

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Praying for the Souls of the Deceased

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Father Tom Shoemaker, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, celebrated Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) on Nov. 2 at the Catholic Cemetery. More than 100 people came to pray for the dead and gain the plenary indulgence for souls in purgatory. In his homily, Father Shoemaker reminded those present to pray for the souls of loved ones throughout November, the month the Church dedicates to praying for the deceased. He pointed out the nearby gravestones of priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and noted that many religious sisters were also interred close to the outdoor altar.

He explained that, to gain the plenary indulgence, those present would need to complete a few requirements. First, a person must be a Catholic in good standing, and in a state of grace. Also, one must visit a cemetery – any cemetery, Catholic or otherwise – and pray for the dead with the express purpose of gaining the indulgence. In addition, one must pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and go to Confession within 20 days of this act and receive Communion on the day of the visit to the cemetery. Father Shoemaker led those present in prayer at the end of the Mass to fulfil the first of the requirements.



Jennifer Barton



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Notre Dame Celebrates Transfer of Chesterton Collection to London Center

LONDON (CNS) – Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, CSC, President of the University of Notre Dame, led a dedication ceremony on Oct. 27 to celebrate the Catholic university's acquisition of the G.K. Chesterton Collection for its London Global Gateway.

The collection is a treasure trove of the writings, personal effects, art, and other items related to the life of the renowned 20th-century English Catholic writer, orator, apologist journalist, and literary critic.

Over the course of several decades, Chesterton expert Aiden Mackey assembled the materials that make up the collection, which has moved from Oxford to the Notre Dame center in central London on Trafalgar Square.

A Notre Dame news release said the transfer of the collection makes the world and work of Chesterton more accessible to scholars and includes a public exhibit for Chesterton devotees who live in or visit London.

"We gather today to give thanks for the life and work of G.K. Chesterton and the remarkable dedication and commitment of Mr. Aiden Mackey in compiling this fine collection," Father Jenkins said in his prayer of dedication.

"May Notre Dame's commitment to educating hearts and minds be furthered by this collection, and may the writings and life of G.K. Chesterton serve as a witness to faith and hope," he added.

The 100-year-old Mackey attended the ceremony, which was hosted by Notre Dame. Previously he said of the trans-



CNS photos/Matt Cashore, University of Notre Dame

Father John I. Jenkins, CSC, President of the University of Notre Dame, prays at the dedication and blessing of the Chesterton Archive at the Catholic university's London Global Gateway on Oct. 27, 2022. Also pictured are Father Jim Lies, CSC, Senior Director for Academic Initiatives and Partnerships for Notre Dame's London Global Gateway; Aiden Mackey, a G.K. Chesterton expert who founded and hosted the archive in his home for a time; and Mackey's daughter Patricia.

fer: "The collection's elevation to so prestigious a home as the London Global Gateway is, for me, warming beyond measure."

Gilbert Keith Chesterton's many works include the Father Brown mystery series, the novel "The Man Who Was Thursday," thousands of short

stories, poems, and essays, and his defense of Christianity, "The Everlasting Man," a book that influenced C.S. Lewis to convert to Christianity.

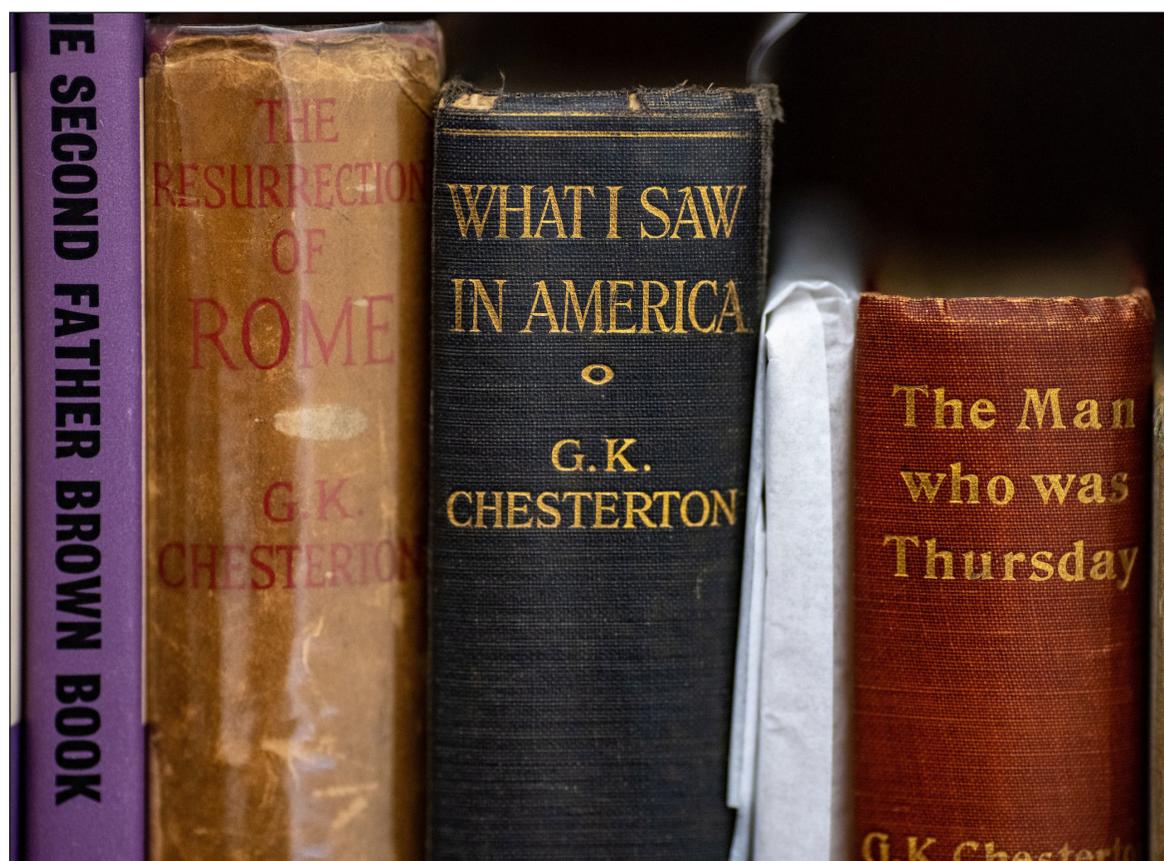
Notre Dame's association with Chesterton began nearly 100 years ago. In 1930, at the height of his celebrity, he visited the university in South

Bend to deliver 36 public lectures over six weeks and receive an honorary degree.

He attended the first football game at the new Notre Dame Stadium on Oct. 10 of that year, which inspired his poem "The Arena."

The University of Notre Dame offers study abroad opportunities in more than 25 countries. Its London program, established in 1968, now hosts more than 400 undergraduates, 50 law students and many graduate students and faculty for a semester, summer, or full academic year.

The London Global Gateway also hosts more than 100 conferences and other events each year and places some 100 students in internships with British and international companies, medical centers, Parliament, nonprofits, and other organizations.



Books are seen in the Chesterton Archive housed at the University of Notre Dame's London Global Gateway in England on Oct. 26, 2022.

Saints on Parade at South Bend Grade School

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, worked hard to make the Solemnity of All Saints into a holiday the whole parish could celebrate together, with plenty of learning, praying, and singing sprinkled in.

After the vigil Mass and the usual 7 a.m. Mass, the school Mass at 8:15 a.m. featured fourth graders dressed as saints processing in to a litany invoking every saint they had chosen to portray. Some of those "saints" proclaimed the readings, read the prayers of the faithful, and presented the offertory gifts. During his homily, Father Matt Fase, CSC, asked for a show of hands in response to several questions: the continent where their saint lived, which ones were royalty and which were poor, which were in habits or unusual garb, and which were wearing ordinary everyday clothes. He suggested that 100 years from now, at a Mass like this, someone might be wearing a St. Joseph School uniform to portray one of them. "What stories will they tell about you?" he wondered.

