic schools welcomed 62,000 new students to their classrooms this academic year. This marked an uptick nationally by 3.8 percent — the first time Catholic school enrollment has increased in the United States in 25 years. That brings the total number of children currently being educated in parochial schools to nearly 1.68 million.

The boom has presented an opportunity in dioceses across the country, including the oldest. The Archdiocese of Baltimore reported this week that Baltimore Catholic schools will welcome 530 new students. And to help support those new students, the schools are hiring 100 new teachers.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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Why is this an opportunity? Because it allows dioceses the chance to creatively and effectively make use of additional resources in a way that prioritizes the catechesis and evangelization of a generation that the Church desperately needs, and at the same time strengthens the Catholic identity of indispensable religious institutions.

In 1970, 4.2 million youths were enrolled in parish religious education programs. Today, that number has dropped by more than half to 1.8 million. Perhaps more alarmingly, in 1970 there were 1.08 million infant baptisms, whereas in 2021 there were 411,482. If parents are willing to enroll their children in a Catholic school, however, perhaps children whose families would otherwise not send them for religious instruction will receive it. Even more hopefully, perhaps they will have a chance to receive the sacraments.

Of the new students arriving in Catholic schools this fall,

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We Are All God's Servants



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 17:5-10

The first reading for this weekend comes from the Book of Habakkuk. Little is known about this prophet. It is known that the author was regarded as a prophet.

Scholars believe that this book was written between 626 BC and 612 BC when reigning supreme, but feared by the Jews, were neighboring pagan powers.

Habakkuk was composed after God's people already had suffered great problems from being oppressed. The book reflects this fear and the reality prompting the fear.

This weekend's reading well conveys the sense of how strong the anguish was, and even despondency of the people, as they looked at what had been, what was, and at what might lie ahead.

Answering these cries of desperation and intense anxiety, God, speaking through the prophet, reassures the people, telling them that relief and security will come. They will not perish. God is their savior.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church gives us a passage from the Second Epistle to Timothy. This epistle in a sense is from a new generation of Christians, the first generation being composed of the Apostles and their converts. Few of Timothy's contemporaries were original disciples of Jesus.

Timothy certainly was in touch with Paul. Indeed, Paul converted Timothy, and Paul mentored Timothy, but Timothy was not from the circle of followers that literally walked with the Lord along the roads and byways of Galilee and along the streets of

Capernaum and Jerusalem.

The term, "imposition of hands," refers to one of the most ancient of the Christian liturgical gestures, namely the actual laying of hands upon the heads of candidates for Church leadership. Apostolic hands were laid on the head of Timothy, and Timothy became a bishop. Still today, this gesture is essential, required, and absolutely a part of ceremonies in which bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained.

The epistle urged Timothy to be strong and never to relent in preaching the Gospel. Proclaiming Christ through word and deed was Timothy's vocation, the responsibility conferred upon him when hands were laid on him ordaining him a bishop.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. Some trees, such as the sycamore, have deep and extended root systems. Uprooting them from the soil is not easy, if even possible. Mustard seeds are very small. Consider how much larger other seeds would have been, pits of fruit, and so on.

The culture at the time of Jesus regarded the tasks undertaken by a servant, or a slave, not as voluntary for the person performing the task. Rather, the task was a duty and an obligation. Also, slaves, or servants, were never invited to dine with a master. Dining together represented equality and the relationship of peers.

The message here is not that slaves or servants are inferior. The lesson here is that we all are God's servants. He is supreme. We are not. Serving God is not our option. It is our duty. Slavery is history in our country, but we cannot allow our modern concepts of "achievement" or even "position" to color our perception of this reading.

Reflection

The second and third readings confront us with a reality we perhaps forget. Serving God by obeying God's law is not open to our choice to conform or not. In fact, we have no choice.

God, the Creator, is our mas-

ter. We are subjects. Habakkuk called for acknowledgement of God. St. Paul urged Timothy to be true in his calling. The servants in the Gospel had to serve.

We must satisfy our own obligations, not because of subjugation, but reality. No human is almighty. None is all-knowing. We need God.

