Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Ordains 18 New Deacons to the Diocese

A glorious day! More than 1,300 people witnessed the ordination of 18 new deacons to the diocese on Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Pius X Church in Granger. There were also 20 previously-ordained deacons, 40 priests, 70 watching on closed-circuit television off the vestibule, and nearly 100 from the parish’s music ministry from their choirs, orchestra, bell choir, and organ performers in attendance.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided and emphasized in his homily that the deacons were to “take the form of a servant … through the Sacrament of Holy Orders (who then) will be inserted into the mystery of Christ who made Himself the ‘deacon’ or ‘servant of all.’ The diaconate will commit them to follow Jesus and His attitude of humble service, sharing and embracing their whole way of thinking and acting in fulfilling their various diaconal tasks.”

Bishop Rhoades honored the men for their four years of deacon preparation, study, and testing, along with their very supportive wives. The Rite of Ordination showed the shared determination of the soon-to-be deacon husbands as their wives sat behind them and participated in the Scripture readings and the offertory.

In speaking to the candidates, Bishop Rhoades said, “There is no holiness without humility.” He referred to the late Pope Benedict XVI who was “always a gentle and humble shepherd.” These deacons as “our brothers will participate in...”

BY PHIL NISWONGER
Historic St. Peter Catholic Church Still Vibrant After 150 Years

BY JODI MARLIN

The towering slate-colored steeple of St. Peter Parish seems to rise majestically from the inner-city neighborhood where it’s located—a neighborhood that has known its share of struggle. Crossing the threshold into the church’s expansive worship space however, the breathtaking beauty of its architecture and appointments instantly allays the concerns of the outside world and puts worshippers on alert that this is the home of not just the holiest person in the city, but the world; the One in whom they can rest, the Reason for Our Hope, the King of Peace.

The spiritual oasis that is St. Peter Parish celebrated its sesquicentennial on Sunday, Jan. 8, with rich and joyous tones. Welcoming Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for an anniversary Mass, two of its living former pastors, two ordained alumni of the former St. Peter School, parishioners, and neighbors gathered as one and raised their voices in songs of praise and gratitude for their parish’s steadfast legacy of faith.

St. Peter was founded as a German and French parish. Catholic immigrants from those countries had settled immediately southeast of the downtown area following the Civil War, and in 1871, a group of them, led by Peter Mettler, approached the second bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Joseph Dwenger, and asked him to establish a parish in its midst. After receiving his blessing, the church was built and dedicated to the saint Mettler was named for: St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles and the first pope.

The parish’s first pastor represented both the history of the faith community and its future. Father John Wemhoff was himself a German immigrant who had moved to America and been ordained by the first Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop John Henry Liers. Father Wemhoff oversaw the construction of the first St. Peter Church building and a school.

Under the direction of the parish’s second pastor, Father Anthony Weissman, a new and larger church was built by parishioner John Stuebler Sr., whose company also became known for constructing the original St. Mary, Mother of God Church downtown. Gothic in style, St. Peter Church attracted attention for its imposing steeple and its beauty of design and attention to detail. It soon came to be called “the splendor of the south side of Fort Wayne.”

While times and faces and landscapes change, the heritage of early pioneer parishioners remains St. Peter Parish. The capability of the parish to revitalize itself stands as an inspiration to others and testifies to the age-old Catholic belief that nothing can be too good and beautiful for God’s House.

The lineage of pastors who were German immigrants continued until 1936, at which time its leadership came to include two American-born priests — Father Thiele and Father Bapst—who served for more than 30 years each.

In recent years, since 1970, its shepherds have been Father Lawrence Kramer; Father Eugene Koers; Father Richard Hire; Father Jacob Gall; Father John Delaney; Father Phillip Widmann; Father Tyrell Alles, OSB; and current pastor Father Patrick Hake.

In 1991, the parish and school were placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The entire church, rectory, and the building of the now-former school were deep-cleaned and redecorated for the occasion, which coincided with the parish’s 100th anniversary and a simultaneous revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood on which the parish collaborated. In 2005, the campus expanded to include a pavilion that still hosts parish gatherings.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades acknowledged the parish’s illustrious history and expressed hope that it would continue to embrace its role in the near south-side neighborhood.

“St. Peter’s Parish would not be here today nor have flourished these past 150 years without the faith, devotion, sac-
The parish is an integral part of the Fort Wayne south side community. An active St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter, which operates out of this home on the parish grounds, plays a critical role in times of need and has assisted thousands of individuals and families with food and financial assistance. It is also a Community Harvest Food Bank distribution site.

St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne, operated a school continuously from 1872 until it closed in 1972. Initially, the school and church shared a building for around two decades before the parish constructed the current Gothic-style church. In the early 1900s, the second school building was constructed. In 2003, 30 years after its closure, the school building was sold and converted into apartments for low-income seniors.

“...they adored the Lord, the King of heaven and earth, the Son of God who humbled Himself in assuming our human nature, who did so out of love for us,” he said. “As we profess in the Creed, “for us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven.”

The Lord still humbles Himself and descends from heaven, becoming present on the altar under the form of bread and wine, He continued. We offer Him the gifts of praise, of our suffering, our work, and our lives, He said, which in the Eucharistic sacrifice are united with the offering of Christ.

“As you know, we are in the midst of a three-year Eucharistic Revival in our country. Let us pray for a renewed commitment to Sunday Mass and adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament among the people of our diocese and throughout our nation. Let us imitate the Magi! May we embrace more fully their faith, their courage, and their humility!”

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of permanent deacons for 2023:

**Deacon Daniel T. Avila**
- to diaconal ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke, and St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Columbia City
- Deacon Steven C. Burkins
- to diaconal ministry at St. Dominic Parish, Bremen.
- Deacon John D. Burzynski
- to diaconal ministry at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend.
- Deacon Joseph D. Cochran
- to diaconal ministry at St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City.
- Deacon Roger A. Dinus
- to diaconal ministry at SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Parishes, Huntington.
- Deacon Edward G. Fox
- to diaconal ministry at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Deacon Phillip M. Hayes
- to diaconal ministry at St. Pius X Parish, Granger and Elkhart General Hospital.
- Deacon Raymond J. Krouse
- to diaconal ministry at St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City.
- Deacon Thomas A. Lubuzielski
- to diaconal ministry at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend.
- Deacon Robert J. Lortie
- to diaconal ministry at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Deacon Orlando Miranda-Figueroa
- to diaconal ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Deacon Andrew G. Oross
- to diaconal ministry at Christ the King Parish, South Bend.
- Deacon Maximo J. Ortega
- to diaconal ministry at St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne and Diocesan Tribunal.
- Deacon Michael J. Plenzler
- to diaconal ministry at St. Anthony Parish, South Bend.
- Deacon Stephen K. Reed
- to diaconal ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne.
- Deacon Robin M. Slocum
- to diaconal ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne.
- Deacon James M. Summers Jr.
- to diaconal ministry at St. Pius X Parish, Granger.
- Deacon Harry W. Verhiley
- to diaconal ministry at St. Pius X, Granger.

**Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**

- Tuesday, Jan. 17: 9:30 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Jan. 19: 8 p.m. – Diocesan Holy Hour, National Prayer Vigil for Life, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Jan. 21: 11 a.m. – Funeral Mass for Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Jan. 22: 10:30 a.m. – Mass, St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City

**Deacon Assignments**

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TodaysCatholic.org/FRJEELANCE
At Funeral, Pope Remembers Benedict’s ‘Wisdom, Tenderness, Devotion’

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI “spread and testified to” the Gospel his entire life, Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered on Jan. 5 for his predecessor’s funeral Mass.

“Like the women at the tomb, we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness, and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years,” Pope Francis said in his homily.

The Mass in St. Peter’s Square was the first time in more than 200 years that a pope celebrated the funeral of his predecessor. Pope Pius VII had celebrated the funeral of Pius VI in 1802 when his remains were returned to Rome after he died in exile in France in 1799.

Pope Benedict, who had retired in 2013, had requested his funeral be simple; the only heads of state invited to lead delegations were those of Italy and his native Germany.

However, many dignitaries — including Queen Sofia of Spain and King Philippe of Belgium — and presidents and government ministers representing more than a dozen nations were in attendance, as were most of the ambassadors to the Holy See.

Members of the College of Cardinals sat on one side of the casket, while, on the other side, sat special guests, including the late pope’s closest collaborators and representatives of the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, and U.S. evangelical communities. Jewish and Muslim organizations also sent delegations.

Pope Francis presided over the Mass and Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, was the main celebrant at the altar. Some 120 cardinals, another 400 bishops, and 3,700 priests concelebrated. The vestments and stoles were red in keeping with the color of mourning for deceased popes.

Hsing Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, who turns 91 on Jan. 13, was allowed to leave China to attend the funeral of Pope Benedict, who had made him a cardinal in 2006. The retired cardinal was arrested in May and fined in November together with five others on charges of failing to properly register a now-defunct fund to help anti-government protesters.

More than 1,000 journalists, photographers, and camera operators from around the world were accredited to cover the funeral in St. Peter’s Square. An estimated 50,000 people filled the square for the Mass, and a number of visitors told Catholic News Service that banners and flags were being confiscated by security upon entrance. Of the few flags and banners that did make it past security was a white cloth with “Santo Subito” (“Sainthood Now”) written in red and a “Thank you, Pope Benedict” written in light blue in German.

Just as Pope Benedict dedicated his pontificate to directing the faithful’s focus to the person of Christ, Pope Francis dedicated his homily to Christ’s loving devotion and suffering witness as the “invitation and the program of life that he quietly inspires in us,” rather than on a summary of his predecessor’s life.

Pope Francis spoke of Jesus’ grateful, prayerful, and sustained devotion to God’s will and how Jesus’ final words on the cross, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,” summed up His entire life, “a ceaseless self-entrustment into the hands of His Father.”

“His were hands of forgiveness and compassion, healing and mercy, anointing and blessing, which led Him also to entrust Himself into the hands of His brothers and sisters,” he said.

“Father into your hands I commend my spirit,” the pope said, is the plan for life that Jesus quietly invites and inspires people to follow.

However, he said, the path requires sustained and prayerful devotion that is “silently shaped and refined amid the challenges and resistance that every pastor must face in trusting obedience to the Lord’s command to feed His flock.”

“Like the Master, a shepherd bears the burden of interceding and the strain of anointing his people, especially in situations where goodness must struggle to prevail and the dignity of our brothers and sisters is threatened,” said the pope.

“The Lord quietly bestows the spirit of meekness that is ready to understand, accept, hope, and risk, notwithstanding any misunderstandings that might result. It is the source of an unseen and elusive fruitfulness, born of His knowing the One in whom He has placed His trust,” he said.

“Feeding means loving, and loving also means being ready to suffer. Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God’s word, the nourishment of His presence,” Pope Francis said, quoting his predecessor’s homily marking the start of his pontificate on April 24, 2005.

“Holding fast to the Lord’s last words and to the witness of His entire life, we too, as an ecclesial community, want to follow in His steps and to commend our brother into the hands of the Father,” he said of Pope Benedict. “May those merciful hands find his lamp alight with the oil of the Gospel that he spread and testified to for his entire life.”

“God’s faithful people, gathered here, now accompany and entrust to Him the life of the one who was their pastor,” the pope said. “Together, we want to say, ‘Father, into your hands we commend his spirit.’”

“Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear His voice, now and forever!” he concluded, as the crowd prayed in silence.

Among the people in the crowd was Georg Bruckmayer who traveled nearly 10 hours by car to come to the funeral from his home in Bavaria, not far away from where the late pope was born.

Wearing a Bavarian flag around his back, he told CNS, “There are a lot of Bavarians here today. I’ve seen people I know from university. I wanted..."
There is a different thing than seeing it on television. It's something I won't forget in my whole life.”

Fiona Louise Devlin told CNS she and her companions were wearing scarves from the late pope's visit to Scotland in 2010. She said they traveled to Rome from Scotland specifically for the funeral, booking their flight the day the pope passed away.

“He’s the pope of our generation. Like, how else can you say that John Paul II was their pope, he was mine. I’ve traveled around the world to go to celebrations that he's been a part of, so I wanted to be here for this,” she said.

As the day began, the thick morning fog obscured the Vatican. The crowd applauded as the pope's casket was taken to the chapel in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica where he was to be buried.

Although the burial was private, “rigito,” a document containing his biography, the legal document, written in Latin, also attested to his death and burial. Medals and coins minted during his pontificate were also placed in the casket.

The pope’s casket was taken to the chapel in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica, where he was to be buried. The crowd applauded as the Pope Benedict XVI was covered after his body was placed into a cypress casket in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 4, 2023. The casket was decorated with a simple papal coat of arms, a bronze plaque with the pope's name and dates of birth, death, and the pope's closest aides, and others.

The cypress casket was wrapped with red ribbon, which was affixed to the wood with red wax seals, then placed inside a zinc casket soldered shut and put inside a larger casket made of oak. The tops of both the zinc and oak caskets were decorated with a simple cross, a bronze plaque with the pope’s name and dates of birth, papacy, and death, and his papal coat of arms.

His tomb is located between the remains of St. Pope John Paul II and his boadification.

The evening before the funeral Mass, a small assembly of cardinals, officials of St. Peter's Basilica, and members of the late pope’s household gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica to witness Pope Benedict’s body being placed into a cypress caset and closed. The ceremony took place on Jan. 4 after about 195,000 people had paid their respects to the pope through three days of public viewing.

The “rigito,” a document rolled up and placed in a tube, was placed in the casket with the body. In addition to containing his biography, the legal document, written in Latin, also attested to his death and burial. Medals and coins minted during his pontificate were also placed in the casket.

Archbishop Ganswein and Msgr. Ravelli extended a white silk cloth over the deceased pope’s face. The pope was wearing a mitre and the chasuble he wore for Mass at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008, between his clasped hands were a rosary and small crucifix.

After the funeral Mass, the pope’s casket was taken to the chapel in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica, where he was to be buried.

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The face of Pope Benedict XVI is covered after his body was placed into a cypress casket in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 4, 2023. Placing the cloth were Msgr. Diego Giovanni Ravelli, Pope Francis’ Master of Papal Liturgical Ceremonies, and Archbishop Georg Ganswein, Private Secretary to Pope Benedict.

