‘Fraternal Dialogue,’ More Prayer Have Place on Bishops’ Assembly Agenda

Baltimore (CNS) — Gathered in Baltimore for their fall general assembly from Nov. 14-17, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) elected new leadership, heard about the crisis in Ukraine, and what migrants face at the U.S. southern border.

They also approved several liturgical items and OK’d the advancement of the sainthood causes of three Catholic women.

The prelates also discussed whether they should update “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” their document on the political responsibility of Catholics, issued every four years for the presidential election.

By an overwhelming majority, the bishops voted to reissue the teaching document without revisions but to add supplemental materials and begin a process of reexamining the teaching document following the 2024 election.

Speaking from the floor, several bishops said it must include what Pope Francis has said on critical issues of the day in his nearly 10 years as the successor to Peter.

But beyond the business agenda the bishops must attend to every year, there was a greater emphasis on prayer throughout their four days together and changes in seating arrangements.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services smiles during a Nov. 15, 2022, news conference after being elected President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the fall general assembly of the bishops in Baltimore.
Elkhart Police Chaplains Provide Vital Ministry

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Few can imagine the horrors that police officers deal with on a daily basis. Most first responders experience tragedy and trauma multiple times on a shift. That was the reality shared by Elkhart Police Department’s Lt. Col. Todd Thayer and Asst. Chief Dan Milanese at a luncheon held on Nov. 15 to bring awareness to the vital service provided by Lead Chaplain Jason Brooks and the chaplain team from the Elkhart Police Department.

Brooks was a youth minister at his church and has worked with the Elkhart Police Department chaplaincy since 2012. In 2020, he became a full-time lead chaplain.

Brooks is cousin to Jennifer Horoky, Director of Religious Education at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart. Horoky joined the effort of the recently formed organization, Friends of Local Police to provide funding for the full-time lead chaplain and the chaplaincy program.

“They are not on the payroll,” Horoky said. “They have to raise their own funds and they volunteer their time as missionaries. Many people don’t realize that or realize what chaplains do.”

At the luncheon held at the Hotel Elkhart, Brooks and the two officers spoke to the approximately 50 people in attendance about the chaplaincy program. Brooks said that aside from himself, the other chaplains are Jim Bontrager, who started the chaplaincy program at the Elkhart Police Department; Marta Cerda; Brad Ulrich; and Jeff Enfield, who was being sworn in that week.

“Your mission is to serve those who serve us,” Brooks said. “Our focus is on the police officers and their families first, and the community second.”

He explained what the chaplains do, including supporting officers during critical incidents; debriefing officers after critical incidents; providing encouragement, especially before major events; conducting weddings, funerals, and vow renewals; visiting hospitals for employees and family members; training officers in stress management ethics; offering prayers at special events; and acting as liaisons to that community.

“What we’re here for is,” Brooks continued, “We don’t shove religion down their throats, don’t tell others what to do with their lives unless requested, and we don’t assume a holier-than-thou attitude.”

He added that everything they do is faith-based, “but we’re entering into their world and we meet them where they’re at. Faith comes up usually after the event.”

He then shared stages of a police officer’s career in terms of attitude and how that changes their world view, causing some to become angry, hardened, and cynical. Brooks shared statistics that show in an average small town, an officer will be involved in 188 critical incidents in his or her career.

“The stuff they do is abnormal and we expect them to act normal,” he said.

The suicide rate is double the deaths of officers killed in the line of duty and 32 percent have relationship issues, according to Brooks.

To help reduce those statistics, the Elkhart Police Department has a psychology resilience plan that is shared with new hires, as well as a spouse academy. Officers are trained for peer support roles and work with retirees, preparing them for a second career. He shared specific critical incidents that he was on hand for saying, “I was able to be there but I don’t recall their chaplain reaching out to him, but three days later, Bontrager stopped in to check on him.”

The time that we have [Brooks] in the building — I can’t put a price on that,” he concluded.

Chris Welch of the Friends of Local Police organization spoke briefly, saying, “We’re all here because of community, and that means being safe.” He asked those present to support the chaplaincy. “They are key contributors, and they’re not paid.”

He explained that Friends of Local Police is a donor-advised fund through the Elkhart County Community Foundation and those who wish to support them can do so through the foundation and choose FOLF’s fund.

Brooks added that prayer support is also greatly needed. “I long for every Elkhart Police Department’s officer to experience God’s very best for their career — if we didn’t have these people, we’d have a lot more dead cops,” Thayer said.

While other departments might have chaplains, Elkhart Police Department has a unique chaplaincy program, and Bontrager goes all over the country sharing it with other departments.

Thayer said, “They’re making a difference in this profession — we have something special in Elkhart.”

In his talk, Milanese spoke from an administrative viewpoint, particularly about continuing to secure resources for the program to grow it and make it better. He has Brooks in the room when they discuss policies.

He also spoke of the uniqueness of Elkhart’s chaplaincy program, which was a factor in his decision to join the force. He was a member of another local department and after being involved in a critical incident, he didn’t recall their chaplain reaching out to him, but three days later, Bontrager stopped in to check on him.

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“Welch concluded, “We have a whole staff of chaplains who don’t get paid — we owe it to them to honor them.”

St. Thomas the Apostle’s Deacon Jimuchs also attended the luncheon and commented afterwards, “This is a great ecumenical effort.”
to promote “fraternal dialogue.” Each day of the meeting ended with vespers, and throughout the plenary, there was also 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration, which was instituted at their 2021 assembly. There were also less formal bishop/media encounters.

“The plenaries are business meetings, but they are not just business meetings,” said James Rogers, the USCCB’s Chief Communications Officer, who told Catholic News Service. “The bishops are recognizable, it’s also about discernment, about group discussion, about listening to one another, and about listening to the Holy Spirit.”

Their first public session took place on the afternoon of Nov. 15 and opened with an address by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, the papal nuncio, followed by Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, the outgoing President of the USCCB. The nuncio told the bishops that “as we live through a time of accelerated change,” spreading the Gospel message is particularly important.

One way to determine if the Church is following its missionary role is to look at how local churches are functioning as evangelizing communities, something he said is especially evident in the current eucharistic revival in the United States.

In his final presidential address, Archbishop Gomez described images of conflict, changes, and challenges he saw during his three-year term.

He spoke of the pandemic, “a long season of unrest in our cities,” a contentious presidential election as well as “deepening divisions,” war in Europe, a political, economic, and cultural election as well as “a season of unrest in our cities.”

He said the past 20 years have been “a poignant remark from Mark Williams, a survivor of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. He told the bishops he was “grateful and encouraged by the work you are doing to rid abuse from our beloved Church.”