After Mass, the fourth graders formed a "wax museum," striking still poses until each attendee stood on a small circle on the floor facing one of them. Then the "wax" saint came to life to explain what the important thing about "them" as their chosen saint was, and other facts about that saint's life and death.

When Halee Williams, who oversees the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, learned on Instagram that Meg Hunter-Kilmer, author of "Pray for Us" and "Saints Around the World", would be in the area on Nov. 1, she invited Hunter-

Kilmer to read to all the students in the preschool. "Miss Meg" came wearing coveralls, holding a wrench and a baby doll. She told the preschoolers she was dressed as Blessed Salvador Huerta Gutierrez, a Mexican auto mechanic, father of 12 children, daily communicant, and martyr of the Cristero War alongside his brother, an opera singer. Then, with a little prompting, she took requests for what sort of saints the children wanted to hear her read about: a princess, a Pokémon fan, a soccer player, a ballerina, someone who struggled with anger all his life.

Throughout the half-hour, Hunter-Kilmer interacted spontaneously with the children. After the reading, she signed a copy of her book for each class, inscribing, "God loves you like crazy. Now go be saints!" She suggested that their teachers use the topical index to find other saints especially relevant to the preschoolers, telling them they could find a saint with almost any trait, but that they'd never find one exactly like themselves. Being that unique saint is up to each of them. "Forever and always, God has been hoping you would be a saint," she said.

The preschoolers were dismissed to parade through the building and grounds holding cutouts each had decorated to represent a particular saint.

Before the evening Mass, about 30 families gathered for a party in the school, many dressed as saints. Parishioners Mary Liz Kaltenbach and Jennifer Miller had worked hard to make the occasion festive, with the help of four St. Joseph High School students earning service hours. Party food of lemonade, cookies, and popcorn provided sustenance

as children visited stations where they could color, create a personal litany of favorite saints, toss rings over saint peg dolls, and play hopscotch on a spider web in honor of St. Felix, who was said to have escaped persecution when a spider wove a thick web over the entrance of a hole in the wall where he and Bishop Maximus were hiding. Attendees could also go on a St. Anthony scavenger hunt that involved guessing the number of symbols in each jar dedicated to a particular saint, such as maple leaf cookies for St. Andre Bessette (a Canadian saint), Pokémon cereal pieces for Blessed Carlo Acutis (who watched Pokémon), and lion animal crackers for St. Jerome (said to have calmly healed a lion's injured paw). Tables were adorned with note cards made from the illustrations in Hunter-Kilmer's book.

After signing copies of her books, the author called all the young saints to join her and share a sentence or two about the saints they were portraying, each followed by everyone praying, "Pray for us." Hunter-Kilmer clearly enjoyed celebrating saints who had "big feelings" and connected with aspects of the children's lives: scouting, athletics, beauty, adventure.

She reflected on the evening, saying that it was lovely. "Mary Liz and Jennifer did such an amazing job pulling together snacks and decorations and crafts and games, and it was such a joy to see the kids in their costumes (and the adults, too)! I was so very grateful to be able to spend the evening delighting in the communion of saints with these families who are hoping to become saints themselves."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, November 14 - Thursday, November 17 - Plenary Meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Baltimore, Maryland
 Saturday, November 19: 10 a.m. - Confirmation Mass, St. Monica Church, Mishawaka
 Sunday, November 20: 11 a.m. - Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw



COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Thanked for Donation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land recently sent a letter of thanks to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for its donation of \$82,464.07 for the 2022 Pontifical Good Friday Collection.

Money received through the annual Good Friday Collection is used at the request of the Holy Father to continue to provide critical support for Christians in the Holy Land. Father David Grenier, Commissariat of the Holy Land USA, said funds provide pastoral care, schools, housing, employment, refugee assistance, and services for the vulnerable youth and elderly. "The funds also support the sacred shrines entrusted to the care of the Holy Land Franciscans for more than 800 years and visited by more than 1.5 million pilgrims annually," Father Grenier said.

With the increased needs due to the pandemic, Father Grenier offered his sincere gratitude for the generosity and support from Bishop Rhoades and the diocese.



Photos provided by Sean Kennedy

Catholic author and speaker Meg Hunter-Kilmer interacts with the children at St. Joseph Parish, reading them stories of the saints that she featured in her book and telling them that they, too, can become saints one day.





Online Giving

COVID, Computers, and Coiffers: Online Giving Grows Across Diocese

BY ELIZABETH SELF

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is not new to online giving. Jeffery Boetticher, Secretary of Stewardship and Development, has served the diocese for 16 years, five in his current role. He shared with Today's Catholic that online giving grew steadily prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, but the pandemic accelerated its development. "All parishes have it in one form or another," he stated.

Betsy Quinn, Director of Stewardship and Engagement at St Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, shared that her parish has used the Our Sunday Visitor Online Giving platform for more than nine years. She noted, "Over time, people have recognized that online giving helps them follow stewardship principles of giving of their first fruits rather than what is 'left over' after other expenses."

She remarked on the effect of COVID-19, "With the shutdown of public Masses in March of 2020, many of those who were still on the fence then decided to participate. We have heard from many that they are grateful to finally take advantage of this opportunity to prioritize their parish giving

equally with their other financial commitments."

Boetticher noted that in a "generational shift," confidence boomed in online giving. Boetticher commented, "Nationally, there's a security issue with loose cash, and online giving helps parishes sidestep a lot of that." Quinn shared that the St Pius X parish business office has enjoyed a reduction of administrative costs with fewer checks to post in the parish database, with online giving accounting for 60 percent of the weekly offertory.

Giving online, members of the diocese enjoy an increase in control of both how and when they give. Digital collection grants users more flexibility with scheduling and choosing between parish versus diocesan appeals. "If their situation changes," Boetticher explained, "Givers can pause the gift or reschedule it."

Quinn shared that parishioners found it easier than ever to contribute not only to the offertory but also special collections, mission appeals, and the parish capital campaign. Boetticher emphasized that on a diocesan level, online giving made a remarkable difference

for the Annual Bishop's Appeal and the Pentecost collection for seminarians. "When I first started [five years ago]," he shared, "we averaged around \$200,000 to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Last year was the first time online giving alone went over one million dollars."

Regarding the future of technology in the Church, Quinn shared that St Pius X is in the early stages of exploring popular, "instant" financial services platforms like Cash App and Venmo, and Boetticher remarked that there is no shortage of innovations being marketed to the diocese and parishes. He told Today's Catholic, "These things can all be helpful, but they're all efforts at ministry: to get to know parishioners, facilitate communication about ministries, and build better, stronger relationships."

Quinn and Boetticher agreed that online giving has yielded spiritual fruits. Quinn explained how online giving altered her parish's liturgy: "Rather than passing the basket during the Preparation of the Altar, the congregation can focus on prayer."

All are cordially invited to:

"Virtuous Leadership in a Time of Global Upheaval"



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Driscoll Auditorium, Holy Cross College

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Minnesota Bishop Expresses Outrage Over Desecration at Catholic Cemetery

ROCHESTER, Minn. (CNS) – Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester expressed outrage on Nov. 2 over the desecration of several graves and the columbarium at the diocese's Calvary Cemetery in Rochester "with hateful and obscene graffiti" on Halloween night. He assured his prayers for families "of those whose final resting places were so dishonored." The diocese "will cooperate with police in assuring that those responsible are brought to justice," he added in a statement issued on All Souls' Day, when the Catholic Church "honors our beloved dead. Cemetery staff is working diligently to repair the damage and restore the grounds," Bishop Barron said, and he pledged to bless and reconsecrate "this sacred space" once the staff's task "is completed. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace," Bishop Barron added. Arson, vandalism, and other destruction have taken place at more than 100 Catholic sites across the United States since May of 2020.