**News Briefs**

**After Benedict’s Funeral, Publisher Releases Book by Late Pope’s Secretary**

ROME (CNS) — Soon after Pope Benedict XVI was laid to rest in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica, an Italian publisher released early copies of a book by the late pope’s secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein’s book, “Nothing but the Truth: My Life Beside Benedict XVI,” is filled with affection and admiration for Pope Benedict as a person, as a theologian, and as pope. The book includes the archbishop’s repeated insistence that Pope Benedict resigned of his own free will and fully aware of what he was doing in February of 2013, and even addresses, one by one, some of what he calls the “absurd” theories that cast doubt on the validity of the resignation. While Archbishop Gänswein makes clear Pope Benedict’s total recognition of Pope Francis as the reigning pope and Pope Francis’ real affection and admiration for Pope Benedict, he admits that he and Pope Francis did not and do not enjoy the same relationship. “Nothing but the Truth” was scheduled for release in Italian on Jan. 12 by Piemme, a publishing imprint that is part of the Mondadori company, but the text was released to reporters late on Jan. 5 after Pope Benedict’s funeral. Archbishop Gänswein wrote that Pope Benedict always was saddened by attempts to portray him and Pope Francis as opponents, “especially when the observation came from within the Vatican.” The differences between the two, in style and in theological approach, were “evident to all,” the archbishop wrote, but the problem was “not so much the existence of two popes, one reigning and oneemeritus, as much as the birth and development of two conflicting sections,” each claiming their pope was right and the other wrong.

**New Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Homs Survived ISIS Kidnapping**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new Syriac Catholic archbishop of Homs, Syria, had spent almost five months as a prisoner of Islamic State rebels in 2014. Members of the syndicate of the Patriarchate of Antioch of the Syrians elected Msgr. Jacques Mourad archbishop of Homs and Pope Francis gave his assent to the election. Vatican officials announced on Jan. 7. Then-Father Mourad was abducted by Islamic State militants from Qaryatain, Syria, where he served as prior of the ancient Syriac CatholicMar Elian monastery. The militants also kidnapped Boutros Hanna, a deacon. In a November 2015 interview with the Catholic Service, he spoke about being beaten and threatened by his captors, but also about how he and Hanna survived with prayer. Eight days into their captivity, a man dressed head-to-toe in black entered the room, he said, and he thought that was the end. To the two prisoners’ surprise, their would-be executioner did not treat them as though they were “infidel” (Christians), who are considered as impure and beneath fanatic Muslims. The man in black shook their hands, greeted them with “salam alaykoum” (peace be with you) and asked questions as if he would like to get acquainted. When Father Mourad asked, “Why are we here?” the masked man told the priest to consider it a “khawla,” which in Arabic means a time of spiritual reflection, a spiritual retreat. “I needed this concept of a ‘spiritual retreat,’” the priest told CNS. “I felt that the Lord was speaking through this masked Muslim. It gave me a push to keep going.”

**With House Speaker Race Over, Here’s What Catholics Can Expect from Next Congress**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was elected Speaker of the House on Jan. 7 after a tumultuous process that stretched across the first week of the new term. The 118th Congress began in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 3, and will continue for the two remaining years of President Joe Biden’s current term in the White House. The new Congress will likely be marked by significant parsimony, as Republicans take control of the House for the first time in Biden’s presidency and as the 2024 presidential campaign begins in earnest. During its tenure, the next Congress is also likely to offer a mixed bag of legislative results on matters of importance to Catholics. Some of those issues, including abortion and immigration, are cornerstone issues of increasingly partisan national debates. Matthew Green, Professor of Politics at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., who studies Congress and American elections, told OSV News in an interview that Republicans and Democrats have “less incentive to compromise on abortion,” than previous decades as both parties develop more firm positions on the issue. In the past, pro-life Democrats, for example, were more plentiful in Congress.

**Biden Expands Use of Title 42 While Broadening Legal Path for Some Migrants**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Members of President Joe Biden’s administration announced new immigration policies on Jan. 5, expanding the use of Title 42 while increasing legal paths for some individuals to enter the United States while maintaining a ban on migrant families in their countries instead of migrating to the southern border. Title 42 is a federal public health rule permitting immigration officials at the border to block migrants seeking asylum from entry. Former President Donald Trump’s administration implemented the rule in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but many saw the move as part of his broader attempts to tighten immigration. In a statement, praised the legal pathways while criticizing the policy overall, saying “many of the most vulnerable will be excluded from relief and subjected to dangerous circumstances, contravening U.S. and international refugee law, as well as Catholic social teaching.” He urged the administration to “reverse its present course in favor of humane solutions.”

**Catholic Priest Killed in Burkina Faso is Latest Victim of Terror Attacks**

TIONKUY, Burkina Faso (OSV News) — Father Jacques Yaro Zerbo, 67, a Malian-born Catholic Priest, was laid to rest on Jan. 5 at the Cemetery of Tionkuy, 150 miles west of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. The priest was killed on Jan. 2 by unidentified armed men in what his bishop, Bishop Prosper Bonaventure Ky, who heads the Diocese of Dedougou, called “cold-blood murder.” Father Zerbo was on his way to Tona to accomplish a mission for his bishop when he was intercepted in the village of Soro in Gassan township found dead in the northwestern region of Boucle du Mouhon — one of Burkina Faso’s 13 administrative regions and a flashpoint of jihadist extremism. After killing the priest, the men escaped with his car, leaving his lifeless body by the roadside. Bishop Ky expressed “profound sorrow” and hoped he would find peace in the afterlife. Bishop Ky underscored the concern of the Catholic Church and other faith communities.”

**Altar Damaged and Relics Stolen at Arkansas Church**

The damage to the altar at Subiaco Abbey Church in Subiaco, Arkansas, is pictured after the altar was destroyed and two reliquaries stolen at the abbey recently. A man was arrested on Jan. 5, 2023, Arkansas Catholic, the newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock, reported. **OSV News Photo/Arkansas Catholic**
BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Young men seeking information about seminary life were given the opportunity to spend an evening with several diocesan priests and seminarians on Tuesday, Jan. 3, in Fort Wayne, and on Friday, Jan. 6, in Mishawaka. They shared a meal and discussed potential vocations to the priesthood. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted the two “Andrew Dinners” at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne and at St. Monica Parish in Mishawaka.

At the Fort Wayne dinner, seminarian Andrew Barnes told the young men about the daily life of a seminarian at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Barnes said that seminarians wake up and pray their morning prayer at around 6:45 a.m. before celebrating Mass at 7 a.m. He noted that, after Mass, the day plays out like a typical college day for a student with classes and occasional breaks to pursue personal enrichment.

“We have two seminarians who lift (weights) every single day, so that’s very much part of their schedule.”

At the end of the school day, Barnes said, everyone meets for evening prayer before transitioning to dinner. “Then, the rest of the night is just yours. So, it’s structured but it’s pretty free to make your schedule your own.”

Barnes said that on the weekends, some seminarians participate in a “pastoral field experience” in which they are assigned to a parish or participate in other pastoral activities like visiting nursing homes and hospitals, or even teaching classes.

“It’s a really healthy environment to be with a bunch of guys who are all pursuing the same path. I like to describe it as a fraternity that is morally upstanding.”

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Father Andrew Budzinski, Vocations Director for the diocese, fielded several questions from the young men gathered at the dinner. One participant asked about the diocesan bishop’s role in acceptance to seminary and the priesthood. Father Budzinski explained that the bishop sponsors a seminarian and that they attend the seminary on the recommendation of the bishop.