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, speaks during a Nov. 15 news conference at a session of the fall general assembly of the bishops in Baltimore. Archbishop Lori was elected the new vice president of the conference during the assembly.

Archbishop Lori succeeds Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron as vice president. The outgoing USCCB officers completed their three-year terms at the conclusion of the assembly, and their successors began their three-year terms.

“The intention to continue the good work that Archbishop Gomez began, I think, by giving us a good example of listening but then of leading. I think I will just try to continue in that same vein,” Archbishop Broglio said. The afternoon public session ended with an acknowledgement of the 20th anniversary of the drafting and passage of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” with prayer and reflection led by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey.

The prelates also heard poignant remarks from Mark Williams, a survivor of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. He told the bishops he was “grateful and encouraged by the work you are doing to rid abuse from our beloved Church.”

“Archbishop Broglio told reporters a few hours after he was elected that he is willing to meet with public officials, including President Joe Biden, should the Dobbs decision overturn Roe v. Wade. Because he was elected USCCB Vice President, Archbishop Lori’s term as Pro-Life Chair ended. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, was elected his successor as chairman on Nov. 16. Among liturgical action items before them, the bishops approved English and Spanish versions of “Lay Ministry to the Sick,” a collection of texts taken from other liturgical books. They also approved new Mass texts for the feasts of Our Lady of Loreto (Dec. 10) and the recently canonized St. Paul VI (May 29). The approved texts now advance to the Vatican’s Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for a “reception” before they can be used in the United States.

The bishops also voted on Nov. 16 for chairman-elect of six standing committees, including Bishop Rhoades for the Committee for Religious Liberty. Each chairman-elect will begin their three-year term as chairman at the end of the 2023 fall general assembly.

Two subsequent votes of Children and Young People, said the past 20 years have been a time of growth, awareness, examination, and conversion as the Church has worked to provide a safe environment and restore justice.

During their public sessions on Nov. 15 and 16, the bishops heard several reports on: — Preparations for next October’s world Synod of Bishops on synodality. — The ongoing war in Ukraine. — The three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which is now under way at the diocesan level and will culminate in the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024. — The pro-life landscape after the Dobbs decision overturned Roe v. Wade. — The pro-life landscape after the Dobbs decision overturned Roe v. Wade. — Because he was elected USCCB Vice President, Archbishop Lori’s term as Pro-Life Chair ended. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, was elected his successor as chairman on Nov. 16. Among liturgical action items before them, the bishops approved English and Spanish versions of “Lay Ministry to the Sick,” a collection of texts taken from other liturgical books. They also approved new Mass texts for the feasts of Our Lady of Loreto (Dec. 10) and the recently canonized St. Paul VI (May 29). The approved texts now advance to the Vatican’s Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for a “reception” before they can be used in the United States.

The bishop also gave their assent in voice votes to the advancement of three sainthood causes. — Mother Margaret Mary Healy Murphy, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, the first order of women religious in the state of Texas. — Maria Louise Evans, a California laywoman who was a wife, a mother, and possible mystic. — North Dakota laywoman Michelle Duppong.

Church officials also announced that the remaining nine candidates. Vice president is elected from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Baltimore was elected USCCB Vice President.

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St. Margaret’s House – A Closeknit Community of Women and Their Children

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“W hat do women do at St. Margaret’s House?” a reporter once asked its founder, Episcopalian Deacon Sarah Tracy.

“It’s not what we do,” Tracy shot back. “It’s who we are together.”

Greeters record the names of every woman who walks through the door, and everyone is valued for her unique gifts and experiences, not categorized in terms of her problems and needs. Guests, staff, and volunteers form a lively community that specializes in supportive hugs. For the 25th anniversary in 2015, several doors were covered with portraits of every guest during that entire time. More recently, Saint Joseph High School Fine Arts Teacher Mary K. Kagel took stunning photos of every willing guest. These have been transferred to fabric, decorated with embroidery, and framed. A staff member remarked, “It’s amazing how transformative it is when you look for the beauty in each woman.”

During a tour of the once-dingy and dilapidated industrial building refurbished to make a cheery, welcoming home space, one could see children playing, a woman sleeping soundly on a couch, a college student organizing donated toiletries, friends sitting at a table catching up with each other, an artist putting the finishing touches on a silk scarf, older ladies preparing to dish up a hot lunch, and a potential volunteer learning about the many ministries of St. Margaret’s House, named for the 11th-century Scottish queen and mother of eight who was a skilled needlewoman with a heart for the poor.

Margaret’s House operates as a day center for women and children in dire poverty.

Deacon Tracy’s vision for St. Margaret’s House came from seeing women hanging around downtown during the day with nowhere to go and nothing to do. She enlisted aid from friends to clean a small area in an unused building and bring sandwiches to hand out at lunchtime. Despite widespread distribution of flyers, it was more than two weeks after opening the doors in June of 1990 before anyone came. But the first woman brave enough to walk in, a single mother who needed to do her laundry, felt so welcome that four days later, she was asking if she could become a regular volunteer.

Open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every weekday, St. Margaret’s House has guest services staff who spend time after lunch with each new woman, learning about her interests and telling her about in-house services, dosses, and gatherings. Some women make 117 N. Lafayette their mailing address. Referrals are made to other agencies that can assist with everything from emergency housing to legal representation.

St. Margaret’s House has long and strong connections with the YWCA of Northern Indiana’s shelter for abused women, the Christ Child Society, Motels4Now, Hope Ministries, and many other agencies.

Although the founders and the empty building belonged to the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James in downtown South Bend, it wasn’t long before local Catholics became involved in the center’s mission. The current Executive Director, Katie Elliot, and several of the 14-member paid staff are Catholic, and parishes including St. Pius X in Granger and South Bend parishes Sacred Heart, St. Jude, St. Augustine, Christ the King, Corpus Christi, and St. Therese Little Flower have long supported the outreach with their prayers, financial gifts, labor, and material goods, as have the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The children of St. Margaret’s House have a brighter Christmas because of several parish Giving Trees.

A young boy receives lunch at St. Margaret’s House.

A digital journey for Advent and Christmas

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.

Visit mcgrath.nd.edu/creche to sign up and get a daily Nativity scene delivered to your inbox.

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Bushey’s will donate $50 to Catholic Charities for an order of five or more windows.
Human Trafficking Lecture Brings Insights on Modern Slavery

BY MICHELLE MCDANIEL

The first question world-renowned human trafficking expert Father Jeff Bayhi is usually asked after he delivers a lecture is, “We don’t have that here, do we?”

The second question is often, “The young people being trafficked — they’re not our children, are they?”