Indiana's New Abortion Law Passes 'Constitutional Litmus Test,' says Brief

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – The Thomas More Society, a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm based in Chicago, has submitted an amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court brief, to the Indiana Supreme Court supporting the state in a suit challenging its recently passed abortion law. The lawsuit was filed on Aug. 30 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Planned Parenthood Northwest, Hawaii, Alaska, Indiana, Kentucky Inc., et al. It claims the new law protecting most unborn lives violates rights, privileges, and protections granted in the state's constitution. In an Oct. 31 news release, Peter Breen, Vice President and Senior Counsel of the Thomas More Society, quoted from the brief. "Nothing in the language, history, or interpretation of the Indiana Constitution supports a right to abortion," he said, "especially in light of Indiana's prohibition of abortion going back to 1835, 16 years before the relevant part of that constitution was adopted." The law in question was enacted by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Aug. 5. It bans most abortions except in cases of rape, incest, and specific medical conditions. "This law passes the constitutional litmus

Praying for the Deceased as Border Crisis Continues



CNS photo/Gabriel Barraza, Reuters

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, center, and other Catholic clergy from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and El Paso take part in a binational Mass on Nov. 5, 2022, in memory of migrants who died during their journey to the U.S. near the border between Mexico and the United States.

test," said Breen. Following the lawsuit being filed, a preliminary injunction on the law was issued on Sept. 22, a week after the law went into effect. This action set the state law to its status prior to the ban, again allowing abortions in the state up to 22 weeks gestation.

NCEA Reports Quicker Academic Recovery from Pandemic for Catholic Schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – A representative of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) says Catholic schools have recovered more quickly from the pandemic than its public school counterparts. The successes, according to the NCEA, go across the board when looking separately at Black students, Hispanic students, students from low-income households, and students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The scores were first report-

ed in October by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, colloquially known as "The Nation's Report Card." The numbers tracked the progress, or lack thereof, in math and reading by both fourth graders and eighth graders.

While Catholic schools' scores are generally better than those of their public-school counterparts – Annie Smith, NCEA Vice President of Data and Research, said eighth graders pre-COVID-19 were about 5 percent better in math and 6 percent better in reading – the new numbers, based on testing conducted in 2021, showed a wider separation between the two. Catholic schools' scores have pretty much bounced back to the levels they had achieved prior to the coronavirus pandemic's onset in March of 2020. The only area that is still not up to snuff is eighth-grade math, which is still five points behind pre-pandemic levels. Even so, said NCEA President Lincoln Snyder, those numbers are 15 points ahead of the compara-

ble figures reported by public schools. "It wasn't a surprise to me at all," Snyder told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 28 phone interview. "We've been monitoring testing data, really, throughout COVID."

Chaplains Say They'll Stay as Long as Needed in Thai Camps for Myanmar

BAN MAI NAI SOI REFUGEE CAMP, Thailand (CNS) – Some 90,000 Myanmar refugees live in nine camps on the Thai side of the border. At the height of displacement in the early 1990s, the camps held more than 130,000 refugees. People already in the camps have watched humanitarian groups come and go over the years, though in recent times, aid workers have mostly moved on to newer crises, leaving a chronic shortage of assistance for the refugees. What hasn't declined is the commitment of

the Catholic Church to accompany people in the camps. Father Dominic Nyareh, a Burmese priest who serves as chaplain in Ban Mai Nai Soi, was appointed to his post by the bishop of Loikaw in 2008. He's one of five priests assigned by the Myanmar Church as chaplains in the camps. Thai officials won't allow Father Nyareh to live in the camp, which is guarded by Thai soldiers, so he commutes every day from nearby Mae Hong Son. Another priest, Father Joseph Sureh, joined him in 2015, but he lives inside the camp. Thai officials won't allow him to leave it. Two Burmese nuns also serve Ban Mai Nai Soi. Together, the pastoral team provides leadership to four churches within the camp, with a full gamut of parish activities, from men's retreats to a youth group to flute classes for children. Whatever happens in the camps, the Church workers say they'll stay as long as their bishop wants them to be present.

Ukrainian Archbishop Tells Pope Russia Wants to Destroy, Not Negotiate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has continued to call on Russian and Ukrainian leaders to negotiate an end to the war, but the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church told him Russia wants only the destruction of Ukraine. Ukrainian Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych met Pope Francis on Nov. 7 at the Vatican, the first time the two have met in person since Russia started the war in late February, although they have spoken on the phone many times. Archbishop Shevchuk gave the pope "a fragment of a Russian mine that destroyed the facade of the Ukrainian Catholic church building in the town of Irpin, near Kyiv, in March," the archbishop's office said. "It is a very symbolic gift, not only because Irpin was one of the first 'martyr towns' affected by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, but also because similar pieces of landmines are extracted from the bodies of Ukrainian soldiers, civilians, and children, a visible sign of the destruction and death that war brings every day." Returning to the Vatican from Bahrain on Nov. 6, Pope Francis had told reporters traveling with him that the Vatican is "constantly attentive" to what is happening in Ukraine and that the Secretariat of State continues to do what is possible and has worked behind the scenes to help arrange prisoner exchanges. The pope also told reporters he thinks the cruelty of the attacks on Ukraine and its civilians is the work of mercenaries, not Russians, who are "a great people" and have a strong "humanism."

Praying for the Departed Souls



Thomas Labuziński

SOUTH BEND – On a beautiful All Souls' Day in South Bend, St. Joseph Parish held an evening service with more than 100 candles lining the city's sidewalks around the block as parishioners held a procession while praying for the dearly departed. They processed once around the city block, then entered the church to sign the memorial book of the dead and for silent prayer.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights Celebrate Founders Day



Provided by Jim Keefer and Steve Lutz

FORT WAYNE – On Oct. 15, Council 451 celebrated its 123rd anniversary. Due to the foresight of 36 local men with a desire to foster members' pride in both their Catholic and American heritages, the council was chartered here in Fort Wayne just seven years after Blessed Michael McGivney established the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Connecticut. Today, the council boasts a membership of more than 370 knights. Gathered around Council 451 charter are: Front row - Greg Sult, Tom Richter, Steve Lutz, John Prascsak, Tom Ryan, Dennis Redding, Joe Mikolay, and Doug Baisinger. Back row - Jerry Kessens, Tom Keefer, Jim Keefer, Father Tom Shoemaker, and Bob Current. Father Tom Shoemaker led the prayer service.

Holy Cross Order Wins Bosco Jam



Provided by Father Drew Curry

SOUTH BEND – On Oct. 21, priests and seminarians from the Congregation of the Holy Cross faced off against diocesan priests in the "Bosco Jam" at Saint Joseph High School, besting the diocesan priests by a narrow margin. The diocesan priests are in blue jerseys, the Holy Cross men in white.

Knights of Columbus Host Soccer State Finals Challenge



Provided by Ryan Grill

NOBLESVILLE - The Knights of Columbus Indiana State Council held the 2022 State Finals Soccer Challenge on Saturday, Oct. 30, at Guerin Catholic High School. State Finalists from across the state traveled to compete for a state championship for their division. North Regional champions included Aryana Grill and Elizabeth Curylo; runners-up included Lane Barron, Lucy Warner, and Nathaneal Crawford.

Saints and Scholars Welcome Bishop Rhoades for I

BY JENNIFER BARTON

On the Solemnity of All Saints, some holy men and women came out to greet Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the form of fourth-grade students at his pastoral visit to St. John the Baptist School in South Bend. Teachers and staff at the school spotlighted the communion of saints in the weeks prior to the bishop's visit. Each class had adopted a saint to study and decorated their classroom doors in that saint's honor. At the fall festival the weekend before, Principal Shannon Jones stated how parents voted for the best doors.

Bishop Rhoades began his visit with Mass in the church. He spoke in his homily about the epistle of St. John and how "God loves us so much that He adopts us as children."

He asked the students if someone could tell him when they became adopted children of God, to which one student answered: "At Baptism."

He affirmed that answer, saying, "Baptism, the first sacrament, the great sacrament, when the water was poured over us and we were cleansed of original sin, we became daughters and sons of God. That's how much God loves us."

He then focused on the saints in heaven, who, as he said, "have won a battle. They overcame sin. They renounced the devil. They were victorious. And that's why they're in heaven; they share in Jesus' victory, because Jesus won the battle. He suffered and died on the cross out of love, He conquered sin, He conquered death, He rose from the dead, and He calls us to share in His victory."

