

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Nation prays Holy Hours, Marches for Life



Joshua Schipper

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prays during a National Holy Hour for Life at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Greater Respect for All Human Life Focus of Holy Hour

BY NICOLE HAHN

Catholics across the country were encouraged by members of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to observe a nationwide prayer vigil from Thursday, Jan. 19 to Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life in post-Roe America.

At the request of representatives from the USCCB, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades hosted a Holy Hour on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne as part of the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

Here is the homily given by Bishop Rhoades:

Thank you for coming here to our cathedral for this Holy Hour for Life. Every year, the Church in the United States has a National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. The prayer vigil is also conducted in dioceses throughout our nation. And so tonight, we join in this vigil during this Holy Hour, to pray for life before Our Lord, the Author of Life, present before us in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Throughout the Bible, we

HOLY HOUR, page 3

South Bend March Brings Personal Testimony and More Than 600 Participants

BY PHIL NISWONGER

An overflow crowd filled the Knights of Columbus Hall for the preliminary presentation of the 50th anniversary of Right to Life Marches. Father Ryan Pietrocarlo, CSC, Pastor of St. Adalbert Catholic Church, gave the invocation to “share the gift of life” and “for people to cherish life.” Knights of Columbus Council President Steve Sommers stated that they have recently donated two baby boxes, an ultrasound machine for the Women’s Care Center,

and are filling trucks with baby supplies.

Overall, 64 million babies have been killed by abortion these past nearly 50 years, with more than 18,000 in Indiana alone and more than 350 in St. Joseph County in the last reporting year.

Anna, now a mother of four, gave her tear-filled testimony on how 20 years ago in her last year of college at the University of Wyoming, the nurse told her that she was pregnant and she

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had very few weeks to decide to terminate this unexpected pregnancy as a victim of date rape. Anna was shocked and initially angry at God for allowing such a thing to happen. She had been raised in a very strong and supportive pro-life Catholic family. In her anguish, she felt that God said: "But Anna, I do not make mistakes." She said that many in society would think that an abortion for this reason would be alright, but she knew that she would feel guilty all her life.

She gave birth one week after her graduation. The Women's Care Center gave her help with baby supplies, counseling, and post-partum assistance. Her son, Andrew, an Eagle Scout, honors graduate of Marian High School, and four-time record setter for Marian's Swim Team, is now a sophomore with a scholarship at Valparaiso University. He attends St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church near campus and is going again this summer on a mission trip.

Anna continued, "Pro-life is a matter of the heart. A baby's heart starts beating at 20 days and feels pain even earlier. Those in ICU may also be dependent upon life support ... for food and breathing ... like a baby in the womb, but they are still fully human. It is a black and white decision — the baby is a human life."

Then, from the Knights of Columbus Hall, about 400 people marched to the U.S. Federal Courthouse led by the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard to join 200 others. It appeared from their sounds that the 600 were far more joyful this year. Many passing cars and trucks responded in kind with their horns. Students from Cathedral School of St. Matthew, St. Thomas More Academy, and Holy Cross College added to the ranks of participants.

Two St. Matthew's students said, "All lives matter." A sophomore at St. Thomas More Academy said, "I support life at all stages of life." Philomena and John of Holy Cross College said that Life is a precious gift of God, and the children's souls are so loved by God that we need to cherish them all our lives too. A man from the Church of the Nazarene held a homemade sign that stated, "Babies are our Hope. Why damage our Hope?"

Larry Day of Holy Cross Catholic Church said that he has been in attendance for more than 20-years and supports the Right to Life because he supports life. Three women from Holy Family Catholic Church quoted their pastor, Father Glenn Kohrman, "We are here infinitely valuable, one-of-a-kind, a masterpiece, created by God for a mission." Eric Van Meter, with Knights of Columbus since 1994 and its Color Guard Coordinator, said that they are the right hand of the Church and support all life causes to the fullest financially and in prayer, especially the Women's Care Centers with the Knights of Columbus' ongoing 'We Care a Truck Load' program."



Photos by Phil Niswonger

More than 600 people gather at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in South Bend following the March for Life from the Knights of Columbus Hall on Friday, Jan. 20.



Students from Cathedral School of St. Matthew in South Bend hold signs supporting life as part of the March for Life on Friday, Jan. 20.



Mother of four, Anna, gives tearful testimony at the Knights of Columbus Hall in South Bend on Friday, Jan. 20, before the March for Life, about an unexpected pregnancy as a victim of date rape in college, how she chose life, and how grateful she was for the help she received after giving birth.

HOLY HOUR, from page 1

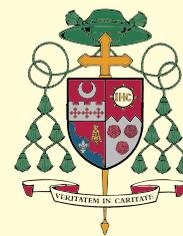
read passages which respectfully and lovingly speak of conception, the forming of life in the mother's womb, as the action of God our Creator. We heard in the reading tonight from the prophet Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you." The life of every individual, from its very beginning, is part of God's plan. Through the wise and loving action of our Creator, life unfolds in the womb in a marvelous process. How many of us know of the joy of expectant parents as they see ultrasounds of their unborn baby in various stages of growth? We believe in the value of life from its very beginning.

During this Holy Hour, we praise and adore our Lord. We thank God who knitted us together in our mother's womb, and who saw and loved us while we grew in that womb. Life is something beautiful. In every child who is conceived, we see the hand of our Creator. Human life is the pinnacle, the greatest marvel, of creation. We celebrate in every human being the glory of God since every human being is created in His image and likeness.

In our prayer tonight, we give thanks for the Dobbs decision of our Supreme Court,

the decision that reversed the unjust and immoral Roe v. Wade decision 50 years ago. But we know that abortion continues in our nation and that many states have enacted laws allowing legal abortion, while others, like Indiana, have enacted laws prohibiting abortion. Such laws protecting life have not yet been enacted due to judicial interventions, like here in Indiana. So, we continue to pray for legal protection for the unborn. At the same time, we need to pray for a new culture of life in our nation. Just legislation and just judicial rulings are important, however, we also know that the fundamental problem goes deeper. When so many of the electorate favor abortion, evident in the outcry this past summer against the Dobbs decision, we know that abortions will continue, even if they diminish in numbers. So, our pro-life efforts and our prayers must continue, especially for a change in culture. The great Pope John Paul II wrote and spoke often about the need to build a culture of life, one in which people come to see the incomparable and inviolable worth of every human life. This will require a real transformation in the way of thinking of millions of people in our country. This is a huge task for us as Christians. It involves not only political activity, but also education, formation of con-

sciences, and, most of all, our witness to the dignity of every human person. It involves our witness of love for pregnant women. It includes the many programs and works that support women in crisis situations, like we have here in our own diocese with Catholic Charities, Women's Care Centers, Hannah's House, and A Mother's Hope. The transformation of culture through the service of the Gospel of Life also includes prayer. Here before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament tonight, as we adore the Lord of life, we ask Him to pour out His grace upon us and upon our nation and world, the grace to change hearts and minds so that people will recognize the sanctity of life and the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life. Given the powerful resources of those promoting the culture of death, we should not be discouraged, because we have other means at our disposal to build a culture of life and love. We have prayer and the sacraments. We know we can rely on the help of God, for whom nothing is impossible. In silent prayer and adoration, we present to the Lord tonight our petitions for life, for expectant mothers and fathers, for our legislatures and courts, and for our nation. We pray for a new culture of life, a new culture of love and solidarity, for the true good of our society and nation.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, Jan. 30: 8 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 31: 12:05 p.m. – Month's Mind Mass for Pope Benedict XVI, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Feb. 2: 9:30 a.m. – Mass, St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka, and Pastoral Visit to Mishawaka Catholic School
- Friday, Feb. 3: 6 p.m. – Mass at Oratory of the Holy Spirit, Our Lady of the Road Center, South Bend
- Sunday, Feb. 5: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame



Priest Announcement

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

Reverend Dominic Savoie to Administrator, Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, effective January 16, 2023.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a
Month's Mind Mass
 for
Pope Benedict XVI
 Tuesday, Jan. 31
 at 12:05 p.m.
 in the
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

Indiana High Court Hears Abortion Ban Challenge Invoking 'Unwritten' Constitutional Right

BY NATALIE HOEFER

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) — The Indiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Jan. 19 on a case regarding Senate Bill 1, legislation enacted last August that provides sweeping protections for the unborn from abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and in particular medical circumstances where the mother's life is at risk.