On Nov. 16, Father Bayhi showed an audience of law students at the University of Notre Dame how the atrocities of human trafficking reach even South Bend, Indiana, through a presentation called “Humanity as Commodity: The Modern Form of Slavery.”

Father Bayhi is the founder of Metanoia Manor, a residential facility in Louisiana that provides a place of refuge for young women who have been victims of human trafficking by supporting them with mental, physical, and spiritual health, instruction in academics, life skills, and job training.

There are an estimated 48 million enslaved people worldwide, with an average age of 11-14. While many believe it to be an issue primarily over seas, hundreds of thousands are enslaved in the United States, with 42 percent of these American human trafficking victims trafficked by their own parents.

Often, parental trafficking involves children solicited for sexual favors by family, family friends, and other acquaintances.

In child trafficking worldwide, the victims’ legal documents and identification are usually taken. Many of these victims are then taken away to different countries, far from their families and communities. They must repay their trafficker for their own transportation expenses in exchange for freedom.

According to Father Bayhi, the average amount of sexual favors required for a young Nigerian woman is 5,000. For Afghansians, Bulgarians, and Romanians, it’s about 3,000.

“But you never finish paying. When they do let you sleep, they charge you every night for where you sleep,” he said. “And when they do give you something to eat, they charge you for every meal you eat. You never really do get caught up. If you do escape, your family will be killed. And they do kill the families.”

Other threats of violence keep millions in forced slavery across the world. In some places, a refusal to perform could lead to the amputation of the victim’s hands and feet.

A common thread within human trafficking worldwide, including in the United States, is the psychological and often physical manipulation that makes escape nearly impossible for victims. Only an estimated 04 – 2 percent of victims successfully escape.

Even after they can escape or are rescued, the psychological distress and trauma form a...
Defend the Country, Defend Your Hearts, Cardinal Says at Mass for Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican is willing to do whatever it takes to broker a cease-fire and bring an end to the war on Ukraine, Pope Francis said. “We are continually watching as the situation evolves” concerning ways the Vatican’s diplomatic efforts could help, he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper La Stampa. Vatican News published the interview on Nov. 18. The Vatican Secretariat of State is working diligently every day, looking at every possibility, and “giving weight to every opening that could lead to a real cease-fire and real negotiations,” he said. The Holy See is willing to do everything possible to mediate and end the conflict in Ukraine. We are trying to develop a network of relationships that will foster a rapprochement between the parties, to find solutions. Also, the Holy See does what it must to help the prisoners,” he said, as well as provide humanitarian support “for the people of torn- mented Ukraine, whom I carry in my heart along with their suffer- ing.” Asked about the prospects for reconciliation between Russia and Ukraine, the pope said, “I have hope. Let’s not resign ourselves, peace is possible. But we must all strive to demilitarize hearts, starting with our own, and then defuse, disarm violence. We must all be pacifists,” he said.

Cardinal Dolan Says Senate’s Marriage Bill Threatens Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) – A bill on same-sex marriage advancing in the Senate is a “bad deal for the many courageous Americans of faith and no faith who continue to believe and uphold the truth about marriage in the public square today,” said New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan. “It is deeply concerning that the U.S. Senate has voted to proceed toward potential passage of the Respect for Marriage Act, which would essentially codify the Supreme Court’s ruling in Obergefell (in 2015) that found a constitutional right to same-sex civil marriage,” the cardinal said on Nov. 17. The Respect for Marriage Act “does not strike a balance that appropriately respects our nation’s commitment to the fundamental right of religious liberty,” said the cardinal, who is Chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty. “The cardinal advanced the measure with a 62-37 vote on Nov. 16. A final vote will take place after the Thanksgiving holiday. Every Democrat supported it, and they were joined by 12 Republicans after they worked out an amend- ment they said would protect religious freedom. These sena- tors “have claimed that their amended bill ‘respects and pro- tects American’s religious liber- ties,’ but the provisions of the act that relate to religious liberty are insufficient,” Cardinal Dolan said. Obergefell “created count- less religious liberty conflicts, but the act offers only limited protections,” he said.

West Must Act to Stop Terrorism, Nigerian Bishop Says at Launch of Report

LONDON (CNS) – Nigeria is at risk of following the fate of Afghanistan and being over- run by Islamist insurgents unless the West acts firmly to prevent terrorist violence there, an African bishop and British politicians. Bishop Jude Arogundade of Ondo, Nigeria, said the Christians of his coun- try are suffering persecution so intense that it bordered on genocide. “The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Nigeria has spoken against the unpreced- ented insecurity situation in Nigeria repeatedly but to no avail,” he said in a Nov. 16 speech in a committee room of the Houses of Parliament. “We have walked for life, protested, and even called the President (Muhammadu Buhari) to resign if he is incapable of fulfilling the basic purpose of govern- ment – the security of lives and properties of citizens. Even at that, nothing has changed,” he said. “With 3,478 people killed as of June this year and the increased cases of terror thereafter,” he said he strongly wished to appeal to the U.K. government and “all people of goodwill to compel the Nigerian government to stop the geno- cide. Or, in the least, ask for help from other countries before Nigeria is overrun, as is the case of Afghanistan.”

Nigerian Catholic Community Helps Victims of Floods

Residents wade through floodwaters in Obagi, Nigeria, Oct. 21, 2022. Nigeria is currently experiencing severe flooding that has destroyed homes and farmlands, especially in communities along the floodplains of the two major rivers – the Niger and the Benue. More than half of the 36 states of the country are affected by flooding. So far, more than 600 people have died, with more than 1.4 million people displaced.

Migrants from Middle East Fear Tightening of Restrictions in Sweden

MALMÖ, Sweden (CNS) – A visitor coming from the Middle East to Malmö could feel quite at home with great falafel lovel- ingly made by proud Palestinian owners of Falafel No. 1, reput- edly the best offered in Sweden. Or a visitor could buy Arabic, Turkish, Indian, and other for- eign foodstuffs from a mall in Rosengard, a district drawing a vast array of ethnicities and migrant communities. Home to more than 170 nationalities among its 350,000 inhabit- ants, this multicultural city on the southeast coast has drawn refugees fleeing conflict and religious persecution at home. But now Sweden’s newly elected government is propos- ing to tighten restrictions on immigration, threatening asylum-seekers’ hopes of a safe haven. In the past, Sweden has been viewed as Europe’s most welcoming country for refugees. Afghans here who have firmly established Christian convictions and professions of faith attested to by their churches told Catholic News Service they feel particularly vulnerable as they struggle to be granted asy- lurn in Sweden. Rights activ- ists familiar with the challenges Afghans face with migration in Sweden said out the door. Yet 4-5 times greater risk of rejection for Afghan adults, even young adults, compared to those who are still younger than 18. The change in migration policy due to the election comes as Open Doors, a leading persecution research watchdog, warned that Afghanistan is now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. This follows the militant Taliban takeover of the country in August 2021 in the wake of the abrupt U.S. military withdrawal. So, any return there would likely mean certain death, as would a return to neighboring Iran. “We have already noticed that most political parties have changed their attitude toward immigration,” Swedish Cardinal Anders Arborelius told CNS.