Then he asked some of the fourth-grade students, seated at the front of the church, which saints they had chosen to dress as for the All Schools Mass. After the first hesitant answers, the students became bolder, raising their hands to share who they were and what they had learned about their saints.

After Mass, Jones, Pastor Father Glenn Kohrman, and Parochial Vicar Father Sunday Akuh led Bishop Rhoades to the classrooms, where many of the scholars therein demonstrated their knowledge of different subjects.

Stopping first in the seventh-grade classroom, Bishop Rhoades asked if the students had any questions for him. One female student seemed very at ease with the bishop and asked him multiple questions, such as whether he liked being a bishop and about the fame that came with the role. He admitted that sometimes he goes to the grocery store "incognito" so that he will not be recognized.

In the sixth-grade classroom, students were studying biology when he entered. Here, students interacted with him, helping him use the microscopes to view the slides they were examining. The preschool students in the next class happily greeted Bishop Rhoades and sang the Alphabet Song for him. When he asked them if they were learning about Jesus, they enthusiastically answered in the affirmative. In fifth grade, another female student explained the math problem she had just solved, and he taught them about the three parts of the Church: the Church on earth, in heaven, and in purgatory.

As much as possible throughout his visit, the bishop greeted students with a handshake, asking their names and chatting with them about their school, the Catholic Faith, and other age-appropriate topics.

As a first-year principal, Jones confessed that she was certainly nervous to host the bishop, but the staff and priests of St. John the Baptist had worked hard to prepare students for the visit, and they conducted themselves well.



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades listens as a student answers a question he posed in his homily at a pastoral visit to St. John the Baptist School in South Bend on Nov. 1. At left: A fourth-grade student tells the bishop about the saint she chose to portray on All Saints Day, St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

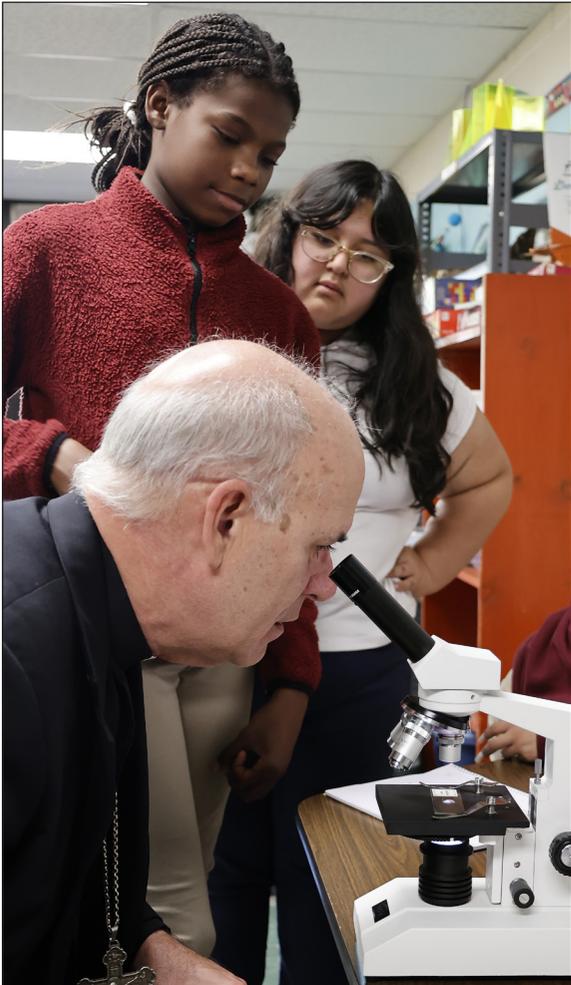


Father Glenn Kohrman and Father Sunday Akuh, Pastor and Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist, flank Bishop Rhoades as he receives the gifts from two students.



Fourth graders eagerly share their knowledge of their saints with Bishop Rhoades.

Pastoral Visit



Students look on as Bishop Rhoades attempts to examine a slide in seventh-grade biology class.



Principal Shannon Jones greets Bishop Rhoades after Mass to show him around the school with the aid of Father Kohrman.



Father Sunday fist-bumps some of the students waiting in the hallway.



Proud to have solved a story problem in math class, a student explains the answer to Bishop Rhoades.

The school itself is small, Jones reported, with a student population of 125, an increase from previous years. Many of the students are Black and Latino and most families have been able to offer their children the opportunity for a Catholic education through Indiana's voucher program. "A lot of what we get is word of mouth. Somebody knows somebody who has something nice to say about us and people come and check us out," Jones stated. She believes that the small class size and individual attention that students receive draws parents to the school.

This year is a learning curve for both Jones and the students, many of whom are new this year, and others who have struggled under pandemic restrictions and have to re-learn social skills. The school's theme for the year is "Love Thy Neighbor", and Jones and the teachers are finding ways to bring that into focus in the classroom through studying one virtue each month. As the school day begins, everyone meets in the hallway for prayer and a short talk about the virtue (this month is fortitude). This is simplified so that younger students can understand as well as older students, and the day also ends with prayer in the hallway.

Working through the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame has helped prepare Jones for her role as principal, especially in terms of community-building. "That was one of the nice things with going through the Remick program because a lot of that stuff I did as assignments I've been able to take and implement." For example, to go along with this year's theme, she introduced an art project about what loving one's neighbor looks like. "The whole thought process of the Catholic identity comes first, and it should be foremost in everything that you are planning on doing."

What makes her school so special, she shared, is the dedication of the staff and parents; "that they're willing to work in partnership with us to make sure their kids are successful, whether it's behavior, academics, extracurriculars, I'm finding that it just takes a phone call to reach out and people respond very well."

Both she and Father Kohrman see the challenges that come with a small, diverse school, yet Father Kohrman also sees great potential in it. "It's a great little school. It's got a very unique personality to it. And really, it serves as a great evangelization tool because I think the minority are Catholic." Those students who are not Catholic are "experiencing a different cultural reality. ... And I think it's a great testimonial to seeing the various communities, the cultural varieties working together and getting together."

Jones affirmed that the school families are supportive "as far as bringing the kids closer to God, whether it's the same faith that they practice at home or not."



Preschool students examine Bishop Rhoades' pectoral cross. Even the youngest students learn about Jesus at St. John the Baptist.

In Bahrain, Pope Sees Joy of Catholic Minority, Deepens Ties with Muslims

BY CAROL GLATZ

AWALI, Bahrain (CNS) – Traveling as a “sower of peace” to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Pope Francis further strengthened ties with the Muslim world and witnessed the joy and vitality of its minority and predominately expatriate Christian population.

His message promoting the peaceful coexistence of different cultures and ethnicities also included the wider Persian Gulf region, which is also increasingly more diverse due to growing communities of migrant workers, who constitute a significant percentage of the population.

The 85-year-old pope's visit to Bahrain from Nov. 5-6 was his 39th international trip in nearly 10 years as pope and his 13th trip to a Muslim-majority nation, reflecting his deep commitment to interreligious dialogue and the need to work together to face today's global challenges and moral crises.

The pope's first stop in Awali on Nov. 5 was Sakhir Palace, home of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the royal family.

Meeting with authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, and local representatives at the palace, the pope said, “The numerous national, ethnic, and religious groups that coexist in Bahrain testify that we can and must live together in our world.”

He commended the kingdom's efforts to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and religious freedom. However, he said more should be done to: offer equal opportunities to all groups and individuals; counter discrimination; protect immigrant workers; guarantee human rights; and abolish the death penalty.

The following day was the busiest for the pope, whose chronic knee pain had worsened, keeping him in a wheelchair when he needed to move around and seeing him stand only briefly with a cane for support.

Pope Francis helped close the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Coexistence, an event sponsored by the king, on Nov. 4 in Al-Fida' Square at the palace.

Riding in a compact white Fiat with Vatican City plates, the pope was accompanied through the lush green oasis of the palace's walled compound by royal guards on horseback. The pope was then invited to pour water from a metal pitcher onto the base of a large palm tree.