The arguments addressed both a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers against the state's Medical Licensing Board regarding the constitutionality of SB 1, and a preliminary injunction on the law as a result of the suit.

The arguments hinged on the question of whether the Indiana constitution protects the right to abortion. The text mirrors that of the Declaration of Independence regarding the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Among those three rights, State Solicitor General Thomas Fisher focused on the word "life."

"Science tells us that abortion terminates the existence of a distinct, living human being with unique DNA," he said in his opening statement at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. "Ethics tells us not to end innocent human life."

Fisher noted the plaintiffs would "urge the Court to acknowledge a novel, unwritten, historically counter-indicated right to abortion" under the state constitution.

He said both the question of the preliminary injunction and the decision in the lawsuit could not be determined "without confronting that question" of whether such a right exists.

Representing the plaintiffs, Attorney Kenneth Falk of the ACLU said in opening remarks that the law injures the plaintiffs by prohibiting them "from providing necessary care to



OSV News photo/CNS file, Bob Nichols, The Catholic Moment

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., addresses marchers at the annual Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis on Jan. 24, 2022. The Indiana Supreme Court heard a challenge to the state's abortion law on Jan. 19, 2023.

protect the physical and mental health of all Hoosier women. It will severely injure women and girls."

Regarding the state's constitutional right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," Falk focused his arguments on "liberty."

That right "comports with the natural rights philosophy upon which our constitution is based. Liberty has meaning, and its core value is the right to manage the most private assets of our lives, free from unwarranted government interference. This includes the right of a woman to reproductive control."

Falk said SB 1 "invades the most private of spaces, where a private decision is and must be protected by liberty."

Regarding the life of the unborn child, Falk argued Indiana law has "never equated the life of the woman with the potentiality of the life that is the fetus." As to Fisher calling an unborn baby "a distinct, living human being," Falk labeled the

comment "more of an opinion than a statement of fact."

To define "life," he turned to the Indiana Criminal Code, which he quoted as identifying "a human being as an individual who is born and is alive."

Falk said, "Even under our tort law for wrongful injury or wrongful death where it's possible to get damages for injury or death to a fetus, the fetus has to attain viability."

At one point, Justice Christopher Goff suggested perhaps the people of the state should have a more direct say on the abortion issue.

"Why shouldn't there be a referendum and the question put to the people?" he asked. "Why should that end with the courts or the general assembly?"

Fisher noted that citizens "have plenty of places in the process. They've elected representatives who enacted this law. There's an amendment process to go through, and it's fully available. That's the system we have in Indiana. ... We have a process for [modifying the state Constitution], and that process needs to be respected."

The oral arguments lasted one hour. The justices will use those arguments and transcripts of the original hearing from the lower court to determine the case at an undisclosed time.

The case before the Indiana Supreme Court followed upon a flurry of legislative and judicial events last summer and fall, sparked by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* in June.

The Indiana legislature passed SB 1 in a special session on Aug. 5, 2022, with Gov. Eric Holcomb signing the bill into law the same day.

The law went into effect on Sept. 15. It makes performing abortions a felony at any stage of fetal development with the exceptions of rape and incest (up to 12 weeks of gestation), and fetal abnormalities or medical emergencies (up to 20-22 weeks).

In a Monroe County circuit

court on Aug. 30, the ACLU filed its suit against the law on behalf of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. On Sept. 22, just one week after the pro-life law went into effect, the judge issued a preliminary injunction, blocking the law until the case was decided.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita bypassed the state's appellate court and petitioned the Indiana Supreme Court to take up the case and to lift the preliminary injunction.

On Oct. 12, the high court agreed to hear the case, but left the injunction in place until it reached a decision following January's oral arguments.

Indiana is not the only state that has seen judicial activity on state abortion laws post-Dobbs.

Two rulings were announced on Jan. 5, one in South Carolina favoring abortion and one in Idaho favoring the protection of

unborn life.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster signed into law the Fetal Heartbeat Act on Feb. 18, 2021, restricting abortion after six weeks gestation. However, on Jan. 5, South Carolina's supreme court overturned the state law.

The same day, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled 3-2 to uphold three state laws prohibiting abortion, ruling the state's constitution provided no implicit right to abortion.

As with Indiana's SB 1 law, abortions in Idaho will be restricted to cases involving rape, incest, and saving a pregnant mother's life based on certain criteria.

Natalie Hoefler is a Reporter for The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



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Pro-life Legislation, Post-Roe Legal Challenges in Spotlight at Statehouse

The Indiana Statehouse remains a center of public policy debate after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* as lawmakers consider a wide range of new pro-life bills while the state Supreme Court weighs challenges to last summer's groundbreaking law that extended legal protection to unborn babies.

Indiana became the first state in the nation to enact a new law of this kind following a special legislative session from late July to early August that culminated in the passage of Senate Bill 1, which significantly limited abortion in Indiana. Later known as Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 1, the law went into effect Sept. 15 but was almost immediately challenged in court by Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union.

On Jan. 19, the Indiana Supreme Court began hearings on the law — as elsewhere in the Statehouse lawmakers were starting to review newly introduced legislation on a broad variety of pro-life matters. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is closely monitoring developments in both branches of state government.

"We don't know when the Indiana Supreme Court will give its ruling, but we are hopeful that SEA 1 will stand," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "We pray for an ultimate decision that

will promote a culture of life and respect the dignity of the pre-born and their mothers."

Oral arguments on SEA 1 opened days before the 50th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision in January of 1973 that had declared a constitutional right to an abortion. That decision was overturned in June of 2022 with the high court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which returned regulation of abortion to the states and served as the catalyst for the last summer's special session of the Indiana General Assembly.

SEA 1, which was signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Aug. 5, banned both surgical and chemical abortions with some exceptions, including pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (within 10 weeks of fertilization), and in cases of lethal fetal anomalies or to save the life of the mother (up to 20 weeks post-fertilization).

In addition, the measure terminated the licensure of all abortion centers and required abortions to be performed in hospitals or surgical centers owned by hospitals. Historically, nearly all abortions in Indiana have taken place in abortion centers, such as those operated by Planned Parenthood. Enforcement of SEA 1 has been on hold pending the legal challenges by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers and advocates.