U.S. Ukrainian Catholic Prelate Says Russian War Against Nation is Genocide

Baltimore (CNS) – A Ukrainian Catholic archbishop asked his fellow U.S. bish- ops on Nov. 16 to pray for Ukraine, and, if possible, to go to Ukraine and pray there for its people, inviting them on a trip he is embarking on in February. What Ukrainians are facing amounts to genocide, he said. “If tomorrow, on the sec- ond and last public day of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia thanked the bishops and their leadership for spearhead- ing U.S. Catholic support for a nation under attack by Russia since February. He spoke of the hospital, schools, cities, and lives snuffed out or destroyed in Ukraine since Russia began attacking it. “Ukraine was like a lamb,” he said, having reduced its army because it was not interested in fighting with any- one. “It was not interested in aggression. It wants nothing from anyone.” But under attack, it has come to embody the best of Catholic social doctrine, he said, organizing mobilizing, and being part of a worldwide movement of solidarity that seeks to help David triumph over Goliath. “Russia is the last of the great empires, and scandalously it is the last to use the Gospel, the Church, to jus- tify colonialism,” he said.

News Briefs
TINA BAILEY

Tina Bailey of Fort Wayne Elected to Serve on National Board of the Christ Child Society

ROCKVILLE, MD – The National Christ Child Society (NCCS), one of the nation’s oldest organizations dedicated to serving the needs of underserved children, has announced the appointment of Tina Bailey of Fort Wayne as a Director at Large of its National Board of Directors. The new slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term was made official at the NCCS National Convention in Tucson on Sep. 17.

“We are thrilled to have Tina Bailey on our Board leadership team. As an active member, Tina has had so much to share, both personally and professionally. We are fortunate to have her positive energy, expertise, and experience to help guide our organization,” said Molly Fanning, immediate past president of the Society. “Her contributions will help us provide resources to aid children and families in 45 unique communities across the U.S. and help us to grow and thrive as a 135-year-old organization.

Tina Bailey has worked as a licensed cosmetologist for many years, integrating her work and home life along with volunteering in many different capacities. Tina married her husband, Steve, in 1991. As their family grew, she spent more time as a stay-at-home mom to her three sons and became an avid volunteer.

At her parish, Most Precious Blood in Fort Wayne, Tina designed and ran a SCRIP program to benefit the parish school and the families. She also designed and published the parish newsletter for many years and decorated the church for all seasons. In 2008, Tina joined the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne. She became the Communications Liaison with the Board of Directors and began publishing the quarterly member newsletters. In 2016, Tina was asked to help with the redesign of the Chapter’s website and the rebranding of the Fort Wayne Chapter. She says she enthusiastically tackled this task and vowed to improve the Christ Child Society’s impact in Fort Wayne. No more would the Christ Child Society be Fort Wayne’s “best kept secret.”

In addition to Tina’s passion for getting the word out, she has served her local chapter as Spiritual Co-Chairman, Recording Secretary, Vice President, and President. Tina is also the recipient of the Fort Wayne Chapter’s honored “Red Wagon Award” for outstanding service.

In her free time, Tina enjoys hearing her now-grown sons laugh while telling their stories; traveling to microbreweries with her husband; creating beautiful photography and publications; and spreading the word about the Christ Child Society.

Giving Tuesday

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana is once again proud to present #GIVECATHOLIC National Day of Giving for the Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Nov. 29, with advanced giving beginning on Nov. 15. This year there are approximately 23 participating parishes, schools, and Catholic ministries. To find a complete list of participants and to donate, please visit fwcbgivecatholic.org. The Catholic Community Foundation provided this user-friendly platform to be able to donate to your personal favorite Catholic cause on this National Day of Giving.

St. Joseph Missions Names New Executive Director

FORT WAYNE – St. Joseph Missions, Allen County’s first emergency shelter exclusively for single women who are experiencing homelessness, located at 3505 Lake Ave., has named Erin Ness, MSW, the new Executive Director following a brief inter-
St. Monica’s Prayer Group Prays for Fallen-Away Catholics to Return to the Church

BY ANDREW JACOBS

Tradition holds that without the prayers of a loving, patient mother, the Church would be without one of its greatest saints. St. Monica’s oldest son fell prey to the false teachings of heresy while living an immoral life. Years of prayers and fasting led to her son’s conversion, and he became St. Augustine of Hippo, one of the greatest minds in the history of the Church. Her prayers were also instrumental in the conversion of her husband, a lifelong pagan who was baptized just before his death.

The St. Monica’s Prayer Group at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne is following the faithful saint’s example. The group gathers weekly to pray for the special intention of Catholics who have fallen away from their faith to return to full communion in the Church.

The group was founded in 2010 at Our Lady of Good Hope by John Paul Jones, whose widow, Linda (back center) carries on with the help of Karen Trahin, (front center), meeting every Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the parish library.

The group, founded in 2010 at Our Lady of Good Hope by John Paul Jones, who passed into eternal life in December of 2019. “He wanted to create a group to pray for people who have fallen away,” said Linda Jones, John Paul’s widow. “He did a lot of work to get all the prayers together. Then he put a simple announcement in the parish bulletin and people started coming, and we’ve kept it up every Friday since then.”

“For many years, we consistently had five or six people attending regularly,” said Karen Trahin, another member of the group. “We typically have a small core group who attends every week, with a few others attending when they can. But lately, we’ve had weeks with 10 to 20 people, so the group is growing. There’s more awareness of the group and the need for this special prayer intention, and more people are coming because they realize that prayer works.”

“We’re praying that fallen-away Catholics will at least give a thought to coming back. God can work with any little bit of hope,” said Linda. “We’re praying for everyone in the parish who knows someone who has fallen away and hopes to see them come home.”

“In our meetings, we sometimes ask the group if anyone has good news to share, and members share as much or as little as they feel comfortable sharing. But the main focus of our meetings is on prayer.”

At each gathering, the group prays a Novena to St. Monica, the Returning Catholics Prayer, and the Prayer for Conversion of Sinners, along with the prayers of the rosary. The four mysteries are rotated each week and members are encouraged to participate by leading the group in a decade of the rosary.