He told representatives of



CNS photo/Yara Nardi, Reuters

Pope Francis waves as he arrives for a meeting with young people at Sacred Heart School in Awali, Bahrain, on Nov. 5.

different religions and international leaders that “it is our duty to encourage and assist our human family,” especially those who are neglected by the powerful: the poor, the unborn, the elderly, the infirm, and migrants.

God wants his children to be “one family, not islands, but one great archipelago,” like Bahrain, the pope said. The world can “only advance by rowing together; if we sail alone, we go adrift.”

Later in the day in the courtyard of the palace's mosque, the pope addressed Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar Mosque and university, and top representatives of the Muslim Council of Elders, an international group of Islamic scholars and experts.

He encouraged those working to avoid divisions and conflicts in Muslim communities, to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and moderation, and to dispel “erroneous interpretations that, through violence, misconstrue, exploit, and do a disservice to religious belief.”

“The God of peace never brings about war, never incites

hatred, never supports violence,” he said. Peace is built with “encounter, patient negotiations, and dialogue,” and it is based on justice.

Prayer and fraternity “are our weapons,” Pope Francis said, again condemning the world's arms trade, calling it “the ‘commerce of death’ that, through ever-increasing outlays, is turning our common home into one great arsenal.”

“Unity in diversity and witness of life” was the central theme of the pope's talk at Our Lady of Arabia Cathedral, the largest cathedral in the Persian Gulf region, for an ecumenical meeting and a prayer for peace. Many local Christians and Catholics were in attendance as well as King Al Khalifa, Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and other dignitaries.

The new cathedral serves the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia, which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and, formally, Saudi Arabia, and was built in response to the Gulf region's increasing Catholic population, now estimated at 2.5 million.

The pope traveled on Nov. 5 to Bahrain National Stadium to celebrate Mass for the more than 20,000 foreign residents working in Bahrain and thousands more from neighboring countries, all together representing more than 100 different nationalities.

“This very land is a living image of coexistence in diversity, and indeed an image of our world,” the pope said in his homily.

He encouraged the faithful to live as “children of the Father and build a world of brothers and sisters.” They must “learn how to love everyone, even our enemies,” and find the courage to take the risk of overcoming evil with good.

That evening, he went to Sacred Heart School, whose 1,215 students represent 29 different nationalities, cultures, languages, and religious backgrounds. A choir treated the pope to Christian songs and another group of boys and girls showcased a traditional Bahraini dance.

The pope praised their enthusiasm and openness, saying, “As I look out at you,

who are not all of the same religion and are not afraid of being together, I think that without you this coexistence of differences would not be possible.”

On his last day in the kingdom, on Nov. 6, the pope prayed and spoke with bishops, priests, religious, seminarians, and pastoral workers from the Persian Gulf region at Sacred Heart Church in Manama.

Again, he pressed the need for Catholics in the region to be guardians and builders of unity, reaching out to dialogue with others, and living as brothers and sisters.



Today's Catholic file photo

OSV Scholars Program Provides a Way to Earn a Master's Degree

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“There hasn’t been a single course I haven’t thoroughly enjoyed,” says Julie Schleitwiler, Director of Religious Education at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, who is in her final semester of classwork for a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, funded by the OSV Institute’s OSV Scholars program. “And I have so much more to bring to the table to engage the young people and their parents. During our recent confirmation retreat, we vividly entered into the reality of how precious we are to God. I heartily recommend this program to everyone in our diocese who’s involved with sharing the faith.”

Bishop John M. D’Arcy began the OSV Scholars program within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, which allows diocesan employees such as Schleitwiler to gain a higher degree to better teach and pass on the Faith. Fourteen students from the diocese are currently enrolled in the program and more than 100 have already graduated from it in the three decades of its existence. Students pay for their own books and summer school housing, but tuition for all 12 courses is covered.

Students say the course work is challenging, but extremely rewarding. Those who complete it are expected to continue working in diocesan catechetical ministries for at least four years, but most plan to remain in ministry for many

“I’ve only ‘worked’ a few hours since then; I have fun every day. Sometimes I pinch myself; I have trouble believing I get paid to do what I love.”

— Julie Schleitwiler

years to come.

Schleitwiler began her M.A. in 2019, and at that time, Notre Dame theology professors taught core courses in three intense weekends each semester. This offered a way for religious education teachers, youth leaders, and other professional catechetical ministers to be immersed in the material and form relationships with others, but the onset of COVID motivated a long-planned switch to mostly online classes. Students are now encouraged to come to the campus for summer school sessions, compressing a 15-week semester into three.

Since even online courses include small group sessions, Schleitwiler has enjoyed getting to know people in ministry spread throughout the country as well as many in the diocese. During the second semester, she will be working on her



capstone project and expects to receive her M.A. this spring. That capstone project will probably focus on Theology of the Body, which she is convinced should be presented to Catholic youth from the cradle.

Before coming to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Schleitwiler began her teaching career in rural Illinois at a small Catholic school as a second-grade teacher, having earned her degree in human development and education at Marquette University in

Michigan. So important was her Catholic identity that she assumed she could never teach in a public school, because “my students wouldn’t be getting all of me.”

After she took a semester off due to family needs, she became a public-school paraprofessional and long-term sub, which gave her an opportunity to learn more about working with students with special needs.

Incidentally, since she saw many of her students at weekend Masses, faith was part of their personal interaction after all.

The DRE at her parish at the time was about to retire and told Schleitwiler that she would be good at that job. It didn’t appeal to her as much as teaching, but during her time at home, she began to feel called to that ministry. Most candidates for DRE jobs in the Chicago area had a graduate

degree in addition to teaching experience, so she had to look farther afield. In the fall of 2017, she accepted a position at St. Jude in Fort Wayne, not far from where her family once vacationed. “When you’re doing what God wants, everything seems to fall into place.”

Schleitwiler learned about the OSV Scholars program from the diocesan website. Since her lifelong dream had been to earn a master’s degree in either developmental reading or theology, she was thrilled to learn that she qualified. With encouragement from her mentor, Deacon Jim Tighe, she sat for her graduate record exam and officially applied.

Commenting on her job, she says, “I’ve only ‘worked’ a few hours since then; I have fun every day. Sometimes I pinch myself; I have trouble believing I get paid to do what I love.”

In contrast to the Master of Divinity degree, the Master of Arts is geared to those already working in full-time ministry. This includes everyone teaching theology in a Catholic high school as well as youth ministers, DREs, pastoral associates, RCIA catechists, and teachers at other grade levels. Each OSV scholar takes seven electives and five core courses: sacraments, ecclesiology, morality, theology and revelation, and Trinity and Christian salvation.

To explore becoming involved as an OSV Scholar, contact Jonathan Kaltenbach, Director of the Office of Catechesis, at 574-968-2431 or jkaltenbach@diocesefwsb.org for courses beginning in the summer or fall of 2023.

Why Not Love Them Both?

“Why not love them both?” has been a message of the pro-life movement for many years, expressing a commitment to both the unborn child and his or her mother who may be considering abortion.

For decades, the movement has put its money where its mouth is, by sponsoring and funding thousands of volunteer-staffed pregnancy aid centers offering free pregnancy tests, baby clothes, access to prenatal care and social services, and other support.

Now that the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision has reopened a fierce national debate on abortion, much more is needed. Pro-life advocates are urging legislators to expand financial and social support for pregnant and parenting women and their families.

Leading the way is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), whose “Walking with Moms in Need” project for many months has called on all parishes to assess and improve local pregnancy assistance.

The conference, which supported the original Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, has stepped up its call for this program to include paid leave.

Even before Dobbs, the bishops had endorsed expanding the child tax credit and making it refundable for lower-income families and passing a Pregnant Workers Fairness Act requiring reasonable accommodations for employees while

they are pregnant.

On Oct. 26, the chairmen of four USCCB committees wrote to Congress to promote what St. John Paul II called “radical solidarity” with mothers, their born and unborn children, and families. Their recommendations include these measures and many others, including elimination of the “marriage penalty” in the tax code.