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

While the future of SEA 1 hangs in the balance, the ICC will focus on the 2023 legislative session now in full swing, continuing to serve as a voice for the unborn while also advocating for other key issues in the pro-life realm.

"We want people to remember that while there have been some gains since the *Dobbs* ruling, there is still much work to be done — and not only as it relates to abortion, but to the entire spectrum of life issues," Espada said. "We are encouraged by the number of bills that have been introduced so far this month to assist babies, mothers, and families."

This includes proposed bipartisan legislation for paid family leave and child tax credits — as well as child support and tax credits for the unborn.

Senate Bill 319, authored by Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington), establishes that an unborn child is considered a dependent child and, therefore, eligible for a tax exemption. Meanwhile, Rep. Elizabeth Rowray (R-Yorktown) has introduced House Bill 1009,

which would allow a child support order to include the period dating from the conception of the child.

Sen. Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington) has authored Senate Bill 255, which would provide a tax credit for child and dependent care for Hoosiers earning less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. A similar measure, Senate Bill 238, is backed by Sen. Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis).

In addition, proposed legislation promoting universal child care and pre-kindergarten education has been introduced by Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis). Among other provisions, Senate Bill 471 would provide tax credits for employers who provide child care for their employees.

These efforts follow the second key outcome of last summer's special legislative session — providing Hoosiers with relief from soaring inflation. That included the allocation of \$45 million to support pregnant women, postpartum mothers, babies, and families.

Fiscal concerns will top the agenda for this long session of the General Assembly, held every two years and culminating in passage of the state budget, likely in late April or early May.

For the ICC, measures that support babies, mothers, and families are of paramount importance, in line with the

long history of Catholic social teaching. Protecting the most vulnerable and affirming human dignity from conception to natural death will remain the most pressing of the Church's priorities, according to Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC.

For example, another measure that the ICC will support in this legislative session concerns the dignified handling of the remains of a baby lost through miscarriage. House Bill 1058, introduced by Rep. Randall Frye (R-Greensburg), would establish that a health care facility may transfer the remains of a miscarried child to a nonprofit organization that provides funerals, cremations, or burials.

"The Church's social doctrine insists on the profound dignity of the human person, a principle that guides the ICC's policy work," Mingus said. "Of the many bills filed this session, we will work to support the policies that affirm this dignity and provide material support for mothers and families."

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Vatican Funding for Charitable Works Totals \$10.7 Million in 2022; \$2.2 Million Alone Goes to Needs in Ukraine

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine (OSV News) — The Vatican Dicastery for the Service of Charity, led by Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, spent \$2.2 million in 2022 for humanitarian help in Ukraine. “Another 2 million (euros) is waiting in reserves for that purpose, since the war is still going on, and people are a bit more tired with providing help in any long-term conflict,” said Cardinal Krajewski, the Papal Almoner. The Vatican funds have been used for food, arts and language classes for children affected by war, and diesel to run power generators. Another \$8.5 million worth of help — either in supplies or money — was distributed by the Dicastery for the Service of Charity in 2022 for medical supplies, food, sanitation, and lodging for people in need around the globe. With \$2.2 million distributed in Ukraine, distributions total \$10.7 million for charitable help in 2022.

Scottish Church Condemns Government’s ‘Gender Obsession’ after Rare Reform Veto

EDINBURGH, Scotland (OSV News) — A spokesman for Scotland’s Catholic Church has welcomed the British government’s veto of legislation allowing teenagers to change their sex on legal documents via a simple self-declaration, and criticized Scottish politicians’ “obsession with gender politics.” “We didn’t support this bill, and we were against clauses which have now been questioned by the UK government,” said Peter Kearney, Director of the Church’s Catholic Media Office. “There’s no reason to think Catholics in Scotland don’t share the opinion of the wider public, most of whom are uncomfortable and unhappy with the measure. The fact it’s been stopped, no matter by whom, is something the majority will welcome.” In a Jan. 18 interview with OSVNews, he said surveys suggested most Scots opposed the bill, which would also reduce the waiting time for a gender change from two years to three months, and would lose interest as it became mired in rival court actions. The bill, passed in the Edinburgh parliament on Dec. 22 by 89 votes to 39, allows Scottish residents to change their legal sex from age 16, without consulting a doctor or obtaining a gender dysphoria diagnosis, through a Gender Recognition Certificate

Mass Shooting at California Club Leaves 10 Dead



OSV News photo/Mike Blake, Reuters

Police officers guard the crime scene in Monterey Park, Calif., on Jan 22, 2023, following a shooting that set off a manhunt for the suspect in the nation’s fifth mass killing this month. The shooting left at least 10 people dead and 10 others injured late on Jan. 21, in a neighborhood where thousands attended festivities on the eve of Lunar New Year.

overriding the sex recorded on birth and marriage documents.

Ukrainian Archbishop, Ukraine’s First Lady Discuss War, Trauma, Forgiveness During World Economic Forum

DAVOS, Switzerland (OSV News) — At the World Economic Forum, Ukraine’s first lady Olena Zelenska and Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop Borys Gudziak of Philadelphia discussed the physical, psychological, and emotional trauma of war, forgiveness, and their dreams for Ukraine’s future. The panel discussion with Archbishop Gudziak was hosted by Ukraine House Davos in collaboration with the Jan. 17 “Ukraine Is You” project. Zelenska explained the war is teaching Ukrainians to value every life, because “tomorrow we might lose our nearest and dearest, so we must give them our care and love today.”

Archbishop Borys Gudziak said Ukraine’s courage and resilience are rooted in and inspired by Catholic social teaching. He hoped Russians will renounce imperialism and understand soon that “the God-given dignity of Ukrainians is something they will defend to the last drop of blood.”

Experts: Mental Health Ministry a Dire Need Across the U.S. Church

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — During the six months following the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline launch in July, more than two million calls, texts, and chat messages have streamed into its 200 call centers coast-to-coast, the Associated Press recently reported. As suicide continues to be a leading cause of American deaths, Catholics may also turn to their church for spiritual support in the midst of a mental health episode — but dioceses are dis-

covering they need to sprint to catch up and keep pace with this deadly epidemic. According to The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, mental health ministry is a needed complement to the work of mental health professionals. Already 40 out of 196 U.S. dioceses have a mental health ministry. “This is a brand-new ministry in the church,” Deacon Ed Shoener, President and Founding Member of The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, told OSV News. “And I think it’s growing fairly rapidly for a new ministry like this, in a very ancient institution.”

Long Homilies Are ‘A Disaster,’ Keep It Under 10 Minutes, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lengthy, abstract homilies are “a disaster,” so preaching should be limited to 10 minutes, Pope Francis said. Speaking off the cuff to diocesan liturgical

directors on Jan. 20, the pope said homilies are not academic conferences. “I sometimes hear people say, ‘I went to this parish, and yes it was a good philosophy lesson, 40, 45 minutes,’” he said. Pope Francis encouraged priests to keep their homilies to “no more than eight to 10 minutes” and always include in them “a thought, a feeling, and an image,” so that “the people may bring something home with them.” Homilies are “sacramentals” to be “prepared in prayer” and “with an apostolic spirit,” he said. But, in the Catholic Church, he said, “in general, the homilies are a disaster.” The liturgical directors were in Rome to participate in a formation course on liturgy, “Living Liturgical Action Fully,” at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. Pope Francis also warned against the liturgical master of ceremonies assuming too central a role during Mass. “The more hidden a master of ceremonies is, the better,” he said. “It is Christ that makes the heart vibrate, it is the meeting with Him that draws in the spirit.” Beyond a “deep knowledge” of religious celebrations, the pope said that experts on liturgy must have a strong pastoral sense to improve a community’s liturgical life, and that religious celebrations must foster the “fruitful participation of the people of God” and not just of the clergy.