The wonderful consolation is that, in this fact, God's love protects, strengthens, and guides us, unfailingly, always.

READINGS

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 2Tm 1:6-8, 13-14 Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Gal 1:6-12 Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5 Ps 1:69-75 Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14 Ps 111:1b-6 Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-7 Lk 11:27-28

How to Navigate the Use of Humor in the Church

Earlier this summer, I was invited to present at the Catholic Media Conference, speaking to journalists and editors about “using humor and joy in writing and publications.” As I told my audience, the assigned topic was nearly impossible to speak about because humor is a very subjective concept.

There is no such thing as a “universal joke.” What one person finds uproariously hilarious may be thoroughly offensive to the person in the next seat. And sometimes a genuinely funny observation may not even be appropriate to share, due to the situation and context. So, speaking (or writing) about humor for a broad audience was bound to be a fool’s errand.

As people of faith, we also must be mindful of the Gospel commandment to act with charity toward all, which includes our use of language. In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes, “Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving.” (Eph. 5:4). The idea of “levity which is not fitting” is a good warning about the limits of humor, a reminder to consider the situation and the audience, and a deeper call to reflect on what we’re actually trying to say with our humor.

If humor can be a minefield, why should we even be interested in plotting a path over that dangerous ground? In a word, it’s because we, the Church, are called to be people of joy. We are urged on by the Holy Spirit to share with all creation the love that we ourselves have received, and to invite everyone we encounter to discover the hope that we have found in Christ Jesus.

Pope Francis has made this theme of joy a central idea of his papal ministry, writing in his first encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium*, “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation, I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come” (EG, 1).

He continues this theme of joy in his 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, which begins: “The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church” (AL, 1). He again echoes the opening words of the Second Vatican Council’s

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, “The joys and the hopes, the griefs, and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (GS, 1).

We are called to be evangelizers who share the joy of the Gospel in a world that is increasingly divided. Of course, there has been division in the world since our first parents decided to enjoy the forbidden fruit in the Garden, and it was to heal this division that Christ became incarnate. He, the God through whom and for whom everything was made (cf. Col. 1:16), was born in a specific time, place, and culture, with all the messy divisions and conflicts that came with that decision.

How did Jesus address the conflict and division of His time, and what can that teach us who also live in divided times today? A story from the 7th chapter of the Gospel of Mark may help illustrate Jesus’s approach: Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him. She came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged Him to drive the demon out of her daughter. Jesus said to her, “Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She replied and said to Him, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s scraps.” Then He said to her, “For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.” – Mark 7:24–29

I know what you may be thinking: how can this be read as a story of humor or joy? Jesus actually sounds a bit cruel, calling the woman a “dog,” just because she was a Greek and not Jewish. In his book *Discovering Humor in the Bible*, theologian Howard R. Macy suggests that if we envision ourselves as wallflowers in the scene, and turn our focus to the faces of Jesus and the woman during their interaction, we might discover something different: “The text doesn’t give us facial expressions or vocal inflections; we bring those to it. Imagining Jesus smiling and even being a bit coy rather than being cranky makes a lot of sense, particularly when we remember Jesus’ response in so many other stories.” (Macy, 115)

He goes on to say, “My col-



KEN HALLENIUS

HUMOR IN THE MIX

league Ron also tells me that this passage is very important to missiologists. They see this as one of the ways Jesus was teaching the disciples the wide range of the gospel. The sneaky gentleness of humor, as they watched, could well have had an enduring, powerful effect.” (Macy, 116)

Missiologists are academics who study and practice the work of evangelization, which echoes what Pope Francis wrote in his first encyclical, where he encouraged all of us to “embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy,” to be missionary disciples.

So that is our charge: to share the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of those we meet, to share with them the joy and hope that we have found in Christ Jesus. As members of the Church, we have lots of support for this mission, including the sacraments, the communion of saints, and popular devotions. I look forward to exploring these in future columns.