Other pro-life leaders have not been idle.

The University of Notre Dame’s de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture has spearheaded a “Women and Children First Initiative” to research and promote the most effective ways to assist pregnant and parenting women in need.

Another group has issued a “Joint Statement on building a post-Roe future” with similar goals.

The Ethics and Public Policy Center is commonly associated with conservative politics, while the second statement was co-authored by some seen as more liberal, such as Professor Charles Camosy.

But their proposals overlap extensively with each other and with the bishops’ goals. The authors realize that these goals are easier to state as general concepts than to turn into legislative language. (Full disclosure: I’ve endorsed both statements.)

The greatest challenge of all, however, will be to bring these proposals into a political climate in which demonizing one’s political opponents is a virtue and bipartisanship is



RICHARD DOERFLINGER

seen as betrayal.

Among the legislative goals, for example, is improved support for pro-life pregnancy aid centers. But some abortion activists have vandalized or tried to destroy these centers — and Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has declared that “we need to shut them down all around the country.”

President Biden’s recent statement that promoting abortion will be his first priority if his party takes full control of the Senate included not a word about supporting other options for pregnant women.

Yet those options will be essential in states restricting abortion, so women will know where they can find help. And they will be essential in states promoting abortion, so these women won’t feel social and economic pressure toward thinking that abortion is their only choice.

One advantage of divided government is that it may get politicians of both parties to finally sit down and talk about this.

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

A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

No Cell Phones, No Problems: Saluting the Digital Minimalists

It started with news from Camp Wapo, the Bible camp I’d attended as a kid. The camp counselors in Amery, Wisconsin, enforce a strict no cell-phone policy: Ditch your iPhone when you arrive, get it back when you leave.

My reaction surprised me. I felt relief, triumph, a sense that the arc of the moral universe, to quote MLK, had been snapped toward justice by noble adults undeterred by the protests of preteens.

This meant that kids today can have the same authentic camp experience I’d had, that generations have had. There are new friends, tippy canoes, midnight adventures, sun tanning, star gazing, and soul searching. Camp could mean something more, not just be a backdrop for TikTok videos.

Georgetown professor Cal Newport makes the case for less screen time in his 2019 book “Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World.” A digital minimalist, he explains, is someone who gets lost in a book, a sunset, or a woodworking project. These people have developed “a philosophy that puts our aspirations and values once again in charge of our daily experience ... a philosophy that prioritizes long-term meaning over short-term satisfaction.”



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

I love this wording, which hints at the spiritual underpinnings: values pave the way, the big picture trumps fleeting pleasures.

Christian author Shauna Niequist explores the spiritual impact of social media in her new book “I Guess I Haven’t Learned That Yet.”

“It’s like standing in the center of a packed stadium every single day and expecting the constant noise and jostling not to take their toll on your spirit,” she writes.

How can we hear the still, small voice of God in a stadium?

There are Catholics who understand this. In order to discern their vocations and their next steps, they are eliminating the noise.

The Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, runs a propaedeutic stage program, a year of preparation before

CAPECCHI, page 13

Triumph in Loving God



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 21:5-19

The Book of Malachi is the source of this weekend’s first reading. Malachi was not a proper name for a person in ancient Israel. Rather, it was an abbreviation of an informal title, “Messenger of God.”

This prophet is thoroughly in step with all the other prophets whose writings we now possess in saying that humans are responsible for their own misery and disappointment in life. Their sinfulness or indifference to God leads them into trouble.

Sin takes its toll. One day, sinners will have to pay the

piper. Part of the viciousness of temptation is that we are lulled into diminishing the effects of our sins.

Paul’s Second Epistle to the Thessalonians supplies the next reading. Paul must have been an interesting personality. He hardly was withdrawing and quiet, yet for all his assertiveness, he had the humility that rises from genuine wisdom and true faith. He knew that he owed everything to God’s mercy, and he knew that the greatest reward in life is in being in peace with God. He offered himself as an example, because God will save others as God saved Paul.

In this reading, Paul goes to his well-schooled Hebrew roots, essentially repeating the theme stated centuries earlier by Malachi and the other prophets. Sin has brought grief to humanity, but God never leaves humanity to its peril. God sent messengers to the world repeatedly to lead people away from their foolish sinfulness. In the greatest act of love, God sent Jesus, the Son

of God, to the world.

Jesus did not come and go. He left the community of faith that is the Church, guided by the Apostles whom the Lord commissioned to lead all to everlasting life. The Church still teaches, forgives, and encourages.

In the first generations of Christianity, disciples of Christ felt at the mercy of a hostile culture. Paul urged Christians to be brave. God was beside them. He would receive them in glory.

St. Luke’s Gospel, the third reading, follows in this theme. While sin has reaped a whirlwind, relief is on the way. A new day will come dramatically and decisively. It will occur in nature. Earthquakes will shake the earth. Plagues will rage. Among humans, close relatives will betray each other. Danger will be everywhere.

None of this, however, will threaten those who truly trust the Lord. Not even a hair of their heads will be harmed. God will triumph. Those who love God will triumph.

Reflection:

The Church is concluding its year of instruction and worship. Next weekend, it will rejoice that God’s salvation and mercy has been poured forth on the world in and through Christ the King.

So, the Church’s last statement of this fading year is its excited proclamation that, despite all the negative forces in the world, despite the attacks of the devil, even despite all the sin, Christ is king, standing as a rock of security on the edge of a raging sea.

For years now, Americans and others in the world have lived in uneasiness if not fear. The sights of the crashing towers in New York, the bleeding victims of warfare in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, haunt us.

These grim realities should teach us. As the prophets warned, as Paul emphatically declared, sin brings us death. We are vulnerable.

None of us can foretell the

future, including our own personal future, with exactitude. Our deaths may not come as the result of violence, as in a war such as now rages in Ukraine, but we will die, nevertheless.

Come what may, if we are in Christ, if we are with God, we shall live. In Christ, we will live forever.

Why then should we fear? Where, death, is your victory? Where your sting?

READINGS

Sunday: Mal 3:19-20a Ps 98:5-9 2 Thes 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 Ps 15:2-4b, 5 Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11 Ps 150:1b-6 Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: Rv 5:1-10 Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b Lk 19:41-44

Friday: Rv 10:8-11 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 Acts 28:11-16, 30-31 Mt 14:22-33

Saturday: Rv 11:4-12 Ps 144:1-2, 9-10 Lk 20:27-40

Seeking the Spiritual Side of Dementia

The possibility of suffering from dementia later in life is a worrisome and unpleasant prospect for many of us. Most people I know would like to remain in possession of their mental faculties until the end. Stephen Post, Director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics at Stonybrook University describes it this way:

“The leading symptoms of dementia are, frankly, terrifying: loss of memory, of language, and of reasoning ability. We all feel at least a slight anxiety about dementia because these dreaded symptoms seem to assault our very identities, to dissolve the autobiographical narratives that constitute the very story of our lives.”

The dreaded symptoms of dementia may lead to spiritual temptations. The prospect of losing autonomy and control can lead some to despair and even attempt suicide.

What can we say about the meaning of a life-changing reality like dementia for ourselves and our loved ones? Could it be that God is seeking to carry out a particular spiritual work?

For some who face dementia, it can have the effect of getting them off the treadmill and detaching them from those aspects of their lives that may be binding them, whether it's work and career, hobbies or pastimes, or something else that may be drawing them away from a needed spiritual focus.

In one of his articles, Stephen Post mentions Peter, who through his struggle with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, experienced a spiritual reawakening and encountered the Lord's grace:

“I'd say, ‘Why did you let this happen to me? I had such a good career. Everything was going fine for me.’ He would say to me probably, ‘Well, why did you fight it? I was trying

to lead you in this direction.’ Oh, I didn't realize that. Well, I've come to the conclusion that everything has a purpose, so the good Lord, He knows the best for you. So maybe this was to slow me down to enjoy life and to enjoy my family and to enjoy what's out there. And right now, I can say that I'm a better person for it, in appreciation of other people's needs and illnesses, than I ever was when I was working that rat race back and forth day to day.”