He further explained that a bishop can revoke, delay, or deny this sponsorship in the same way that a seminarian can discern out of seminary. This, he explained, should make a prospective seminarian more confident about joining seminary because the bishop, school leaders, and advisors are keeping a close eye on their vocational journey and can counsel them on whether they think that the priesthood is the right fit.

Another young man asked about how he can know for sure that a particular vocation is the correct choice for him. For this, Father Budzinski highlighted some ideas from a book on discernment.

The first step, he said, was to check if any path is absolutely clear — something Father Budzinski said is rare but does happen. Next, an individual should examine their heart — what makes them feel more fulfilled and what paths have brought spiritual desolation. Finally, he said to examine the options from a logical standpoint. A pros and cons list might clearly show more pros for one option than another. The option with a more positive lean is something worth exploring further.

After completion of seminary comes ordination to the priesthood. Father Terrance Coonan spoke about the daily responsibilities of a priest. He mentioned that priests consistently rank high in terms of career satisfaction. The priests gathered also mentioned that diocesan priesthood is a brotherhood, with a handful of them saying that they had met up to play cards earlier that week.

Father Coonan said that sometimes it can be hard, however, because the work of a priest is less visible than other careers and vocations, but that “seeing the world, seeing reality through the perspective of our faith” aids in easing these concerns.

“I love that I can — every single day — know that my work has eternal consequences. I’m doing something that matters forever.”

Those interested in more information about seminary and diocesan priesthood can visit discernpriesthood.com.
Horvath Enjoying Early Taste of NFL Success

BY ERIC PEAT

It didn’t take long for Zander Horvath to make his mark in the National Football League.

In the Los Angeles Chargers’ season-opener against the Las Vegas Raiders, quarterback Justin Herbert connected with Horvath on a 1-yard scoring toss for the team’s first touchdown of the season. The following week at Kansas City, Horvath once again found the endzone, converting on a play-action pass to the flat from one yard out. Just like that, Horvath had become the first rookie running back or fullback to record touchdown receptions in each of his first two NFL games since 1942.

Not bad for a former college walk-on who was selected 260th overall in the NFL Draft.

“To be honest, no,” said Horvath when asked if he expected this type of immediate success at the professional level. “Especially coming in as a fullback — they don’t get the ball much, depending on which team you’re playing with. But to have that happen the first game, being the first touchdown of the year, and then the following game to have another one, it kind of really sparked something in me and just gave me confidence that throughout the season, no matter what position I’m playing, there’s opportunities there, and you’ve just got to take advantage of them.”

That’s exactly what the former Marian High School standout has done thus far in his young career. Since becoming the program’s first football player to be selected in the NFL Draft in April, Horvath has found his home in L.A., not only making the team’s final roster, but also being tabbed as the Chargers’ starting fullback.

“It’s safe to say that Horvath’s football journey has already been an unforgettable ride.”

“It’s been so fun,” said Horvath’s fiancée, Natalie Winters. “I feel so proud of him. He’s been living his lifetime dream out. I can feel nothing but proud of him.”

“Growing up, before I started playing football in 5th grade, I was always wanting to be in the NFL,” agreed Horvath. “That was always my dream, so I think it definitely met my expectations. It’s a lot more stressful than I want it to be, but it’s a job. You’ve got to take care of business when you’re out on the field. I enjoy getting to compete at the highest level; there’s not many people who get to say that. Just continue to stay healthy, be productive, and get the job done.”

Since his electric start to the season, Horvath has seen a more limited role on the Chargers offense. He’s played a handful of offensive snaps each game, primarily as a blocker for starting running back Austin Ekeler. However, Horvath has occasionally been called upon to carry the ball or run a pattern out of the backfield from his fullback position. Through his first 15 NFL games, Horvath has four rushes for eight yards and five catches for another eight yards, along with his two touchdown receptions. Horvath said playing fullback is where he has recognized the most growth in his game.

“I would definitely say the fullback position, because that’s something I didn’t play as much in college,” said Horvath. “I played a little bit my sophomore year coming in, but that being my main job and having to focus more on that, I think really pushed me to hone in on all the details there and better my craft in that area, just because it was something that was new to me. But I think I’ve been doing well this year, and then on special teams too, I’ve been on the Core Four [special teams players], so just trying to get those opportunities as well.”

Indeed, Horvath has seen a majority of his on-field action this season on special teams as a part of kickoffs, punts, and kick return units. He even recorded his first NFL tackle as a part of kickoffs, punts, and kick return units. He even recorded his first NFL tackle on special teams versus the Jacksonville Jaguars in his third game of the season. Horvath has played at least 15 special teams snaps in every game except the Chargers’ visit to Indianapolis on Dec. 26, when he suffered a sprained ankle that caused him to miss the following game against the Los Angeles Rams. However, the Chargers’ 20-3 win over the Colts was enough to propel them into the postseason — L.A.’s first playoff berth in four years.

“It’s a great thing as a rookie to make the playoffs,” said Horvath. “I was talking to people the other day about it. It’s been I don’t know how
many years, but a lot of guys have been here their whole career and haven’t been to the playoffs, so to be able to do that for them too is another big part.”

For Horvath’s friends and family, the Chargers’ recent visit to the Hoosier state provided them with a rare chance to see him play in person and cheer on their favorite fullback. “It’s really exciting to see him do so well,” said his sister, Marianna Horvath, who admitted that football isn’t usually their first topic of conversation. “In high school, he really pushed himself. And then when he got to Purdue, he continued to push himself. He put a lot of effort into it, so it’s been super cool seeing how far he’s come.”

“It’s been great,” Horvath said of returning to Indiana and playing in front of loyal ones. “All the games we’ve been playing are in California, so we don’t get much family out there, family or friends — it’s a long way for them. So, coming back home was great to have everybody out. Some people here I haven’t talked to in a couple years, so it’s good to know that I have support whenever I’m back home from people I may not have talked to in a long time.”

Come July 1, these same friends and family will be supporting Horvath in a different setting, as he and Winters will be getting married. Despite the challenges of long distances and busy schedules, the couple is preparing for a future together and striving to put God first.

“We had to do all of our Pre-Cana [marriage preparations] out in California, so that’s been a little difficult,” said Winters. “But we’ve been blessed with great parents who have helped us plan our wedding, so we’re nothing but thankful for them.”

“It’s something you can rely on no matter what’s going on,” Horvath said of his faith. “Whether it’s good or bad, you know you can fall back on that to help you.”

Zander Horvath poses with fans following the Dec. 26 football game against the Colts in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Photos by Eric Peat
St. Hildegard Project Created to Teach and Perform Sacred Music

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Sacred music is an essential component of Christian worship. As the Church has indicated in Holy Documents, “music is a way for God to lead us to the realm of higher things.” And as St. Augustine said, “Music is for the one who loves.”

Jerome Cole, Director of Sacred Music at St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, has long exhibited a passion and talent for bringing beautiful music to the ears and hearts of Catholics in the spirit of making them seek to glorify God in their hearts through song. His experience throughout the diocese has also led him to encounter many gifted musicians and directors who share the same desires.