At American Indian Catholic Schools, Faith and Culture Unite to Help Students ‘Be Like Jesus’

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (OSV News) — Throughout the past several decades, Catholic faith and Indigenous cultures have become deeply intertwined at American Indian Catholic schools in the U.S. While such schools were often initially founded in the 19th and 20th centuries to both convert and colonize — St. John Paul II and his successors have condemned the colonizing of peoples as incompatible with the church’s evangelizing mission — greater integration of Native culture and leadership is forging a new identity for these schools. As the Catholic Church moves into “an era of accountability” for past abuses in educating Indigenous peoples, Native educational leaders such as Deacon Don Blackbird, Principal of St. Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Nebraska, remain committed to a bright vision for their schools’ future. “God reveals himself more fully in the beauty that is present in other cultures and languages,” Deacon Blackbird, a member of the Omaha Tribe, told OSV News. “That’s what Catholic education looks like here.”

'We Are Not Yet Done': March for Life Holds First National Event After Overturn of Roe v. Wade

BY KATE SCANLON

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Tens of thousands of pro-life advocates descended upon the nation's capital for the 50th March for Life on Jan. 20 — the first national march since the overturn of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that initially prompted the annual demonstration.

Standing on the event stage at the National Mall, with the U.S. Capitol visible in the background, Jeanne Mancini, March for Life President, told attendees at a rally prior to the march that "the country and world changed" when Roe was reversed in June of 2022. But she said the annual March for Life would continue in Washington, D.C. until abortion is "unthinkable."

"While the March began as a response to Roe, we don't end as a response to Roe being overturned," Mancini said. "Why? Because we are not yet done."

The march took place on a sunny and unseasonably warm day in Washington, D.C. A headcount of attendees was not immediately available, as the National Park Service does not release crowd size estimates.

The national March for Life first took place in Washington, D.C. in 1974 in response to the Roe decision legalizing abortion nationwide the previous year. The protest has taken place in Washington, D.C. each year since, with a smaller-in-scale event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

The 2023 event was the first national March for Life since the high court's June 2022 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that overturned Roe and returned the matter of regulating or restricting abortion to state legislatures.

At the pre-march rally, the Christian band "We Are Messengers" performed, followed by a number of speakers, including Jonathan Roumie, known for his role as "Jesus" in the television series "The Chosen," former Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy, Democratic Connecticut State Rep. Trenee McGee, and Gianna Emanuela Molla, the daughter of St. Gianna Beretta Molla. Canonized in 2004, St. Gianna gave her life for Giana Emanuela, choosing to move forward with her fourth pregnancy even after doctors discovered a tumor in her uterus.

Molla told the rallygoers that she thanks her "saint mom" for the gift of life. "I would not be here now with all of you if I had not been loved so much," she said.



OSV News photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

Supporters of legal abortion and pro-life demonstrators hold signs outside the U.S. Supreme Court during the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20, 2023, for the first time since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade abortion decision.

Roumie took a picture of the crowd behind him from the stage, telling marchers to tag themselves on social media, and quipping he is the "TV Jesus," not the real one.

"God is real and He is completely in love with you," he said, adding that each person is individually loved by God.

"Remember my dear friends, we know how the story ends: God won," Roumie said.

The rally also featured some lawmakers from the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, a Catholic Republican and Co-Chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said at the rally, "Future generations will someday look back on us and wonder how and why a society that bragged about its commitment to human rights could have legally sanctioned" abortion.

"The injustice of abortion need not be forever, and with your continued work and prayers, it will not be," Smith said.

Prior to speaking to the sea of pro-life marchers on the National Mall, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who argued the Dobbs case before the Supreme Court, told OSV News that "empowering women and promoting life" were the next steps post-Roe.

"Some of the things that we're talking about in Mississippi and promoting legislation on are workplace flexibility options, particularly for mothers," she said. "We lose young mothers because they don't have any options. They don't have that flexibility. We've got to have childcare. It's got to

be affordable, accessible, and quality."

Fitch said she wants to see the pro-life movement do "some heavy lifts" to push laws enhancing child support enforcement and reforming the adoption or foster care systems.

"(These systems) are failing our children; they're broken," Fitch said. "We've got to make those (changes) happen and put those children in these loving families."

Speaking with OSV News at the march, Kristan Hawkins, President of the pro-life group Students for Life of America, said the next front of her organization's activism will focus on fighting the spread of medication abortion. Hawkins said the pro-life movement should also focus on broadening the social safety net and its remaining goals at the federal level, such as stripping Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest single abortion provider, of taxpayer funds.

"We're walking and running and chewing gum all at the same time," she said.

"There is a lot for us to do as a nation, especially raising awareness among its citizens," Isalyn Aviles Rodríguez, who came to the march from Miami, told OSV News. Rodríguez said she was motivated to march because "the nation needs to know that children are part of God's plan from conception until natural death."

As in prior years, the March drew teenage advocates for life as well. Angeline Moro, 14, from Trenton, New Jersey, attended the event to learn how to raise her voice in defense of

the most vulnerable.

"We all need to have a chance to live," Moro said.

At various events leading up to the march, pro-life advocates joined together in prayer and solidarity.

At the Jan. 19 opening Mass for the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life, the night before the march, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, said in his homily that the pro-life movement has "much to celebrate" because Roe v. Wade "is no more."

But, he added, a "new important phase" for the cause of life "begins now."

"Our efforts to defend life must be as tireless as ever" not only to change laws but also hearts "with steadfast faith in the grace and power of God to do so," said Bishop Burbidge, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The event, held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., drew between 6,000 and 6,500 people, with most of the congregation filling the Great Upper Church. Dozens also viewed the Mass via screens in the lower level of the basilica.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S., read a message from Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, issued on behalf of Pope Francis, who imparted his blessing on all those participating in the March for Life.

"His Holiness trusts that Almighty God will strengthen the commitment of all, especially the young, to persevere in their efforts aimed at protecting human life in all its stages, especially through adequate legal measures enacted at every level of society," the message said.

The Mass was followed by a "Holy Hour for Life" at the basilica, which launched a series of Holy Hours of Eucharistic devotion throughout the night in dioceses across the country. Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services celebrated Mass at 8 a.m. on Jan. 20 to close the vigil.

Meanwhile, hundreds of teens and young adults from the Archdiocese of Washington gathered at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle for the Youth Mass of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Life, where homilist Father Robert Kilner of Solomons, Maryland, urged them to be "witnesses to life, witnesses to the truth that every life matters."

"Pray and be confident that God can and will do great

things," he said. "Witness by the way you love your family, and especially the smallest, and most helpless around you. Witness by your words in defense of the unborn, witness to God's mercy, inviting everyone back to the joy of confession."

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, D.C., the principal celebrant of the Mass, said it was "a special joy for me to be able to celebrate this Eucharist with you, our young, youthful, joyful, happy Church."