It can be very hard for a family, especially a spouse, to watch the slow destruction of a loved one's faculties. At times the person suffering from dementia can become so frustrated they are aggressive towards those around them. There is need for a great deal of patience and spiritual and social support in these situations.

The lives of caregivers tend to be upended and changed profoundly by caring for a family member, relative, or friend with dementia, and the generous love they share is itself often sustained by faith in God. As caregivers watch their loved ones with “deep forgetfulness” disengage from the people around them, and from other previously important reference points in their lives, they also witness the emergence of an unmistakable simplicity in those they care for.

In a 2010 essay, Mary Anne Moresco beautifully sums up her dad's and her family's transformative spiritual journey this way:

“My 83-year-old father has dementia. He can remember things that happened a lifetime ago like it was yesterday, but he often can't remember yesterday at all. My father needs this time in life. And we, his children, need it too. We need to glimpse into his past days, as he journeys backward. We need to show him love, as best as we can. We need to offer up our prayers for him. This time



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

is useful. It is valuable. For everything there is a season, and this winter season of my father's life is part of what will help guide his soul into eternity. Dad, through his dementia is working out his salvation. He isn't doing that the way his children wanted him to do it. He isn't doing that the way he wanted to do it. He is doing it the way God has deemed that he must do it. ‘...unless you become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.’ (Matt: 18:3) With each passing month, my father grows more humble and more childlike, more dependent and more trusting and I do not doubt, closer to our Lord and to Heaven.”

As the symptoms and complications of dementia unfold, the challenges we face from the disease can unexpectedly become an invitation from God. Although dementia can contribute to spiritual growth, it almost always involves a great deal of suffering for all concerned, and the challenges should not be underestimated. Such moments, nevertheless, offer important opportunities to grow in grace, to slow down, to reevaluate our priorities, and to enter into a more profound relationship with Him who is our final destination and abiding hope.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

HUBERT

FEAST NOVEMBER 3
Died 727

Hubert was a married courtier who became a priest after his wife died. According to legend, he was called to serve God while hunting; he reportedly saw a crucifix between a stag's horns and heard a voice say, “Unless you turn to the Lord, Hubert, you shall fall into hell.” He was ordained by St. Lambert, bishop of Maastricht in the Netherlands, and succeeded the murdered Lambert. After moving the see to Liege in Belgium, he served for 20 years, ending idol worship, converting many, and tirelessly preaching Christ. He died peacefully while traveling to dedicate a church; this patron saint of hunters and dogs is also invoked against rabies.



SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for November 13, 2022

Luke 21: 5-19

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: About the end times. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

ADORNED	STONES	OFFERINGS
DAYS	THROWN DOWN	TEACHER
MY NAME	I AM HE	TIME
WARS	NATION	KINGDOM
PRISONS	GOVERNORS	BEFOREHAND
WISDOM	PARENTS	FRIENDS
HATED	A HAIR	HEAD

BEFOREHAND

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

CAPECCHI, from page 12

young men enter seminary (or pursue other paths). They may only use their cellphones on Saturdays – a policy the men have come to appreciate.

“It pushed us to encounter each other, to engage with each other on a much deeper level than we might initially do right away,” said Dominic Wolters, 23, a St. Paul native who participated in the program last year and is now in his first year of theological studies at the seminary. “It was challenging but also deeply enriching.”

Meanwhile, first-year FOCUS missionaries are asked to cool off romantic relationships, making fewer phone calls to a boyfriend or girlfriend and not texting at all. Instead, they're encouraged to write letters in order to communicate “in more intentional ways,” as Shannon Hicks, a formation director, put it.

The policy is designed to give them “a freedom of heart,” Hicks said. “We're asking them to examine whether electronic communication carries with it the meaning their relationship deserves. I have seen it give missionaries the space to take a step back and look at their motivations for romantic relationships.”

Tessa Soukup, a 22-year-old from Duluth, Minnesota, serving at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, struggled with the policy at first, wishing she could connect more readily

with her boyfriend, Jacob.

“Is it hard?” she said. “Yes. But is it worth it? Even more so, yes. It truly is an opportunity to be stretched to learn how to love better, to discover where some of my priorities were not ordered. Now I think of him throughout my week in moments and think of ways I can share that with him when we do have our conversations. I look forward to sharing my week with him in that way, and I've learned to pray for him when I can't have that immediate gratification.”

We can cave to the addiction of scrolling or we can pursue a freedom of heart.

Will it be hard? Yes.

But will it be worth it? Even more so, yes.

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

State Runner-Up Finish Caps Stellar Season for Marian Boys Soccer

BY ERIC PEAT

It was a storybook season that had it all – a slew of close games, a classic battle against rivals, a high-scoring star player, and an improbable postseason run. Even though it lacked the fairy-tale finish, this Marian High School boys soccer season is one that senior forward Jaxson Hundt and his teammates won't soon forget.

"Marian has been really everything to me," said Hundt. "It's really special to see how we all came together and went on this big run to state. It's definitely a dream come true."

That dream culminated with a 2-1 overtime defeat in the IHSAA Class 2A State Championship game against Brebeuf Jesuit at IUPUI's Carroll Stadium on Oct. 29. The fourth-ranked Knights (18-2-2) took a 1-0 lead in the second half on a header by Hundt, only to see Brebeuf (17-4-1) rally for its second straight state championship. Marian's first trip to state since back-to-back titles in 2015 and 2016 was one that not many saw coming – and that includes head coach Ben Householter.

"This season was kind of a surprise," admitted Householter. "We hadn't won a sectional since 2016, when we won state the last time. So these seniors had never won a



Provided by Ben Householter

The Marian boys soccer team poses together after falling 2-1 to Brebeuf Jesuit in the Class 2A State Championship game at IUPUI's Carroll Stadium on Oct. 29.

sectional at all."

That didn't stop the Knights from setting some lofty goals at the beginning of the season: go undefeated in conference play, get past rival Saint Joseph in sectionals, and go on a state run. Despite only returning five starters from the prior year, junior goalkeeper Noah Balyeat said the team believed that something special could be in store.

"Before the season, we knew that we had some good talent on the team," said Balyeat. "I don't know if we

knew that we were state-championship talent, but we knew that we could put together something good."

According to Hundt, this confidence stemmed from the close-knit nature of the team and the trust that the players had built in each other.

"I really thought that our family culture and how we carried ourselves really set the tone for this year," said Hundt. "Every single Friday, we had a 'Get-to-Know-You Friday.' So we all got a partner and shared something fun about ourselves,

just to get to know each other so we can build that family culture."

Fortunately for the Knights, this culture carried over onto the field all season long. Marian's stout defense registered 11 shutouts, while its offense clicked with Hundt at the helm. The four-year starter scored a blistering 29 goals on the year, giving him 67 in his illustrious career with the Knights.

"Jaxson's been our go-to forward all season," said Householter. "Sometimes we had to get on him about being more selfish and wanting to score, because he wants to get his teammates involved and get them set up. He's a tremendous worker, a rare talent that doesn't come around a lot, and a great young man to be around."

In fact, Hundt scored in every one of Marian's postseason games this year, including a 4-3 overtime thriller vs. Saint Joseph in the sectional championship. The Knights then edged Northwood 1-0 and top-ranked West Lafayette 2-1 to capture the program's seventh regional crown. After a 3-2 semi-state win over Canterbury – Marian's fourth straight victory by a single goal – the Knights had piled up a 10-game winning streak. Yet it was still a surreal moment when Balyeat and his teammates stepped onto the field at Carroll Stadium to play for a state championship.

"It was a little hard to believe that we were there," said Balyeat. "It was really cool to walk out of the tunnel at IUPUI, and you just get that elevated look of the field, and it was like, 'This is it. We're really here.'"

Balyeat had his work cut out for him against the third-ranked Braves, but the junior

notched seven saves on the day as Marian and Brebeuf battled through a scoreless first half.