“We are hopefully working towards getting souls back into the Church,” said Trahin.

“And we are hoping this will bear fruit, but it is all in God’s time. St. Monica prayed for many years before St. Augustine came to the Church,” added Linda.

While not everyone is likely to become a Doctor of the Church like St. Augustine, Jesus assures the faithful that, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.” – Luke 15:7

The St. Monica’s Prayer Group at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne meets in the parish library from 9:30-10:15 a.m. every Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass. The meetings are informal and there is no commitment, and new members are welcome to attend as their schedules allow.
Fond Memories Still Linger 50 Years After Closing of Fort Wayne’s Central Catholic High School

BY KEVIN KILBANE

When people speak fondly about the former Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, they often talk about the camaraderie.

Catholic teens from around the city and outlying area came together in one place to grow in faith and life, and to cheer on their Fighting Irish athletic teams. Many students followed parents, grandparents, and other relatives to the school, creating a strong sense of community, said Kathryn Imler, a 1968 Central Catholic (CC) graduate who now preserves and shares some of the school’s history as Director of the Diocese of Fort Wayne’s South Bend Diocesan Museum in Fort Wayne.

“The pride and sense of loyalty was ingrained all the way up,” Imler said of the strong family connections. Her father attended CC, and four of her six siblings also either graduated from CC or attended there before it closed.

The diocese and Central Catholic High School Alumni Association keep the school’s rich history alive through collections at the Diocesan Museum, diocesan archives, and alumni association, as well as through alumni association events. The diocese and alumni group are also open to adding to their collections of CC memorabilia if people have items they want to donate.

When Central Catholic opened in 1938, it became the city’s first co-educational Catholic high school. Previously, boys had gone to an all-boys school called Central Catholic that was located in the southwest corner of Cathedral Square on land now occupied by St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel. Girls attended St. Augustine Academy, which was located on the northwest corner of Cathedral Square on land now containing the Diocesan Museum.

Archbishop John F. Noll saw the need for a Catholic high school serving both young men and women, said Leanne (Oddou) Mensing, who attended CC from 1952 to 1956 and is a grand-niece of Bishop Noll. “It was a place you wanted to go to,” she said.

The CC building also had a sense of community, said Huntington, a 1968 CC graduate. “When I came back here, it was a good feeling to see kids I went to grade school with,” said Mark Linker of Fort Wayne, who attended CC, graduating in 1959. “I think the high level of education expected of us was good for everyone,” she said. “They also had a lot of good times, she added.

Sports also were unified by their shared faith and ideology,” Imler said. Many students — especially boys — also had the common experience of playing Catholic Youth Organization sports in elementary school, she said. CC offered only gym and intramural basketball for young women.

Now the current President of the CC Alumni Association, he has fond memories of the camaraderie inspired by the school’s athletic teams. He also enjoyed his teachers and the students’ many attempts — usually unsuccessful — to play tricks on them.

His wife, Vickey, also attended CC, graduating in 1959. “It was a very positive place,” Mensing recalled.

Diocesan priests served on the school faculty along with women religious from the Sisters of Providence, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ orders, she said. Teachers were always willing to help students. “I think the diocese could have done it better,” Linker added.

Nearly 400 CC graduates belong to the Alumni Association as either lifetime or annual members, Mark Linker said. People who graduated in the 1940s and 1950s make up the largest group, he added. “It was a very positive place,” Mensing recalled.

Diocesan priests served on the school faculty along with women religious from the Sisters of Providence, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ orders, she said. Teachers were always willing to help students. “I think the high level of education expected of us was good for everyone,” she said. “They also had a lot of good times, she added.

Some of her favorite memories include football games, dances after football games, play performances, and watching boys dash out at lunchtime to avoid parking tickets by moving their cars, which were parked in metered parking spots on streets around the school. During study hall in the library, she remembers boys trying to flip pennies into the chandeliers. CC’s first-floor windows also let students slip out to sneak over to public school Central High School across Clinton Street, or were used by Central students to sneak into CC.

“It was a place you wanted to go every day,” Mensing said. “It was fun!”

Back then, a lot of students didn’t have jobs after school and very few had cars, so they didn’t have things that pulled them away from school after class, Imler said. Most extracurricular activities took place at CC, which added to the sense of community. “It’s a good feeling to feel a part of something,” she noted.

Central Catholic sports teams also had success. The 1950 football team was one of several all-boys teams named state champion that year by various sources. At the time, the state didn’t have a football tournament to crown a true champion. The boys team also won the state championship during the 1958-1959 school year.

The 1939 and 1940 boys basketball teams also won state and national Catholic schools championships, Allen County Historian Tom Castaldi wrote in a 2015 article in Fort Wayne magazine. At the time, opposition from the Ku Klux Klan prevented Catholic schools and some other schools from participating in Indiana state high school tournaments.

Ironically, CC’s growth eventually may have contributed to its decline. The school was landlocked, so it couldn’t expand. The diocese added a fourth floor in the 1950s, but eventually decided to build additional Catholic high schools.

CC enrollment had grown to more than 1,400 students in 1956, when Bishop Leo A. Pusley launched a fundraising effort to build two new Catholic high schools in Fort Wayne: Bishop Luers High School on the south side and Bishop Dwenger on the north side, according to the Bishop Luers website.

Bishop Luers opened in 1958, and Bishop Dwenger welcomed its first students in 1963.

The two schools’ locations put them closer to where people lived and slowly eroded enrollment at CC, Mensing said.

The CC building also had to begin to show its age, Linker said. “There wasn’t anything I think the diocese could have done to change it,” he said.

CC closed in spring of 1972. “It was sad, very sad,” Linker said. “It was sad, very sad, but time marches on,” Mensing said.

After CC closed, the diocese used the building for a limited time as a temporary location for refugees and resettled here, Mensing said. The school was demolished in 1984, and the site became a parking lot.

Alumni marked the 50th anniversary of the closing with a jubilee event this summer. The memory of Central Catholic lives on, however, in former students’ memories and through alumni association events. Alumni also planned and funded a memorial plaza on the southwest corner of the school.
Preparing Students for a More Positive Tomorrow

By Erika Barron

Discipline is never a fun task in school administration for the teachers, or the children. But what if there was a way to change that? What if there was a way to reinforce positive behavior, even while correcting the misbehaviors?

At St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne, teaching children to be good citizens through the program Positive Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is part of the daily routine. Born out of the public school system, PBIS is a method that some Catholic schools are now choosing to handle discipline. The program is about focusing more on what the child is doing right, finding ways to praise the children for making good choices, helping them take ownership of their good behavior, and redirecting less-than-positive behaviors in a healthy and positive way. The system is based on a tiered approach, along with the motto, “Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible.”