This enthusiasm for liturgy and interest in helping the larger community led him to found the St. Hildegard Project, an initiative dedicated to the teaching and performance of sacred music. Comprised of men and women who share a fervent devotion for both music and evangelization, Cole states that the primary goals of the project are to “teach with integrity and perform with excellence for the edification of souls and the glory of God.”

Cole shared that one of his primary aims is “to help parishes provide sacred music training to their people. We intend to provide the apparatus for going to parishes, offering presentations to their choirs or parishioners, assisting the music director — or even if they do not have a music director — to provide inspiration and guidance, all with the Eucharist in mind. The primary aim of our project is leading people to the Eucharist through beauty.”

The current members of the St. Hildegard Project include Jerome Cole, Laura LeGare, Mary Ouellette, Edith Lagarde, Blaine Waldstein, Jessica Roberts, Ellen Friesen, Jon Wheeler, James Richardson, and Daniel Tucker.

Cole said, “I realized that we had many directors and musicians in the South Bend region who desire to teach others and perform at a high level, and we could all benefit by pooling our resources together. Each of us has a different type of talent, so we enrich one another through our shared collaboration.”

Laura LeGare, who serves as Vice President of the project, has sung with renowned choirs throughout her career and shared her appreciation for the St. Hildegard Project specifically due to its joint focus on both musical excellence and authentic prayer, emphasizing her long-felt desire to work with colleagues who were not only skilled musicians but also believed the faith which the music shares and portrays.

For this reason, following a Tenebrae service in 2022 — a performance which included another founding member, Mary Ouelette — LeGare inquired whether Cole had any desire to start something like this project. He joyfully responded that he had been praying about this exact type of initiative for months.

Regarding the name of the choir, Cole stated, “St. Hildegard of Bingen was an abbess, a mystic, a poet, and composed a lot of music herself, which is inspiring to each of us. As an artist, she expressed her love of God and led others to God through her poetic expression, just as we seek to do.”

Cole indicated that this project aims to assist parish music directors who have professional training and experience but rarely have the time or ability to perform at their highest possible level. It also aims for directors and musicians to know and support one another and find new avenues to bring their love for God into their professional performance.

Jon Wheeler, a parishioner at St. Matthew’s Cathedral and member of the project, expressed thoughts similar to LeGare. He stated, “While I have sung with some excellent choirs and directors, sometimes the emphasis has been to perform music simply for the sake of music. Something at the heart of this project is the focus on doing liturgies and work."
Go Forth and Proclaim the Gospel

Permanent Diaconate Ordination
Jan. 8, 2023
Rhoades their long-awaited ordination with anticipation from Bishop John. Joy continued as they received their vestments in their albs, there was a joyful brotherhood of candidates helping each other get ready. Those in need of Christ’s healing were a foreshadowing of the Church’s order of deacons. You were a foreshadowing of the Spirit in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

After the Mass and a joyful group photo of the new and previous deacons with Bishop Rhoades, the newly ordained men received their various parish assignments. A reception followed.

The Path to the Diaconate

Each of the 18 newly-ordained deacons have wonderful stories of their discernment and journey to Holy Orders and a dynamic anticipation of how they can help others build their faith for Heaven. A few of them shared their stories with Today’s Catholic. Deacon Andy Oross was invited by his wife, Teresa, to consider becoming a deacon. They were both ministering already at Christ the King Parish in South Bend. He held adult education classes while teaching at St. Joseph High School, while his wife directed the parish’s Order of Christian Initiation (formerly RCIA). Deacon Oross would like to encourage more men to consider the diaconate vocation. He said, “We are all called to ‘die to ourselves’ as growing in holiness never is a finished process.” He expects to serve at least 10 hours per week at Christ the King.

Deacon Dr. Stephen Reed, M.D., has had a close relationship with Father Jim Shafer, his former pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. Deacon Reed was looking for a spiritual director as he felt the Lord was calling him forward to do more but did not know to what. He, however, had gotten the thought to consider becoming a deacon and simultaneously had arranged a luncheon meeting with Father Shafer. Father Shafer had just been transferred to St. Joseph Parish in Garrett and had gotten a letter from the bishop asking that the pastors consider asking men from their parish to become a deacon. Father Shafer then asked Deacon Reed to become a deacon. And in Deacon Reed’s words, “It was speechless. What a divine coincidence!” Deacon Reed said he was also helped by another friend, Jim Kitchens.

Deacon Reed also wishes to “encourage people to a personal prayer life, reading of Scripture and the Catechism, and to fall in love with the sacraments.” As a doctor and throughout his medical career, Deacon Reed has prayed with his patients and shared Scripture. After patients and staff realized his four-year diaconate path, he said they approached him even more for spiritual support. He will minister with another new deacon, Deacon Robin Slocum, in his home parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Deacon Reed serves as an intervention cardiologist at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne as well as its affiliate in Warsaw, Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital.

Deacon James Summers, Jr. first began to consider the diaconate during a discussion on a pilgrimage to Father Augustus Tolton’s shrine in Quincy, Illinois. Later, Deacon Mel Tardy of St. Augustine Parish assisted in his discernment.

Deacon Summers encourages all of us to “open our hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit and see our roles to evangelize the Word and spread God’s Love.” He indicated that each of us are expected to be doers of the Word. He is excited to help people realize the real Church and to encourage them to learn, for example, from Father Mike Schmitz’s “Catechism in a Year” offering. Father Schmitz is retired but serves on several boards and will be serving at his home parish of St. Pius X in Granger with two other new deacons, Deacon Philip Hayes and Deacon Harry Verhiley.

Deacon Harry Verhiley was “inspired by Jesus who is the exemplar deacon who came to serve” as reflected in the homily by Bishop Rhoades. Deacon Verhiley said that Jesus full offering as a deacon is shown by Him on the crucifix, which demonstrates the fullness of His love. Deacon Verhiley indicated that the diaconate cross he wears bears Jesus wearing a towel like the one Jesus used at the Last Supper. He said that both in his time in the Holy Land and while he prostrated on the St. Pius X floor in front of the altar, he asked the Father for gifts he would need and felt that many saints came upon them and blessed and instructed the deacons. He asked the Father to take away his stony heart and replace it with Jesus’ Sacred Heart so as to love others he serves as Jesus loves. Deacon Verhiley also mentioned that he plans to “spend an hour in adoration each day in the chapel before morning prayer adoring Jesus.” He said that he is filled with great joy and fulfillment. He is thankful that he has been assigned to St. Pius X Parish. He baptized his 12th grandchild at the noon Epiphany Mass. He is a fifth-year teacher of freshmen theology at St. Joseph High School in South Bend and will participate in World Youth Day in Portugal this summer. Previously, he worked for 17 years in the Diocesan Development Office.

First photo by Deacon Andy Oross; second photo by Jim Kitchens.

Congratulations, Deacon John Burzynski!

from the Cathedral of Saint Matthew Parish

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT PIUS X gives thanks to God for parishioners Mike Plenzler, Phil Hayes, James Summers, and Harry Verhiley

Congratulations to you, and your classmates, on your ordination to the permanent diaconate.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org
Congratulations, Deacon Oross!

from Christ the King Parish

Phil Niswonger

The 18 men who spent four years preparing to become permanent deacons listen to the homily of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during their ordination Mass on Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Pius X Church in Granger.