Ken Hallenius is a syndicated radio host and podcaster living in South Bend. For more, visit blog.hallenius.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 2, 2022

Luke 17:5-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: about having great faith. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

INCREASE	OUR FAITH	SIZE
MUSTARD	SEED	TREE
ROOTED	PLANTED	IN THE SEA
OBEY YOU	SERVANT	PLOWING
SHEEP	IN THE FIELD	RATHER SAY
PREPARE	APRON	I EAT
DRINK	COMMANDED	DONE

A TREE OBEYS

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

OSV, from page 12

when assessed by grade level, Pre-K accounted for 66 percent of the boost. This growth means that Catholic schools have just received an influx of young families — and that the Church, in the wake of massive disaffiliation and decline in Sunday Mass attendance, now has the opportunity to welcome, serve, and form those children and their families.

Furthermore, with the hiring of 100 new teachers, Archbishop Lori and his team of lay school leaders in Baltimore have the opportunity to strengthen Catholic identity in the classroom. (A similar opportunity exists anywhere in the country where schools are growing.) While a temptation for these school administrators facing demand is going to be to fill personnel needs quickly, rather than selectively recruiting teachers who are steeped in the faith themselves, we hope that this growth will provide the chance to recruit and retain teachers and staff with missionary hearts, who might have the ability to pass on their own beloved faith to increasingly secularized and nonpracticing families. This takes a necessary commitment of resources to ensure that Catholic school teachers are compensated fairly and competitively.

Teaching is a special vocation in our Church. In serving their students, teachers are seeing Christ before them, in need of their love and mercy. Instead of merely transactional institutions, Catholic schools can become

places where the Gospel thrives, where parents and young people belong as true community members, and where all are known and loved as persons rather than statistics. In such a place, vocations to service are fostered, and those children will grow to be young men and women who will have the formation and strength to hear and follow Christ’s invitation for their lives, wherever it may lead.

The NCEA insists that for growth in Catholic schools to continue, barriers to admission must be removed, increased public funding should be secured, lay leaders should be further empowered, and the young families who have opted for Catholic education in recent years must be retained, even while others continue to be invited.

It is our prayer that this growth will not be a temporary increase but that it will mark the beginning of a renewal of our nation’s parochial schools. Our children deserve the best. They deserve the best of the Catholic tradition. They deserve to be raised in environments that foster a love for our art, our history, our saints, our prayers, and our God. They deserve a Catholic education that helps them become the saints they are called to be.

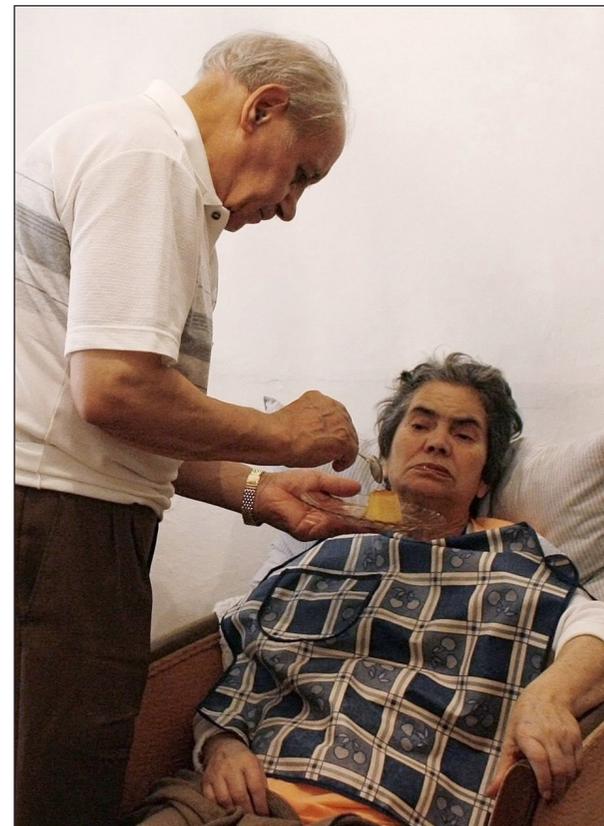
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A husband feeds his wife, an Alzheimer's patient, in their house in Lisbon, Portugal, in this 2009 file photo. At his general audience on Sept. 21, 2022, Pope Francis marked World Alzheimer's Day.