The first tier in the system teaches expectations to the children. When a staff member at St. Vincent de Paul sees a student being safe, respectful, or responsible, they may choose to award the student with what they call a “Panther Buck.” These are little colorful sheets of paper that the student then writes his or her name on, along with whether they were acknowledged for being safe, respectful, or responsible. This step allows the student to take full ownership of their job well done.

“It is very common language. We use behavior-specific praise with the kids. We use their name, the behavior, and tie it back to how we are impressed by them,” said Paula Murphy, the PBIS councilor at St. Vincent de Paul. Students may then use the Panther Bucks on a tangible item, whether it be cookies for the class or a toy. “The sticky frog is the most requested toy,” Murphy said with a smile.

Fifth-grade teacher Ashley Wilson spoke about how the Panther Bucks have become a way for students to learn by example at St. Vincent de Paul. When the children are younger, she said, they tend to do the right thing because they want to gain the Panther Bucks they see their friends gathering. When the children are older, they are doing the good deed not because they gain a reward, but because they have learned that it is the right thing to do.

Often, older students at St. Vincent de Paul will spend their rewards on a treat for their class or perhaps a toy for a younger sibling. “This creates wonderful acts of charity,” said Zac Coyle, Principal of St. Vincent de Paul School.

Still, some children may have a harder time following these rules, and this is when tier two is implemented. This may include a parent-teacher conference or a small group session with other students. Here the “Panther Praise” system is implemented, including daily check-ins with Murphy. This helps the students to focus on what they did right during the day and what they can improve on. When the student graduates “Panther Praise,” they have a full graduation ceremony with friends and games. “We have about 10 graduations from the program a year,” said Coyle, “This is not about punishment, it’s about resolution.”

The third tier for children still struggling with difficult behaviors would then be a plan specifically tailored to that child for behavioral correction. While not used much, the school still uses tactics such as detention, but with a more positive spin, reminding the students that they are not “bad” kids, and hopefully the next time they will make a better choice. The program is so successful at St. Vincent de Paul that many parents have implemented it at home. The undercurrent through the entire system is positivity. “Even a negative deed can be worked into a positive,” Murphy reflected.

Many wonderful young children of Christ today who grow up to live this same way is so important to St. Vincent de Paul School that they are hoping to train other Catholic schools within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the PBIS System. If interested in learning more about PBIS, please contact Zac Coyle at schooladministration@saintv.org.

Save the Date

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Alumni from Central Catholic Share a Few of Their Treasured Memories with Today’s Catholic:

I invited Julio Garcia for Christmas dinner in 1966. We married in 1970 and have eight children and twenty grandchildren.
– Mary (Richardson) Garcia

Running track with Coach Delaney. After it, we would go get Blue Moon root beers on Clinton Street. Larry was center for the football team all four years in high school.
– Brothers Joe ('67) and Larry “Jake” ('65) Sablic

CCHS is where I met my best friends and had so much fun.
– Sally (Halter) Strack ’71

In 1962, the influx of the “Peter Pan Boys” from Cuba caused a lot of excitement among the girls. They were fun, cute, and always looked for ways around the rules, much to the consternation of our straight-laced nuns!
– Laura (Federspiel) Bracho

Stage crew instead of sitting in the bleachers.
– Thomas L. Kelleher, ‘58

A Catholic education has had a long impact in my life. I actually taught in the Catholic school system for more than 30 years.
– Mary Mangona Stark

My memories of Central Catholic High School are wonderful. I didn’t attend CCHS, but my brother did. We went to many CC band and orchestra concerts. Joe Woods was a great music director.
– Caroline (Freiburger) Dewey

This photo from the Diocesan Museum’s exhibit on Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne shows St. Augustine Academy, which taught young women until Central Catholic opened in 1938 as the city’s first co-educational Catholic high school. St. Augustine Academy stood on the northwest corner of Cathedral Square on land now occupied by the Diocesan Museum.

Central Catholic, from page 9
Lewis and Clinton streets to commemorate where CC once stood.

In addition, people can view CC memorabilia at the Diocesan Museum, diocesan archives, Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools, and at the CC Alumni Association office in the Redeemer Radio building on State Boulevard in Fort Wayne.

To donate CC memorabilia, contact Diocesan Archivist Janice Cantrell at 422-4611, Ext. 3386, or by email at jcantrell@diocesefwsb.org. You also can email the alumni association’s Leanne Mensing at lmensing1@frontier.com.
We Prepare for the Second Coming

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Advent
Matthew 24:37-44

T

his week, that of the First Sunday of Advent, begins the new Church liturgical year. Therefore, the readings for this weekend and until Advent 2023 will be in Cycle A.

Most Gospel readings this year will come from the Gospel of Matthew. Because of this emphasis, the forthcoming biblical readings will allow us to learn about and reflect upon Matthew’s Gospel, its themes, and particular perspectives.

This weekend’s first reading is from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. All of Isaiah is eloquent and profound, blunt and frank. Isaiah often warned the people that if they did not return to religious fidelity, doom awaited them. This is a theme of the first section.

While somber, the reading is not hopeless. Isaiah reassured the people that if they reformed, God would protect them, so they should never despair.

After all, such was the ancient covenant. God promised to protect and safeguard the people, although the people themselves could, at least on occasion, bring catastrophe upon God by violating their covenants. Almighty God will judge the good and the bad. Such is the divine right. It also is pure and simple logic. All behavior must be balanced against the justice and perfection that are in God. All people must conform to God and know that God is just.

Almighty God will judge the good and the bad. Such is the divine right. It also is pure and simple logic. All behavior must be balanced against the justice and perfection that are in God. All people must conform to God and know that God is just.

And of course, with God’s help, the people could keep their faith.

Reflection

Advent, begun in this weekend’s liturgy, calls us to prepare for Christmas. It is a time of much, much more than wrapping Christmas gifts and decorating Christmas trees. It means making the coming of Jesus into earthly life a present reality, echoing the joy of the first Christmas, while realizing that ultimate joy will come when the Church and its followers are called to account, demand a place for themselves, and be prepared to meet the Lord, refining our priorities. We will meet the Lord, so we must prepare to meet the Lord, revising ourselves as honest disciples of the King born in Bethlehem. We must follow the Lord here and now.

Advent is the time to perfect this task.

READINGS

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24
Friday: Is 12:1-6 Ps 27:1, 4-13 Mt 9:32-39
Saturday: Is 12:1-6 Ps 27:1, 4-13 Mt 9:32-39

The Not-So-Nice Origins of ‘Nice’

Words can change meaning over time—sometimes dramatically. For example, “manufactured” originally meant “handmade” ( mano [hand] + facere [make]). The word “decimate” used to mean “to reduce by a tenth” (decem = ten); now people usually use it to mean “to wipe out completely.” The list of examples could go on and on. Yes, words do change meaning over time.