"He had a tremendous game; he's been tremendous for us all year," Householter said of Balyeat. "He was definitely a brick wall back there saving us many times in the season. During the [championship] game, there were definitely some close shots that he took care of. He's really fearless back there for us."

The Knights would finally break through in the 49th minute. Freshman Victor Aguilar put a cross in to Hundt, and the senior scoring machine did the rest.

"I just saw the ball coming and tried to go back past behind the guy, so I headed it in," said Hundt. "I really wanted to put some power on it, but it really came off my head nicely and curled in to the far post."

However, Brebeuf tied the game 12 minutes later, and the teams remained deadlocked at the end of regulation. Despite the Knights' experience in close games and overtimes, they were unable to capitalize on their opportunities in the extra period. Instead, Brebeuf's Mateo Soria scored the game-winning goal in the 86th minute – a shot that not even Balyeat, who only allowed 17 goals the entire season, had a chance at stopping.

Amid the painful sting of defeat, Householter was clear when addressing his team after the game.

"My message to them was I'm just so proud of them," said Householter. "They accomplished all their goals this year, and they worked so hard to get to this point. They went above and beyond what my expectations were this year. Just hold their heads high and be proud of what they've done."

"When you look back at the season, it was truly an amazing season," agreed Balyeat. "There was great effort put in by all the boys. Unfortunately, we lost at state, but it takes a lot to get there, so we're still very proud of the season."

At school Mass on Tuesday following the championship game, Hundt said the Lord brought clarity to what they accomplished together over the past three months.

"We really, as a team at this Mass, reflected on the whole entire year and how well we did," said Hundt. "Looking up to God and thanking Him for everything throughout this journey has really helped us. Faith has brought this group to where it is, and God has really helped us throughout this whole entire journey."

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St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus Euchre Tournament

YODER — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a Euchre Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the School Activity Center. Admission fee of \$10 includes snacks and beverages. For information, contact Tom Wyss at 260-450-9594 or Dave Meyer at 260-450-8143.

Mass of Remembrance: Miscarriage or Stillbirth

FORT WAYNE — A Mass of Remembrance for those who have experienced the death of a baby through miscarriage or stillbirth will be held at Our Lady of Good Hope Church on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Adoration begins at 5:15 p.m. Contact Father Daniel Whelan at 260-485-9615 or frdaniel@olghfw.com for information.

St. John Bosco Craft Bazaar

CHURUBUSCO — St. John Bosco Parish, 216 N. Main St., will host a craft bazaar on Friday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Freshly baked cinnamon rolls and coffee will be offered in the morning. Homemade soup, sandwich, and chips will be served all afternoon. Handmade crafts, baked goods, and hand-rolled noodles will be offered for sale. A gently-used shop will also be available. A raffle with a chance to win one of several prizes will cap off the event.

St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar
AVILLA — St. Mary Parish, 232 N. Main St., will have a Christmas bazaar on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Table rental is \$20. Call Rose for more information at 260-318-2698.

St. Matthew Cathedral Holiday Craft Bazaar

SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew Cathedral School, 1015 E. Dayton St., will host a Holiday Craft Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Multiple creative vendors and direct sales representatives will be on hand and lunch will also be available for purchase. Contact Mary Jordan at 574-360-1896 for information.



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Bryan Robichaud, 72, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Emery Horvath, Jr., 82, Holy Cross

Frank Tirota, 89, Holy Cross

Gerald J Bartkowiak, 93, Holy Family

Ham and Turkey Dinner

NEW HAVEN — The annual Ham and Turkey Dinner returns to the St. Louis Besancon parish hall on Sunday, Nov. 20, with ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberry salad, roll, and

dessert served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drive-thru will run until 2 p.m. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The day will feature a country store, raffles, and silent auction. Contact Michelle Castleman at 260-623-2180 or mmcastleman@aol.com



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From the first Sunday of Advent through Jan. 9, 2023, receive a daily email from the McGrath Institute for Church Life highlighting a Nativity scene from a different part of the world, accompanied by a reflective description and a brief prayer. Join a community of faithful from across the globe and experience the beauty of God's love for you.

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Stories Within Stories by Jim Shore (United States). Image courtesy of The Marian Library (Dayton, Ohio); used with permission.



Young Pilgrims Gather for Mass, Formation

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Prospective World Youth Day pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend convened at Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, on the Feast of All Souls to celebrate Mass, hear from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and grow in formation with each other.

The evening began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades. He began his homily by talking about the upcoming pilgrimage to Portugal.

"We will visit holy sites, like the shrine at Fátima. We go on pilgrimage to be renewed and strengthened in our faith, to pray and draw closer to God. And we will join other young pilgrims from throughout the world. It will be an experience of the universal Church gathered with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and bishops from around the world, the successors of the Apostles, in communion with the Pope, the successor of the Apostle Peter. There will be thousands of priests, religious sisters and brothers, and adult youth leaders and chaperones, all of us together celebrating our unity in Jesus Christ."

He went on to say that pilgrimages "evoke our earthly journey toward heaven."

"That's the great pilgrimage: our journey to the promised land of heaven. We are a pilgrim people. God gives us this time on earth, a time of grace and mercy, on our way to be united with Him and all the saints in heaven."

Bishop Rhoades added that, on the Feast of All Souls, the Church commemorates the faithful departed with particular attention to the souls in purgatory.

"Though their earthly pil-



Photos by Joshua Schipper

After celebrating Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, pilgrims heard tips for preparation from both Bishop Rhoades and John Pratt, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Pratt then divided them into small formation groups in order to grow in community and discuss expectations for the pilgrimage to Portugal.

grimage has ended, they are not yet with God and the saints in heaven. To enter into communion with God in heaven requires perfect integrity, which means absolute purity and no attachment to sin. God, in His love, provides for the purification after death of those whom He has saved who need to have the remnants of sin removed so that they can enter into the glory of heaven."

After Mass, pilgrims gathered for dinner. As they ate, Bishop Rhoades talked to them about his previous World Youth Day experiences, as well as steps that they should take to prepare for their journey to

unite with youth from around the globe.

"I want to highly recommend that you read and meditate on Pope Francis's message for World Youth Day 2023."

The bishop explained that the theme for the upcoming World Youth Day celebration comes from the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary: "Mary Arose and Went with Haste."

"After Mary conceived Jesus, she didn't just stay put in Nazareth. The angel revealed to her that her cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, was pregnant: as you know, pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary set out to this little town near

Jerusalem, Ein Kerem, I think it's like 90 kilometers from Nazareth, so it was quite a journey. She went out in order to help her cousin, Elizabeth, she went with haste. Think of that image: she didn't just receive Jesus for herself, Jesus in her womb, she brought Jesus with her. She carried him to that work of charity for her cousin. This is kind of like what we're called to do: to arise, not to be self-centered, but to go out. She went with haste to visit Elizabeth. She was a missionary disciple."

After this, John Pratt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, continued to

give the pilgrims recommendations on how to prepare for World Youth Day before splitting the youth and young adults into separate formation groups.

"What we hope this will be is a 'preparation of spiritual journey' in which you prepare and come back and reflect on everything that has happened," Pratt said. "For me, in my experience going to World Youth Day, it was the months following the event where I'm just processing all that impacted me on the pilgrimage."

He asked the pilgrims, "Who are you going to keep in mind and prayer during this pilgrimage? What do you hope might change in your life as a result of this journey to Portugal? What is God asking of you?"

World Youth Day is an international celebration of Catholic young people that occurs every few years at the direction of Pope Francis. In a statement, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Episcopal Liaison to World Youth Day, said that the bishop's conference is "overjoyed to now have the dates we can look forward to when millions of people will come together and join the Holy Father for World Youth Day in Lisbon in August of 2023."

"It is providential that the World Youth Day Mass with the Holy Father will take place on the feast of the Transfiguration, Aug. 6, 2023. The experience of Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration was a pivotal moment of transformation for them. We hope that World Youth Day will have a similar impact on young people today, no matter where or how they make this pilgrimage to celebrate this special international festival of faith."