Congratulations, JOSEPH COCHRAN
from your St. Paul of the Cross family, Columbia City

Congratulations, Deacon Ray Krouse
from St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City
Photos by Phil Niswonger

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gives his homily during the Mass to ordain 18 men to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Pius X in Granger as the men look on and the bell choir prepares to perform.

CONGRATULATIONS,
DEACON STEVE BURKINS

FROM
ST. DOMINIC PARISH, BREMEM

Congratulations!

Deacon Stephen Reed & Deacon Robin Slocum

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish welcomes you!
Congratulations Deacon Ed!

We are so proud of you! Thank you for all of your service to our parish.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Making Christ the Center of Our Lives

The Catholic Community of Huntington Congratulates

Deacon Roger Dinius

"These are the treasures of the Church."
— St. Lawrence
What Pope Benedict XVI Taught Us About Dying Well

What does it mean to die well? The end, it seems, is inevitable for all of us. When, we don’t know. How, we don’t know. Where, we don’t know. But we know it’s coming.

St. John Vianney, the French curé d’Ars, once said: “If we were required to die twice, we could jettison one death. But man dies only once, and upon this death depends his eternity.”

In other words, while walking this journey on earth, we must never take for granted the ultimate reward — life with God — and we must never lose sight of what it takes to get there. We do, after all, only get one death.

One supposes this must have been a constant consideration in recent years of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who retired to a life of solitude and prayer in 2013 at age 85. What was there left to do but prepare to die well?

His preparations, though, had been lifelong. In his spiritual testament dated more than 16 years before his death, Benedict reflected on his life, and on those whom he had encountered, with gratitude. He gave thanks to God. He asked for the forgiveness of those he may have wronged. He asked for the forgiveness of those he had given thanks to God. He asked for the forgiveness of those he had encountered, with gratitude. He asked for the forgiveness of those he had given thanks to God.

In his final statement on earth, Pope Benedict was determined to do what he did best: demonstrate how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He led with gratitude, sought reconciliation with his fellow man, underscored the importance of prayer, and taught the Faith. Through that witness and that teaching, he sought to do what every disciple is called to do: bring others to love Jesus Christ. This is dying well.

In a talk on St. Thérèse of Lisieux in April of 2011, Pope Benedict said on the last words of the saint, uttered on her deathbed on Sept. 30, 1897, when she was just 24 years old: “My God, I love you!”

“These last words of the saint are the key to her whole doctrine, to her interpretation of the Gospel. The act of love, expressed in her last breath, was, as it were, the continuous breathing of her soul, the beating of her heart,” Pope Benedict said. “We too,” he added, “understood that the child Jesus must be able to repeat to the Lord every day that we want to live out of love for Him. And to do so, we must learn to ask God with all our heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength (and) ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself’” ( Mk. 12:30-31).

Should we succeed in that, we too might find that, when our time comes, our own focus is right where it should be: expressing our love of God. This is dying well.

GRETCHEN CROWE: Editor-In-Chief of OSV News.

Praying To God of the Sick When You’re Sick-of-Being-Sick

Here is a story that every family I know can tell: “all of us have been sick ... for a long, long time.

In the past few months, our household has endured countless rounds of colds and coughs, flu and fevers. With four kids in school and one toddler at home, it’s not surprising. Throughout the weeks, I’ve spent time pouring doses of cough syrup and searching frantically for fever medications in drawers. I read every where about the ‘tripledemic’: the extra-potent convergence of COVID-19, RSV, and the flu that’s hitting families, schools, workplaces, and hospitals across the U.S. right now.

Caught in our own endless slog of hacking coughs, feverish kids, and runny noses, I started stockpiling ways to pray through this winter’s sick season. Tuck one of these ideas in your pocket (along with extra tissues) to remember the God of the sick sees you, too.

Invoke the Trinity. What better way to counter the triplicated — or any illness from mild to severe — than by calling upon God’s own name for strength and comfort? The Prayer of St. Patrick’s Breastplate binds us to the holy name of the Trinity and reminds us that God is our protection in every moment.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI, page 17

In Finding Jesus, We Find God

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1:29-34

The Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend’s first reading from the Scriptures. Relief and joy uplifted the atmosphere. Hopes centered upon a bright future because after the humiliation, uncertainty, and oppression of being conquered by Babylonia, and then after generations of exile in Babylon for many, God’s people were given a new day of return to their homeland and hopefully to lives of prosperity and security.

Lest one think this fortuitous turn of events was the mere outcome of changing politics, or luck, the prophet eloquently insisted that the plight of the people was improving because of God’s direct and merciful interventions that brought their relief. God promised to protect and sustain the people despite the misfortunes that might bedevil them, and God was faithful.

In turn, the Hebrews, God’s people, human instruments on earth in the divine will, bringing witness among them, were faithful during their years of trial. They never succumbed to the paganism of Babylon.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend selects a passage from St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians. Today, the Apostle Paul ranks among the greatest Christian figures of all time and certainly he was the first extraordinary figure in the development of Christianity in the crucial time of the 1st century AD.

Attaining this distinction was not without personal cost for Paul. He had to contend with converts to Christianity who were not always loyal to the Gospel. The very culture in which they lived not only rendered without a whimper to human instincts but also elevated beliefs to a level of the divine, delighting in lust, gluttony, drunkenness, and so on.

But did you know there were required to die twice, we could jettison one death. But man dies only once, and upon this death depends his eternity.

The Christian converts in Corinth, then one of the major cities of the Mediterranean world, literally were awash in tissue papers (along with extra tissues) to remember the God of the sick sees you, too.

Invoke the Trinity. What better way to counter the triplicated — or any illness from mild to severe — than by calling upon God’s own name for strength and comfort? The Prayer of St. Patrick’s Breastplate binds us to the holy name of the Trinity and reminds us that God is our protection in every moment.

Reflection:

At Christmas, the Church excitedly told us that Jesus was born. Son of Mary, Jesus was a human, as are we. The shepherd, representative of human humility, adored the newborn Jesus.

At the Epiphany, the magi found Jesus after searching for God. To assist in their search, God led them and protected them. In Jesus, they found God.

In recalling the baptism of John the Baptist, we introduce Jesus to the world as the Savior of doomed humankind. With Jesus, humans would have access to eternal life.

Now, continuing the process, John the Baptist, so reliable and so insightful in his holiness, proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God. In all these settings, the Church carefully puts before us the person of Jesus the Lamb and tells us about Jesus.

It invites us to follow Jesus. It invites us to know Jesus. He is one of us. He taught us. He died for us. Finding Jesus, we find God.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

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LAURA KELLY FANUCCI
One of the most consequential churchmen of the last hundred years has died. Pope Benedict XVI (formerly Joseph Ratzinger) leaves a remarkable legacy in both the Church he served and in the wider society. Often pilloried by his opponents as a fire-breathing conservative, he was in fact one of the most balanced, nuanced, and stabilizing figures within the Catholic ambit.

The defining event of his life was the Second Vatican Council, the gathering of bishops and theologians from 1962 to 1965 that placed the Catholic Church in a renewed conversation with the contemporary world. Though only age 35 when he was tapped to be theological advisor to one of the leading German cardinals, Ratzinger proved to be a consequential player at Vatican II, contributing to the commission of the new liturgy books and explaining its teaching to the wider culture.