One word that has changed meaning dramatically over time is “nice.” Today it is an overused word that usually means pleasant, kind, or agreeable. In our culture, there is often a standing admonition that we should be nice, as in “Stop fighting and be nice now!” But the adjective “nice” once meant anything but nice in the modern sense. Rather, it was a derogatory term used to describe a person as something of a fool.

The word “nice” comes from the Latin noster, meaning “ignorant, unaware” (pe (not) + scire (know)). The Old French word “nice” (12th century) also came from this Latin root and meant “careless, clumsy, weak, simple, foolish, or stupid.”

In the 13th century, “nice” meant “foolish, stupid, or senseless.” In the 1500s it was used to mean “precise, careful.” By the 18th century it shifted to meaning “agreeable, delightful.” And by the 19th century it had acquired its current connotation of “kind and thoughtful.”

The word “nice” has certain meanings: dainty, agreeable, weak, simple, and pressured into tacit approval. By the 18th century it meant “careless, clumsy, weak, stupid, or foolish,” it came from this Latin root and word “nice” (12th century) also meant “careless, clumsy, weak, simple, foolish, or stupid.”

Today the word can have a meaning of being insistent, was a sign of contradiction, and was used by many because he didn’t always say and do pleasant things. Nothing other than what he did was “nice.” He often used strong words: hypocrites, brood of vipers, whitewashed tombs, murderers of the prophets, and evildoers. He warned of judgment and hell. He spoke in parables about burning cities, doom, destruction, wailing and grinding of teeth, and of seeing enemies slain. These are not kind words, but they are loving words, because they seek to shock us into conversion. They speak to us of our true state in a present and future. Jesus certainly didn’t end up nailed to cross by being nice in any sense of the word.

In the modern sense, “nice” is a weird word. Its meaning has shifted so many times as to be practically without a stable meaning. Today it has been further degraded and increasingly returned to its original meaning. Those who insist on the importance of being “nice” usually mean it for you, but not for themselves. They want you to have your walk around with a silly grin on your face, being foolishly pleasant, while they laugh behind your back.

To be sure, being “nice” in its best modern sense has its place. We surely should not go to extremes. This takes us back to the meaning of “nice”:

We follow a Lord who is anything but a harmless hippie-kicking sheep. He introduced tension, was a man who introduces death, judgment, and hell. The point of being nice is not so far away from being a pushover, one who is unaware, and ignorant.

To hope for the Last Day to come — is a figure who challenges us to prepare, and now and insist that they come — is a figure who inspires, above all, hope.

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Father Patrick Briscoe, Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden, and York Young.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish seeks a Full-Time Facilities Manager
(Beginning in May of 2023)

The Facilities Manager at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish/school in Fort Wayne is responsible for maintaining the parish/school and school buildings and grounds. The Facilities Manager performs and supervises tasks related to HVAC, electrical, plumbing, security, environmental, safety, custodial, and event coordination. This position requires a team player attitude, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, attention to details, and project coordination.

The candidate:
Must have good interpersonal skills and familiarity with the Church as an organization.
Must have knowledge of the Catholic Faith and be a participating Catholic in good standing with the Church.
Must have a GED or High School Diploma and a minimum 3-5 years of experience working in the facilities management field and supervising others.

For more information and to apply, visit: https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=D1280

Fast Facts on Human Trafficking from Father Jeff Bayhi

- According to WHO, there are more than 48 million slaves worldwide.
- More than 80 percent are sold into the sex trade, while the others are forced into labor and organ procurement.
- The average age of entry for sexual slavery is 11 to 14.
- Interpol interrupted one of the nine known international child porn sites. They had almost 500,000 registered members worldwide.
- In the U.S., 42 percent of all juvenile victims are trafficked by their primary caregiver.
- The National Foster Youth Institute estimated that 60 percent of child sex trafficking victims have been within foster care (or another part of the larger child welfare system).
- Victims are expected to perform favors 7-20 times daily.
- 56 percent of all trafficked victims are forced into abortions annually.
- The market for young males is increasing and is nearly 20 percent of all victims.

Ecce Young Adult Choir Lessons and Carols
A Concert of Sacred Music in Church

Sunday Dec. 4, 3 p.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption
447 Madison St.
Decatur, Indiana

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Creches at the University of Saint Francis
FORT WAYNE — There will be docent-led tours of decorated areas of Brookside Mansion at the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., featuring creches for Christmas beginning on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 6 p.m. Reservations are required at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45ad2dabf6c25-brookside. A freewill offering will be requested. Contact Kathy Calvin at 260-399-8033.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christmas Craft Fair
FORT WAYNE — The sixth-annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Only handmade items by fellow parishioners and the Fort Wayne community at large will be offered. Proceeds benefit the MOMs group of the parish. Contact Sarah Bishop at 260-450-6987 or sarahrosebishop@gmail.com for information.

Saint Nick Six Road Race
SOUTH BEND — Registration is open for the Saint Nick Six road race on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. Reservations are required at www.runaspire.com/saintnicksix. Contact Chris Martin at 574-234-3134 or ndstretch@gmail.com for information.

Polish Dinner
SOUTH BEND — A drive-thru Polish dinner will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 6 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 331 S. Scott St. Meal includes 1/2 a chicken, sausage, green beans, mashed potatoes, cabbage, and noodles.Tickets can be purchased for $18 at the parish office or after the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass at St. Hedwig. Deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, Nov. 28. Contact Bob Ullery at 574-298-8120 or robertoullery@yahoo.com for information.

Elkhart County Churches Present Advent Lessons and Carols
ELKHART — Gather Monday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1108 S Main St., for seasonal music presented collaboratively by the music ministries of St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol, and St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. Contact Brad Todorovich at music@sveckhart.org for information. Admission is free!

Join the 6K run, 3K run/walk, or the “Run, Run Rudolph” for the youngest kids. Details and signups are at www.stjoeparish.com/saintnicksix. Contact Chris Martin at 574-234-3134 or ndstretch@gmail.com for information.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas
FORT WAYNE — Bring family and friends for Breakfast with St. Nicholas while learning about his origins. This annual event, which features a buffet breakfast, storytime, crafts, and games will be held at the USF Performing Arts Center Ballroom, 451 W. Berry St., on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. Tickets are available at usf-nicholas2022.eventbrite.com. Contact Tony Didier at 260-399-8034 or alumni@sf.edu for information.