Across town, at the Entertainment & Sports Arena in the Congress Heights neighborhood, another new pre-march event welcomed a sold-out crowd of pro-lifers. Sponsored by the Sisters of Life and the Knights of Columbus, the early morning Life Fest drew some 4,200 people — most of them teens and young adults — for a program of prayer, worship music, and personal testimonies that concluded with Eucharistic adoration and Mass.

"The law has changed ... (but) hearts need to change toward advancing a culture of life in this nation," Sister of Life Mariae Agnus Dei told OSV News. "Some of the biggest battles are in front of us."

Celebrating "the gift of life and the beauty of the human person" is essential to that task, she said.

The thousands of attendees at these events then streamed into the National Mall, where they assembled at the noon rally and prepared to begin marching an hour later.

With the overturn of Roe, organizers had planned for a reworked march route, resulting in a new final destination: the East Front of the U.S. Capitol, symbolizing the movement's new goals. However, restrictions on the use of sticks for signage put in place by the U.S. Capitol Police after the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol resulted in the route instead passing by the West Front. For the 50th time, the national march ended in the same spot: before the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Morgan Ehlis, a student from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, told OSV News that being in Washington, D.C. with "like-minded people" was an "overwhelming experience."

"I'm grateful to be pro-life," said Ehlis. "It's swimming upstream for sure, but (this is a) big support group we have."

Kate Scanlon is a National Reporter for OSV News covering Washington, D.C. Julie Asher, Gina Christian, Marietha Góngora, and Kurt Jensen contributed to this report.

High School Diaconal Ministry a First for Diocese

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Two high school teachers made diocesan history when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ordained them to the permanent diaconate earlier this month. According to the bishop, the ordinations of Deacons Harry Verhiley and Andrew Oross marked the first time that diaconal ministry has been carried out at a diocesan high school.

Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, honored both deacons in a ceremony following Mass on Tuesday, Jan. 17. In a recorded message to the student body, Bishop Rhoades said that they will be able to “proclaim the Gospel, preach homilies, and minister at the altar during school liturgies.

“Most of their other diaconal ministries will be at their parishes, including celebrating baptisms, marriages, and funeral services. There are various diaconal functions, as you probably know: functions associated with their sacramental identity as servants — ‘diakonoï’ in Greek — exercising the ministry of the Word, service at the liturgy, and the service of charity.”

Bishop Rhoades mentioned that Deacon Oross has taught in the diocese for 31 years, including the last 20 years at St. Joseph. Deacon Verhiley has served the diocese for 22 years, including teaching the past five years at the high school.

“I am deeply grateful to them both,” he continued, “not only for their teaching, but for their example — their witness to the Gospel. And I am grateful to their wonderful wives, Teresa and Joanne, and their families.”

Saint Joseph High School Principal John Kennedy presented both deacons with community awards, saying that their new role takes “a tremendous abundance of dedication, time, effort, devotion, and prayer. They have each made a life commitment to be clergy in the Catholic Church, and this community now has two deacons in our theology department every day.”

In an interview, Deacon Verhiley said that his ordination changed some aspects of his role and methods as a teacher. While in the past students would ask him to pray for special intentions like familial issues or a sick relative, he has noticed an increase in these requests during the short time since his ordination on Jan. 7. He and Deacon Oross emphasized their new ability to bless their students, the former describing it as a “blessing for me as well.”

Sanctifying grace received from Holy Orders, too, now influences his teaching. “I think it’s not the approach or the lessons that change, but it’s Christ who works through me,” Deacon Verhiley said.



Photos by Joshua Schipper
Deacon Harry Verhiley, left, and Deacon Andrew Oross, right, distribute the Eucharist to students at Saint Joseph High School at a Mass that welcomed diaconate ministry to the school.

“Certainly, His Holy Spirit has worked through me as a theology teacher, but I’m very aware now, as a result of the sanctifying grace, that Christ is working through me.”

Outside of school, both deacons serve at parishes in South Bend. Deacon Oross spoke of one particular experience in the short time since his ordination. “My father died literally minutes after my first Mass as a deacon. Being with my mom, my siblings, and my nephews, and nieces as a deacon was a pretty special thing for them and me. For me, that’s immediately what has stood out. I did my dad’s vigil the night before I served at his funeral, and I did his committal at the cemetery. That’s definitely something I’ll never forget. But also, as a deacon, I led my family in prayer with my father’s body after his death. It was a very special thing for me to be able to bless my whole family in that moment.”

Both deacons also spoke of discernment. Deacon Oross recommends being open to what God is asking in particular, then looking at what other people are suggesting.

“And then definitely praying daily about God’s will for our lives, and then really being open to the possibility that God could be calling us to something more ... It’s like God is calling us to whatever vocation — He wants us to be happy — and He knows what will lead us to that happiness.”

Deacon Verhiley said that the number-one vocation for all Christians is a universal call to holiness, outlined by the Lumen gentium. “That’s the best start. If we could just draw ourselves as close to God as we’re capable of doing, God does the rest. Whatever our secondary vocation is from there, whether it’s married, single, religious life, or a call to the priesthood or the diaconate, then I think God will convey that to us.”



Tour of the Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García Part of Eucharistic Revival

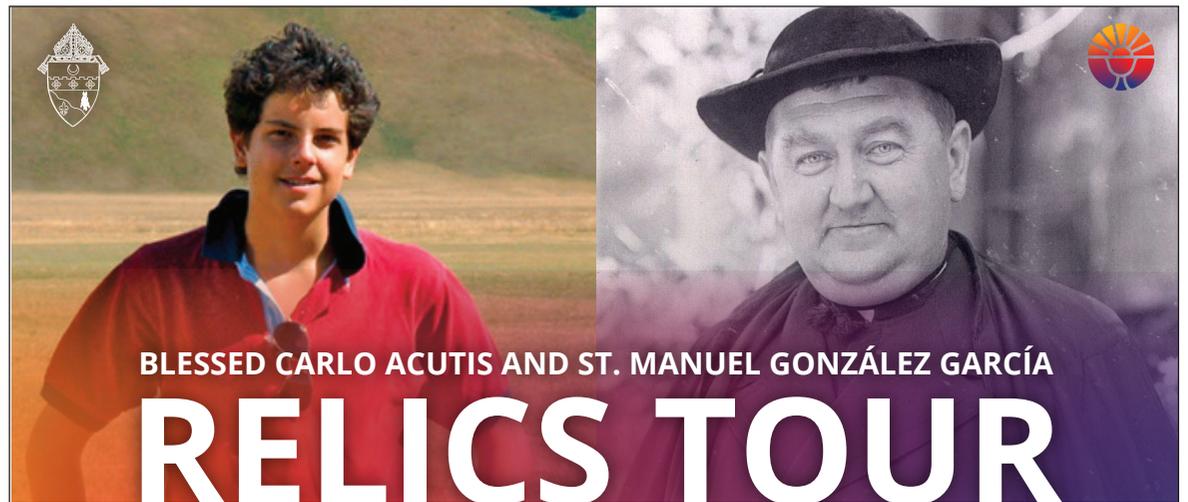
From Feb. 8 to Feb. 14, 2023, during this Eucharistic Revival, you are invited to visit one of many locations across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to venerate the first-class relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis

and St. Manuel González García, both of whom are renowned for their devotion to the Eucharist.

Please see the information below for more about the tour, the relics, and what to do when

visiting a relic.

You can also find more information about Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García at diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-relics.