At the council itself, he proved adversarial to those conservative forces who were resisting the renewal which the majority of bishops favored. One of the ironies of his life is that, in the wake of Vatican II, he found himself standing athwart progressives who wanted to push beyond the council documents and compromise the integrity of Catholicism. Thus, the “liberal” of the Council became the “conservative” of the post-conciliar years, even as, in his own judgment, his views never changed.

Someone of like mind was the Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, who, upon being elected Pope John Paul II, chose Ratzinger to be his chief doctrinal officer. As head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Ratzinger spent 25 years articulating the teaching of Vatican II and defending it against its critics on both the left and the right. His election as Pope Benedict XVI in 2005, following the death of John Paul II, was largely a function of his being perceived as a balanced man of the Council. It is obvious that Ratzinger, as priest, bishop, theologian, and pope, was a man of faith. But it is perhaps equally important to point out that he was one of the great defenders of reason on the world stage. At a time when many of the representatives of the secular culture were questioning our capacity to know anything as true, Ratzinger resisted what he termed “the dictatorship of relativism.” He claimed, in line with the great Catholic tradition, that certain truths — moral, intellectual, and aesthetic — can be known and that this knowledge in fact serves to unite people across religious and cultural divides. This was precisely the point of his controversial Regensburg Address in 2006. The Christian belief that Jesus is “Logos” or word effectively builds a bridge between Christianity and any religion, philosophy, or science that deals in truth and makes “logical” assertions. In line with this instinct, Ratzinger happily engaged some of the leading atheist and skeptical philosophers of his day.

I alluded above to his reputation in some circles as Paterherzogin (the taint Cardinal), an uncompromising, even cruel, reactionary. Those who knew Joseph Ratzinger personally could only shrug at their heads at such a characterization. For he was, in fact, a gentle, very kind, soft-spoken academic, whose particular gift was the finding of common ground. The thousands of bishops who came to Rome for their ad limina visits during Ratzinger’s years as prefect were typically impressed by the man’s extraordinary capacity to listen to all perspectives and then to find an illuminating synthesis. His friends say that after a long day of work during the John Paul II years, Ratzinger most liked to visit one of the bookstores near the Vatican, find the latest book of theology, and make his way to a quiet corner of a nearby restaurant and dine alone (his favorite dish was cacio e pepe) while absorbing the text. He cannot help but think that the last 10 years, spent in quiet retreat in the Vatican gardens, represented the way he really wanted to live all of his life.

When I was a visiting scholar in Rome in the spring of 2007, I made it an point to attend Pope Benedict’s Wednesday general audiences in St. Peter’s Square. Before a sizable crowd the Pope would lecture on some aspect of the faith or on one of the great theologians of the Catholic tradition. His extraordinary learning, erudition, and command of languages were on clear display. But what always impressed me most about him was his evident love for Christ. Pope Benedict said that Christianity is not an ideology or a philosophy, but rather a relationship to a person, to the living Jesus Christ. In his bearing, his gaze, the tone of his voice, and his manner, I could sense that he believed this, more to the point, that he lived it.

Thank you, Pope Benedict, for the thousand ways that you have blessed the Church. And may God grant you peace.

Bishop Robert Barron is the Bishop of Rochester, Minnesota, and the Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is a writer, speaker, and author of several books. Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.
Pope Francis has reorganized the Vicariate of Rome, which is the local authority of the Roman Catholic Church in the city of Rome. This is the first major change to the administrative structure since the beginning of papal reform in 2013. The pope has appointed Cardinal Marc Ouellet as the new cardinal vicar of the Vicariate of Rome, in charge of its pastoral and administrative affairs, including financial management.

The changes include the creation of new bodies to handle specific tasks within the Vicariate of Rome. One of these new bodies is an office dedicated to safeguarding minors and vulnerable people; and an independent supervisory commission of papally-appointed experts who monitor the work and administrative and economic affairs of the vicariate.

The new document, “Ecclesiam in Urbe” (The Church in the City), issued by the pope, replaces the previous constitution, “In Ecclesiis in Urbe” (The Church in the City), issued by St. John Paul II in 1988. It recognizes the Comunione et Communionis (“In the Communion of Churches”) and realized the Communion of Churches (“In the Communion of Churches”). It replaces the previous constitution, “Ecclesia in Urbe” (The Church in the City), issued by St. John Paul II in 1988.

The new document aims to decentralize the vicariate’s mission by giving “primacy” to charity and the proclamation of divine mercy, synodality with the faithful, and promoting greater collegiality, particularly between the pope and his auxiliary bishops of Rome.

In fact, the pope will have a much greater role in the vicariate, staying informed with required reporting, presiding over meetings of the episcopal council, and taking part in major decisions concerning pastoral, administrative, and financial matters, including requiring his final approval of the diocese’s annual budget report.

The annual budget report, budget management, requests for assistance by parish rectors, and ensuring greater transparency in managing funds will be handled by the diocesan council for economic affairs, which is presided over by the cardinal vicar or the vice-regent, it said.

The pope wrote he would like greater vigilance over financial management “so that it may be prudent and responsible” and “conducted consistently with the purpose that justifies the church’s possession of goods.”

The constitution recognized that “due to the very large task of governing the universal church,” the pope needs to have help in caring for the Diocese of Rome, which is why he appoints a cardinal vicar.

The cardinal vicar will inform the pope “periodically and whenever he deems it necessary about the pastoral activity and life of the diocese. In particular, he will not undertake initiatives that are important or exceed ordinary administration without first reporting to me.”

The cardinal vicar must also submit first to the pope all candidates “for possible admission to Holy Orders” after those candidates have received approval by the episcopal council.

“The church loses its credibility when it is filled with what is not essential to its mission or, worse, when its members, sometimes even those invested with ministerial authority, are a source of scandal by their behaviors that are unfaithful to the Gospel,” Pope Francis wrote. “Only in the total giving of oneself to Christ in order to serve the salvation of the world does the Church renew her fidelity.”

St. Joseph’s Parish in Fort Wayne offers hearty congratulations and God’s richest blessings to Deacon Orlando Miranda-Figueroa and his wife Adalys on the occasion of his ordination to the permanent diaconate. Our entire parish community celebrates this grace-filled event! Ad multi anni Deacon Orlando.

La Parroquia de San Jose ofrece las más cordiales felicitaciones y bendiciones al Diácono Orlando Miranda-Figueroa y a su esposa, Adalys, en su ordenación al Diacanado Permanente. Toda nuestra comunidad parroquial celebra este evento lleno de gracia. Ad multi anni Diácono Orlando.

## Congratulations

### Deacon Orlando Miranda-Figueroa

St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne

### The Serra Club

offers heartfelt congratulations to those ordained to the permanent diaconate:

- Daniel Acila
- Steven C. Barkas
- John D. Burzynski
- Joseph D. Cochran
- Roger A. Daniels
- Edward G. Fox
- Philip M. Hayes
- Raymond J. Kessie
- Thomas A. Kubaczinski
- Robert J. Lortie
- Orlando Miranda-Figueroa
- Andrew G. Oross
- Maximino J. Ortega
- Michael J. Pflanzler
- Stephen K. Reed
- Robin M. Slocum
- James M. Summers Jr.
- Harry W. Verhiley

CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano, Handout
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.

Pro Life Holy Hour with Bishop Rhodes

FORT WAYNE — Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 8-9 p.m. for a Holy Hour to pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1105 Calhoun St. The Holy Hour will be live streamed for those who cannot attend in person. Contact Caty Burke at 260-422-4611 or cburke@diocesefwsb.org.