Polish Dinner
SOUTH BEND — A drive-thru Polish dinner will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St. Meal includes 1/2 a chicken, sausage, green beans, mashed potatoes, cabbage, and noodles. Tickets can be purchased for $18 at the parish office or after the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass at St. Hedwig. Deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, Nov. 28. Contact Bob Ullery at 574-298-8120 or robertoullery@yahoo.com for information.

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St. Michael’s Altar Rosary Cookie Walk
PLYMOUTH — An assortment of homemade cookies will be for sale for $4 per pound on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Michael’s School Cafeteria, 612 N Center St. All proceeds support St. Michael’s Altar Rosary Society. Contact Chris Morrow at 574-540-9686 or chris@morrowinsuranceagency.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

- JUNE
- JULY
- AUGUST
- SEPTEMBER
- OCTOBER
- NOVEMBER
- DECEMBER

HOLY HOUR
Fr. Michael Ammer

November 2, 2021

AS WE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS
Fr. Patrick Hake

October 5, 2021

Fr. Jay Horning

The December 6 Holy Hour will be led by Fr. Michael Ammer. Join us monthly at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, 1139 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne.

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What's happening?

December 6 Holy Hour will be led by Father Michael Ammer.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel
1139 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne

The December 6 Holy Hour will be led by Father Michael Ammer.

7 p.m. | First Tuesday of the Month
St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel
1139 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne

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Make a legacy gift to the Saint Mother Theodore Guérin FOUNDATION

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

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

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

To request a free proposal, contact Connie Gualano, manager of planned giving, at 812-535-2811 PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org
As Today’s Catholic received an overwhelming response to our questions in last week’s issue, here are additional replies to the two questions listed below.

What are you thankful for this year?

With Christmas around the corner, what spiritual gift can you give someone, or have you received in the past, that costs nothing more than your time?

That my dad, Mark Weber, is still around and making SNOWDRIFT! Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance, patience, empathy, and understanding.

Elizabeth Osborne

I am thankful for another good job in March after my company closed its doors on Feb. 28. The spiritual gift I like to give is my faith at a very secular place of work. My most grateful gift I received is the solid Catholic upbringing I have. My wife and I passed it on to our children and now our grandson.

William Monhaut

I’m 91 years old and still in fairly good health and have live wonderful children. Since I was born, I’ve been Catholic and hope to be with God and the Blessed Mother, also my wonderful husband and family who left before me.

Patricia Kohaut

Thankful to get to go to church to serve God. Let others know you are praying for them.

Anonymous

Every time I enter the peaceful, prayerful, and beautifully calming surroundings of the St. Vincent’s Adoration chapel, I am thankful to have my hourly commitment there. I always feel an enlightenment during my hour that I am there. Perhaps, being with the Eucharist, which translates from the Greek word for “Thanksgiving,” it’s just natural to feel thankful there – despite the craziness in the world.

Volunteering in a way which benefits others is a wonderful gift for the recipients as well as for the giver. It’s a win-win situation.

Mary Nixon

The health of our family.

Connie Konz

My husband’s cancer going into remission. All the prayers for my husband’s return to good health and support.

Deborah Garlin

Not only this year, but every year my husband and I are thankful to have the Holy Cross priests serving our parish (St. Adalbert/St. Casimir).

Bonnie Tafelski

I am thankful for my life that Jesus has allowed me to still have. I give my time in prayer, morning, noon, and night, for any soul in need, living or deceased.

Everyone needs extra prayers prayed for them; that’s most important.

Daniel Kloss

I have a beautiful, loving family and have been blessed with my 17th great-grandchild. Last Christmas Day, I came down with COVID and our Lord spared my life! Praise God!

Marie Slaga

I am thankful for all the wonderful people I have met this year who have inspired me to be all that He intended for me to be. I wish that everyone could experience the joy of one’s time and talent for the benefit of others.

Paul Kowalski

I’m thankful for my new parish, St. Bernard, and all the hospitality I’ve received in Wabash as a new pastor.

Prayer, Mass intentions. Seven Sisters Apostolate – knowing someone is praying for me each day.

Father Jay Horning

My religious vocation celebrating 70 years.

Prayers or promise of the Novena of Masses.

Sister Anne D’Arcy

The Traditional Latin Mass at Sacred Heart.

We gave a spiritual bouquet of over 40 holy rosaries in a vase to our beloved aunt suffering with cancer. When we presented the vase to her in person, over 50 of us prayed a holy rosary with her and every day thereafter, a niece and nephew prayed a holy rosary for her on their assigned day. A beautiful gift of prayers!

Anonymous

Thankful for family and friends during the holidays!

Help them out on anything they need.

Tammi Helm

Programs and medical care for seniors.

To share smiles anytime with the handicapped.

Lewis Stewart

Good health that allows you to live life freely.

Time spent with the grandchildren to express deep our Catholic faith.

Les Zorger

To be able to live a life free of worry to subsist economically.

I would pray for the many less fortunate people here and in the world.

Donna Brooke

My family.

Subscription to “The Word Among Us.”

Lavonne Chalk

I am grateful for my family, my faith, my friends, and my health. I gave Matthew Kelly’s book “Holy Moments” to friends to encourage them to do acts of kindness. I enjoyed the book myself.

Anonymous

Family. In the recent past, there have been some health issues. Family (including church family) were always there.

Prayer! Absolutely!! I have seen the positive results of prayer consistently.

Robert Morgan

Our diocesan clergy – they lead us to our Savior!

Prayers! Through the intercessions of our saints and Mother Mary, God hears our prayers.

Anonymous

While taking care of my elderly mother with dementia was trying at times, she passed this summer. I received many blessings and insights of the working of God’s love in my life and family members. I am grateful for God’s merciful love during this time of suffering and the many splinters to be removed from my eyes.

Taking the time through God’s grace to write a memory of someone close to you that has passed (or is still present in your life),

To “bring to light” God revealing Himself through your loved one’s life.

Cindy Sorg

I am thankful that my parents raised me in the Faith and send me to Catholic schools.

In a word, “prayers”. I firmly believe that Our Lord answers all prayers.

Anonymous

I enjoy going to my church and spending time with my family. I am thankful for the soup kitchens that provide food for the less fortunate.

Spending time with family and receiving handwritten cards from family and friends. I enjoy playing card games with family.

Julia Couch

The one thing I am thankful for is my Catholic faith!

The spiritual gift I would give someone is fortitude! Today in our society, so many young people and old alike are afraid – afraid to stand up for what is right. To give someone fortitude, courage to do that right thing. This I feel is what God is calling all of us to do is to do what the Gospel tells us – Be not afraid, for I am with you always!!!

Lucy Papaik