WHAT IS A RELIC? A relic is a physical object associated with a saint, such as their hair or clothing. Relics are divided into three “classes,” according to the closeness of the object to the saint. Our diocese is blessed to have the “first class” relics, a piece of the bodily remains, of Bl. Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García. In venerating these relics, we remember the holiness of these men, ask their intercession, and invite God to help us grow in our faith through their example. God created humans with both body and soul so we can encounter heavenly grace through the physical world, such as in the sacraments. The bodies of the saints on earth were the living temple of the Holy Spirit and the instrument of their holiness. God continues to work through their relics until the final resurrection of the body.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I VISIT A RELIC? Simply allow your exterior posture to reflect your interior life in this moment. This could mean standing, sitting, or kneeling in prayer (genuflecting is reserved for the Eucharist) near the relics or in a pew, depending on how and where the relics are displayed in a particular church. Prayer cards of the two saints will be available to guide prayer as well. Below, find times when the relics will be on display for veneration as well as times when they will be present during Eucharistic Adoration and Masses.

8 FEB | ST. ADALBERT, SOUTH BEND
6-9 p.m. Relics present in church
6 p.m. Votive Mass (Spanish)
honoring St. Manuel González García.

9 FEB | ST. MATTHEW CATHEDRAL, SOUTH BEND
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Relics present in church
8:30 a.m. School Mass
5:30 p.m. Mass

10 FEB | ST. PIUS X, GRANGER
6:45 - 8:45 a.m. Relics present in chapel
6:45 a.m. Mass in chapel
8:45 a.m. – 9 p.m. Relics present in church
8:45 a.m. Mass in church
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Adoration in church

11 FEB | SACRED HEART, WARSAW
5-7 p.m. Relics present in church
4:30 p.m. Mass

12 FEB | SACRED HEART, WARSAW
7:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Relics present in church
8 a.m. Mass

12 FEB | OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, WARSAW
10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Relics present in church
10:30 a.m. Mass (Spanish)
6 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

13 FEB | ST. JOSEPH, FORT WAYNE
8:15 a.m. – 8 p.m. Relics present in church
8:15 a.m. School Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
6:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)
Eucharistic Adoration between Masses

14 FEB | ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, FORT WAYNE
8:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. Relics present in church
8:15 a.m. Mass in main church
1 - 6:30 p.m. Relics present in oratory
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Relics present in church
6:30 p.m. Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist
with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



MORE INFORMATION: DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/EUCHARIST-RELICS



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Do More with Less

BY KATIE MURRAY

For many parents, choosing a school for their children is a complex process.

There are numerous factors to take into consideration, such as what type of education their child will receive at one school versus another, what specialty classes are offered, and the culture of the school. Most importantly, parents analyze the type of environment they would be putting their child in, and how the school will meet their needs so they can excel in their academic and personal growth.

Though Catholic schools may not receive the funding that is provided to their public counterparts, they do have just as much to offer, if not more. They have a unique advantage compared to anywhere else: community. The saying “It takes a village” holds true when it comes to

providing students the tools and resources they need to succeed in their academics and personal enrichment — and the community within the schools and parishes come together to do just that. Jason Schiffli, Principal of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, has observed this first-hand throughout his 28 years in education. “Catholic schools have learned to be frugal over the many years they have been in existence. The teachers are very creative and resourceful ... [they] have become experts at stretching the dollar and asking for donations,” said Schiffli. The community within and around Catholic schools is like no other. Of the students who attend, most are second-, third-, or even fourth-generation attendees. “Whenever there is anything we need or need fixed, I am confident I can turn to our loyal alumni and current families for help,” said Schiffli.

While it is most important that Catholic schools succeed in producing academically strong students, it is fundamental that they produce *spiritually* strong students. Yes, having up-to-date technology, meticulously maintained facilities, and having the right amount of staffing are all tangible factors to academic success. However, students are more likely to succeed when they are in an environment that is inclusive and familial. Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne, though smaller than its sister schools in the diocese, makes a monumental impact in the lives of its students and families every day. “[We] provide a caring love for every single student,” said Principal Stanley Limpanoga. “It’s a holistic approach. When a student is having a bad day, we see that

DO MORE, page 10



Students at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne celebrate Mass together inside the school.



Mrs. Megan Berghoff reads to the kindergarten class at Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne.



Resource Teacher Mrs. Darcy Quinn works on homework with two students at Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne.

DO MORE, from page 9

and we come together to help that student in any way we can. We're like a family. We help each other." This holistic approach is what helps students to become resilient, confident, and grow in their faith. Having that sense of community is what builds spirituality.

Schiffli sees this within the culture of Bishop Dwenger as well. "[Our] staff work tirelessly every day with students who need their help. They never complain because they genuinely serve their vocation as an act of love."

This care and support for each student is unique in and of itself because Catholic schools are centered around providing a Christ-like educational experience. Teachers and staff emulate Christ and His teachings through every interaction, which makes for a more positive academic experience for students. Heather Sorg, Enrichment Teacher at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Catholic School in Fort Wayne, said, "Catholic education is great because we are able to talk about Jesus, go to Mass, incorporate faith into our lessons, and pray with our students. Jesus is the reason for our school." These shared experiences make way for opportunities for students to exercise what they learn and to apply them to real-world experiences.

Catholic schools do not fall short of their public counterparts. If anything, they have more resources and offer more out of their curriculum. They utilize funds they are given from the state, private scholarships to help families pay tuition, and donations from attending families, alumni,



Junior high students from Most Precious Blood Catholic School pray together before the altar at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

and parishioners. Some schools even share teachers and combine sports teams. Most Precious Blood pairs up with Queen of Angels Catholic School in Fort Wayne to ensure there is an opportunity for their students to play football. They also share their art teacher with St. Therese Catholic School in Fort Wayne to ensure all students have the chance to learn art and have an outlet for self-expression as in any other school.

For parents considering sending their child to a Catholic school, Schiffli said, "Catholic schools produce young people who are more civically engaged and more committed to charities and service organizations that improve a community. They are critical thinkers, resilient, and understand the importance of family and the power of prayer."



Father Bill Kummer and Mrs. Judy Prince pose with 3rd-grade Honor Students from St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Catholic School in Fort Wayne in front of the altar inside the church.



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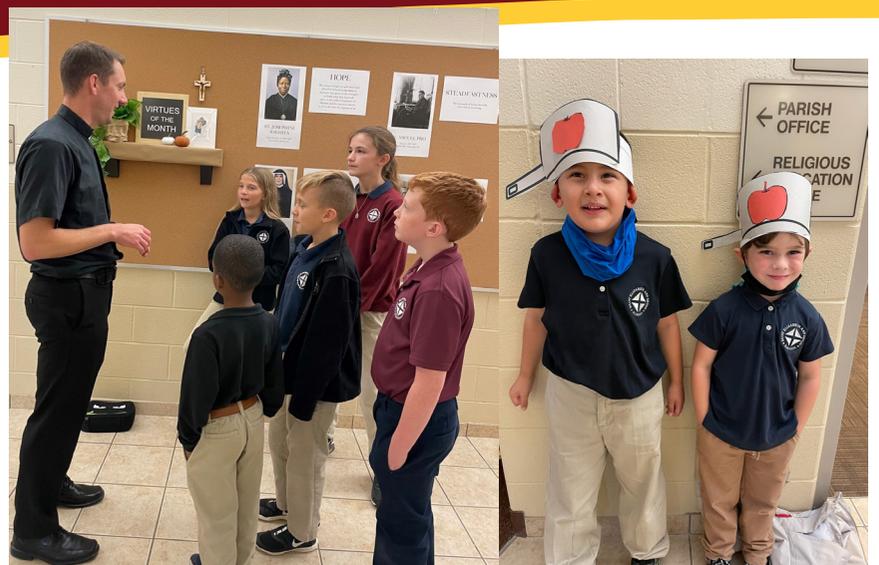
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Cathedral School of St. Matthew Students Meet to Work on Becoming Saints

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

When Campus Minister John Fyrqvist asks the 50 second, third, and fourth grade students who come to the after-school Chiara Luce Badano Club at Cathedral School of St. Matthew in South Bend, "Why are we here?", their answer is loud and enthusiastic. "To become saints!"