Theology on Tap Offers Winter Sessions

FORT WAYNE — This winter’s Theology on Tap Series, titled “Called by Name”, offers a unique opportunity for young adults to build community and explore a deeper relationship with the Lord. Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 24, weekly talks at the Historic Women’s Club, 402 W. Wayne St., will explore an in-depth understanding of our identity which is rooted in the Lord who calls us by name into communion and urges us on mission. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the talk begins at 7. Food and drink are available for purchase. The series will conclude on Feb. 21 with a 6:30 p.m. Mass at the USF Chapel followed by a party at the Brookside Manor on the USF Campus. For information, visit diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw.

Chili Cookoff Fundraiser

GOSHEN — The St. John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a chili cook-off for parishioner Jack Woodiel, a 14-year old undergoing chemotherapy. The chili cook-off will be held on Feb. 3-5 at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfeld St. Listen to talks by priests eager to foster and fuel your passion for Christ. All topics are centered around being moved to follow His voice to where He is leading you next. Cost is $98. Contact Sarah Bishop at EphphathaWomensRetreat@gmail.com.

Goulash and Langalo Dinner

SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society is planning a Hungarian goulash and langalo dinner on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym, 735 W. Calvert St. The dinner includes a 16 oz. bowl of goulash and one langalo. Prices are $12 for goulash and langalo; $8 for goulash only; $4 for langalo only. Tickets are available at the door and carry out is available. Contact Rick Kotzenmacher at 574-289-2143 or ohps@sbcglobal.net for information.

Ephphatha Women’s Retreat

HUNTINGTON — A Christ-filled retreat will be held on Feb. 3-5 at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfeld St. Listen to talks by priests eager to foster and fuel your passion for Christ. All topics are centered around being moved to follow His voice to where He is leading you next. Cost is $98. Contact Sarah Bishop at EphphathaWomensRetreat@gmail.com.

Holy Family Las Vegas Night

SOUTH BEND — The Holy Family Ushers Club will be holding the annual Las Vegas Night on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 6-11 p.m. in the Parish Center, 56405 Mayflower Rd. Tickets are $8 in advance at the rectory or $10 at the door. Ticket includes sandwiches and beverages and a chance in the $1,000 drawing. Lic#001289. Visit www.holyfamilysouthbend.org or contact Jim Niespodziany at 574-250-7836 for information.

Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne

FEBRUARY 11-12

Dedicated to serving under-resourced children in our community!

Baby Bottle Fundraiser 2023

Please, look for the baby bottles at your church and take a bottle the weekend of JANUARY 21-22 return it FULL of money on FEBRUARY 11-12

Donations accepted at: christchildfw.org/donate
Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne
PO Box 12708, Fort Wayne, IN 46864

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish seeks a Full-Time Facilities Manager

The Facilities Manager at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish/School in Fort Wayne is responsible for maintaining the parish/school campus. Areas of responsibility include: janitorial, custodial, landscaping, security, environmental, parking, and event coordination. The position requires a strong work ethic, 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 practicing 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://theadvertisermanager.com/jobs?pos=D1280

RENT IN PEACE

Fort Wayne
Sylvia Fenton, 94, St. Vincent de Paul
Deacon James Fitzpatrick, 67, St. Vincent de Paul
Jack Fleming, 73, St. Vincent de Paul
Arthur Leffers, 85, St. Vincent de Paul
Stephen Litchfield, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger
Roymayne Gibler, 92, St. Pius X

Huntington
Jeannine F. Goings, 92, SS. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
Mary Ann Koch, 85, St. Bavo

New Carlisle
Irene Wroblewski, 88, St. Stanislaus Kostka

New Haven
Alfrida Dewaelsche, 86, St. John the Baptist

South Bend
Gadiel Ruiz Baneulos, 2 months, St. Adalbert
Kristin Borchers, 48, St. Adalbert
Richard Paczkowski, 96, St. Adalbert
Irene Pajakowski, 104, St. Adalbert

Rose Marie Kemp, 86, St. John the Baptist
Mary Ann Renner, 88, St. John the Baptist

A Culture of Life in Post-Dobbs America

Featuring a panel of distinguished speakers and
Special Guest Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 4 p.m.
Andrews Auditorium at Geddes Hall
Inspirational Speakers Planned for Upcoming Rekindle the Fire Conference for Men

BY BRIAN SAPP

It’s time for the men of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese and beyond to mark their calendars for the annual Rekindle the Fire Conference. Organizers say it’s one of the best lineups they’ve ever had.

Conference Chairman Barry Lamont said, “I have heard the comment ‘Wow, you have an all-star lineup!’ several times already. Chris Stefanick’s “Living Joy” talk will be so moving for the men. Jason Evert and Paul J. Kim are really going to get the men thinking about their manhood and how God has a plan for their life.”

In addition to this year’s speakers, Bishop Rhoades is back for his question-and-answer session hosted by Kyle Heimann, Chief Content Officer at Redeemer Radio. Lamont said he is excited about that and the extras they have planned for the men attending the conference. He said men will have the opportunity to go to confession throughout the day as well as Eucharistic Adoration.

According to Lamont, “This is truly an opportunity for conversions of heart for the men.” He said this year’s conference will have breakout sessions allowing men to hear the speaker of their choice twice. Father Stephen Felicichia, Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, and Father Daniel Koehl, Parochial Vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, will be the emcees of the event.

Chris Stefanick is an author, speaker, and TV host. He is Founder and President of Real Life Catholic, an organization started to inspire people to live a life with deeper faith. His recent book, “Living Joy”, will be the topic of his presentation. Jason Evert started Chastity Project with his wife, Crystalina, to help teens and young adults understand the power of chastity that leads to deeper love. Through his work, Evert has spoken around the world, written many books, and hosts the “Lust is Boring” podcast, where he talks with guests and answers listener questions about God’s plan for human love.

Paul J. Kim has been speaking to audiences for the past decade. He said he uses his talents for comedy and music to bring his audiences to laughter as well as reflection and prayer, and to bring them closer to the Gospel Message of Christ. Kim is the author of “A Catholic Guide to Adulting” online course.

“Just say yes and give the Lord your yes,” Lamont has said to men considering attending the event. “You will not regret your decision. This year’s speakers are truly gifted. They are really going to captivate you with some of the best content in our 14 years.”

Krider added that if you’re on the fence, “I get that. I was. But this is the most friendly and comfortable conference I have ever attended. It is spread out and there are no requirements for participation. Pray about it and don’t overthink it.”

Tickets can be purchased at Rekindlethefire.net. The cost is $30 for high school and college students, and $60 for everyone else. Anyone who needs help getting a ticket can email rekindlethefiremen@gmail.com. Organizers are also asking men to bring donations of baby supplies to help the Women’s Care Center. They will also take up an offering to provide help to Hannah’s House during the conference.

BY BRIAN SAPP

Brian Sapp

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addresses the audience during the question-and-answer session of the Rekindle the Fire Conference in 2020.

Congratulations
to all newly ordained deacons of our diocese, especially Saint Joe faculty:

Andy Oross,'87
I Harry Verhiley
and alumni:

John Burzynski, '86
Tom Labuzienski, '69

Thank you for answering God's call!