Prayers, Support Needed for Those with Alzheimer's Disease, Pope Says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking World Alzheimer's Day on Sept. 21, Pope Francis asked people to pray for all those affected by the illness, including families and caregivers.

Alzheimer's disease "affects so many people, who are often pushed to the margins of society because of this condition," the pope said at the end of his general audience talk in St. Peter's Square on Sept. 21.

"Let us pray for those suffering from Alzheimer's, for their families, and for those who lovingly care for them, that they may be increasingly supported and helped," he said.

He also asked that people pray for men and women facing hemodialysis, dialysis, or an organ transplant.

September is also World Alzheimer's Month, which is an initiative by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) to raise awareness, challenge the stigma surrounding Alzheimer's and dementia, and garner more support for those affected. Dementia is a general term for a group of symptoms that negatively impact memory, and Alzheimer's is a specific disease that is the most common cause of dementia.

According to ADI, in 2020 there were more than 55 million people worldwide living with dementia and the number is expected to reach 78 million in 2030.

The majority of people with dementia live in low- and middle-income countries and, since dementia mainly affects older people, the fastest growth in the elderly population is taking place in China, India, and their south Asian and western Pacific neighbors, according to ADI.

Early diagnosis and access to health care, which are lacking in underdeveloped communities, are key for helping people get needed treatment, care, and support, it added.

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Blessing of St. Joseph Grotto

PIERCETON — Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier will have a Mass on Sunday, Oct. 2, at 9 a.m., in the church, 408 W. Catholic St., followed by the blessing of St. Joseph Grotto built as a memorial for Father Charles Herman, beloved pastor who passed away in 2020. After the blessing, a brunch will follow in the parish hall. Contact Dulcie Stevens at 574-594-5750 or sfxpierceton@aol.com.

Jubilee Anniversary Mass and Reception

FORT WAYNE — 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, Oct. 9, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A ticketed reception will follow in the hall at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish. 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 age 10 and younger may attend the reception at

no charge. To register, please go to www.diocesefwsb.org/anniversary-masses. Contact Lisa Everett at 574-234-0687 or leverett@diocesefwsb.org.

St Stanislaus Kostka Polish Style Chicken and Sausage Dinner

NEW CARLISLE — St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, 55756 Tulip Rd., will have a Polish style chicken and sausage dinner on Sunday, Oct. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Carry-out is available. Tickets are \$20 and available before and after weekend Masses, or by calling the parish office at 574-654-3781.

Revive! City-Wide Mission Night

MISHAWAKA — Experience a radically unique and powerful Catholic event on Monday, Oct. 10, at Marian High School, Auxiliary Gym, 1311 South Logan St., from 7-9 p.m. Join a regional night of transformation featuring the Damascus

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Claire Oberle, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Julia Ciszczon, 96, St. Pius X

Marian Hyvonen, 88, St. Pius X

Larry Leslie, 81, St. Pius X

Sandy Maichen, 81, St. Pius X

John Marshall, 77, St. Pius X

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Memorial Mass for Those Who Have Lost a Child

SOUTH BEND — A Memorial Mass for those who have lost a child, including through mis-

carriage and abortion, will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 52473 State Hwy 933. All are welcome, including siblings and grandparents. You will have the opportunity to record your child's/grandchild's name in a Book of Remembrance, take home a silk rose in honor of him or her, and pray together with others who have suffered the loss of a child. Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For more information, contact Lisa Everett at 574-234-0687 or email leverett@diocesefwsb.org.

America Needs Fatima Holy Hour

SOUTH BEND — America Needs Fatima Holy Hour of Prayer will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Christ the King Parish, 52473 SR 933, at noon. This is an outdoor event, so bring a lawn chair and a rosary. For information, contact Dorothy Wheeler at 574-855-3915.

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Little Flower
HOLY HOUR

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1139 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne
The Oct. 4 Holy Hour will be led by Father Brian Isenbarger.

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