The club was the brainchild of a fourth-grader, Lucy Lauck. In second grade, Lucy was already meeting with some of her friends to say the rosary during recess. Although there were many extracurricular opportunities for middle school students, she thought primary students too should be able to grow their faith. This fall, she approached Principal Sister Gianna Marie Webber, OSF. Always eager to foster faith formation in her students and deepen the school's Catholic identity, Sister Gianna Marie invited Lucy and her friend Adelynn Triest to brainstorm with Fyrqvist. That's the genesis of the club.

They met for an hour after school every Monday during the fall semester. Rather than



Faculty Advisers assist students in the Chiara Club at Cathedral School of St. Matthew in South Bend in making rosaries to use for praying the rosary together after school.

Photos provided by Jill A. Boughton

starting big and losing momentum, the gathering consistently drew 40 or 50 students, about half of those enrolled in those grades. Faculty advisers include Mrs. Mary Lauck, Ms. Gisella Mancini, and Mrs. Kathy McMillen, who teach those three grades. There are also middle school helpers. The focus is Marian, although other saints are presented and invoked, especially on their feast days.

Lucy says one of her objectives was to learn more about Blessed Chiara Luce ["Clear Light"] Badano, who died of a rare bone cancer as a teenager in 1990. As a young girl, Chiara gave many of her favorite things to the poor. She joined the Focolare movement when she was only 9; its founder, Servant of God Chiara Lubich, gave her the middle name Luce in recognition of the light the older Chiara saw radiating from her. Members of the Chiara Luce Badano Club have written a play about her which they hope to present to the whole school during the second semester.

CHIARA, page 15

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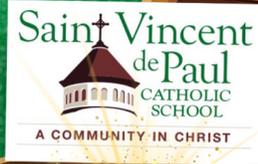

Most Precious Blood Alumni for updates



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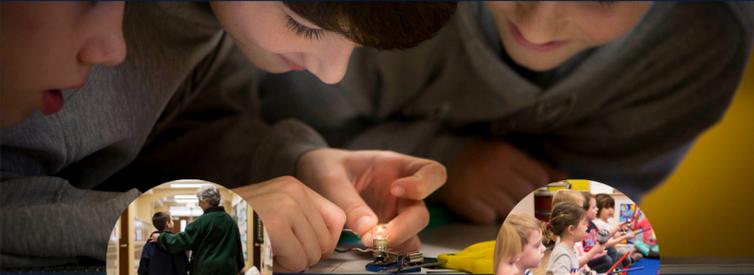


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CHIARA, from page 12

Besides praying together, members of the Chiara Club have made their own rosaries and participated in Living Rosaries, where each is assigned one of the mysteries to pray every day. Their pastor, Father Terry Fisher, blessed the rosaries, and students also got to touch them to a relic of the True Cross. They've held a baby shower for Mother Mary, with items donated to the Women's Care Center. For the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the older students acted out the story of Juan Diego's encounter with the Virgin Mary. They hope to learn about and present other Marian apparitions from different parts of the world. Intercessory prayer is another focus, with petitions ranging from the war in Ukraine to the recovery of ailing relatives.

Lucy, the oldest of five daughters of Anthony and Mary Lauck, can't remember a time when she didn't pray the

rosary, which her dad helps keep track of on his phone. Besides grace before meals, her family prays the guardian angel prayer at bedtime, and she has now added a decade of the rosary, meditating on her particular mystery, the Nativity. After Mass every Sunday, the Laucks spend time with their Cavidini grandparents, which includes formal evening prayer. "My grandfather, John Cavidini, is really connected with God," Lucy testifies. Her godmother gave her a children's Bible for her birthday, and she often reads Gospel accounts to her younger siblings.

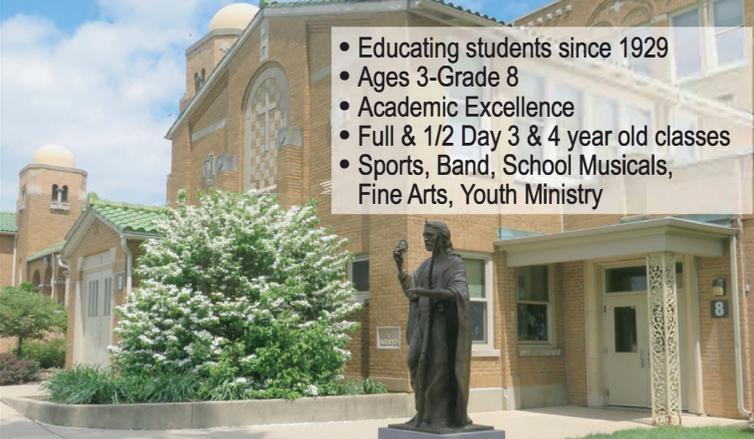
The Cathedral School of St. Matthew is unique in having a full-time campus minister as well as a part-time assistant, Paul Cline. Fyrqvist's other responsibilities include planning retreats, pilgrimages for each grade, and sacramental liturgies. Weekly clubs he advises for older students include St. Philip Neri Club, in which seventh- and eighth-graders combine faith forma-

tion and service in such ministries as Our Lady of the Road, and Young Vincentians, who help the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. Mission Fridays include time for adoration, sacred music, and faith sharing in small groups. Every grade has a time on Friday for adoration, and the whole school is present for Benediction at 2:30. As parish Director of Religious Education, Fyrqvist also instructs people — including grade school students — who want to enter the Catholic Church.

Because the faculty have other after-school responsibilities second semester, the Chiara Club will only be meeting once a month, but Fyrqvist is visiting every classroom to assess interest in lunch-time opportunities which may include learning Latin, a debate team, and a St. John Paul II acting troupe.

"I get to participate in such a joyful part of life at St. Matthew's!" exclaims Fyrqvist.

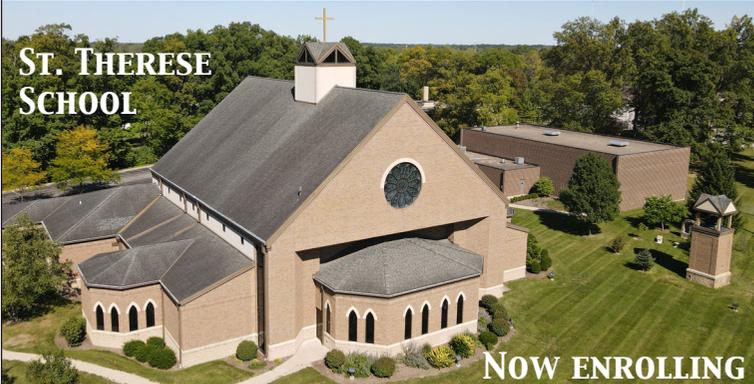
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Patrons and Friends

There's a standard plot device in romantic comedies called a "meet cute," wherein two people who will eventually become a couple first meet, usually under unusual, humorous, or otherwise cute circumstances. The whole plot of the Drew Barrymore/Adam Sandler movie *50 First Dates* is based on this meet cute trope, with the twist that one character is unable to create long-term memories, thus providing the occasion for multiple meet cutes — 50 of them, to be exact.

But this idea isn't just a fictional plot device: many real-world friendships grow out of cute or humorous circumstances. I met one of my longest-lasting and dearest friends, a saint, when another friend introduced me to her via a silly poem. We were heading to the Pike Place Market in my hometown of Seattle, a constantly-packed tourist attraction. As I turned the car into the narrow street running down the middle of the market, my friend blurted out, "Mother Cabrini, park our machine-y!" I started laughing at the silliness of her "prayer," but lo and behold, immediately a prime parking space opened up, right in the middle of the busy market.

Prior to her miraculous parking intervention, I knew very little about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who I later learned had made multiple visits to my hometown as part of her near-constant travel to minister to immigrants and the poor. To

my knowledge, she never drove a car, but she was well known (and feared) for her ability to get surprising results, whether to obtain a prime piece of property on which to build a hospital, or ask for a sizable philanthropic gift from a nonbeliever to underwrite a Catholic school. My own introduction to Mother Cabrini, meet cute that it was, quickly blossomed into a personal devotion that has lasted for decades. I've visited several of her shrines as I've traveled across the country over the years, I've shared her story in writing and on the radio, and I consider her not just a personal patron, but a true friend.

Patron saints are the heavenly friends associated with places, professions, or activities, sometimes as a result of the saint's own personal biography, other times due to a presumed interest, or even by popular acclaim. Sometimes these patronal connections are, like a meet cute, unusual or humorous. St. Lawrence, for example, was a 3rd-century deacon of Rome who was arrested during the persecutions under the emperor Valerian. He was sentenced to be burned to death, and as he was roasting on the grate, legend says that he told his executioner, "You can turn me over, I'm done on this side." Accordingly, the Church has honored St. Lawrence as patron of both cooks and comedians. If I ever open my own BBQ restaurant, I'll call it "Larry's Ribs" and see how many people make the connection.



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

I have a good friend who manages a scenic railroad. He acquired a new railcar, and asked me who the patron of railroads was, as he was looking for a unique name to give the car. My (perhaps inadequate) research suggested that there is not yet an officially-declared saint of railroads, but I proposed to my friend that he should name the railcar after St. Eligius of Noyon, a 7th-century French bishop who had been a metalworker and maker of horseshoes prior to his ordination. My reasoning was that steam trains were often called the "iron horse," and as St. Eligius was already officially patron of metalworkers and horses (and Britain's Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers), it stood to reason that he'd be a good fit. I haven't yet sent my idea to the Vatican for review, but if it happens, you'll read it here first!

St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists, was famous for his ability to communicate the truths of the faith with charity. Each year on his

HALLENIUS, page 17

It is Good to Let the Jeering Skulls Laugh

Like St. Teresa of Avila, I have a skull on my desk. Two, actually — one plain and one riotously decorated in green and purple. I think they're funny; they remind me not to take myself, or the world, too seriously. When I have tied myself into knots due to some perceived weakness, or spent more than a minute brooding because I feel ignored, the skulls jeer at me with all of their teeth and whisper from the prophet Isaiah, "All flesh is grass ... The grass withers, the flower fades" (Is 40:6-7).

In our high-stimulus society, keeping to an "all flesh is grass" philosophy can bring balance and perspective. It's of a piece with something I've read about St. Bernadette Soubirous: When an exalted sister within her community would disparage the visionary of Lourdes due to her lack of stature or her poor education, Bernadette would say, "Move along, creature," to herself, as well as to her tormentor. "Only Christ matters."

"Move along, creature" is, like the smiling skulls — a fine way of reminding ourselves not to invest too much into our hurt feelings or our offense-taking. It reminds us that passing human stupidities and insults (I am redundant) ought not to command too much real estate in well-grounded souls. Social media has conditioned us to believe that everything we do,



GUEST COMMENTARY

ELIZABETH SCALIA

everything we think, every bit of umbrage we feel, and every thoughtless slight offered by some stranger at a distant keyboard must be marked and then responded to by others — voted up or down in the virtual circus of chaotic consensus through which we waste so much time.

We moderns do take ourselves very seriously. We bore others with details of our diets; we fret over our retirement planning or our workout schedules. How much is too little, how much is too much? Will any of this ever be enough?

There is nothing wrong with wanting to be fit, or to plan for some future day when (with any luck) all the workouts and investments have paid off and you're ready to slow into retirement. But while we're doing all that, it's worth recalling a wry old Jewish maxim: "You make plans; God laughs."

All our efforts to last another day, or decade, and to live in

SCALIA, page 17

If You Remain Faithful, God's Protection Will Prevail



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 5:1-12a

The first biblical reading this weekend is from Zephaniah. These details are known about this prophet. He was the son of Cushi and a descendant of Hezekiah, presumably King Hezekiah, who reigned as king of Judah, the southern Hebrew kingdom centered on Jerusalem, from 715 B.C. to 687 B.C.

Royal ancestry is important. If indeed Zephaniah descended from a king, he may more easily have had access to the royal court and consequently more familiarity with the politics of his day.

Whatever the exact timeframe and circumstances in which this prophecy was written, the plight of the Hebrews, both those in the kingdom of Judah and those in the northern kingdom of Israel, was uncertain. The two kingdoms were insignificant and weak. They were easy prey for their mightier neighbors, and as history unfolded, powerful neighbors repeatedly overran them.

The prophets, Zephaniah included, saw the peril facing the Chosen People not so much because of policies for conquest of hostile neighboring powers, but rather because of the people's sin.

Sin was the root of all problems. If the Chosen People would remain faithful, regardless of whatever, God's protection would prevail.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the next reading this weekend. The reading presents to us a paradox. The weak will be exalted. The mighty will be laid low. This paradox is deep and profound, teaching us a fundamental fact of life, but it runs utterly

counter to the human presumption of reality. So, we cannot judge our lives, or the world, by earthly, human standards, but only by Jesus.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend offers us the Gospel of St. Matthew, and its presentation of the Beatitudes.

(Among the Synoptic Gospels, Luke also has a version of the Beatitudes, only slightly differing from that given in Matthew. Mark does not include the Beatitudes.)

These verses are very reminiscent of the Psalms. This fact seats them very much in the history of God's People, and in the People's experiences. It places them in the historical unfolding of Revelation.

Always strong in the Old Testament was the hope that one day God would lead the People into life in a wonderful kingdom, where God would reign, and in which peace, love, and justice would prevail.

The Beatitudes describe what such a kingdom would be. They give the same viewpoint as that of First Corinthians. The

Beatitudes reveal the rewards that await the good. In God's kingdom, reality, not human hunches, or fleeting satisfaction, abide.

Reflection:

The readings for this weekend, culminating in the Beatitudes, both celebrate the revelation of God to us, bringing us genuine wisdom about life, and challenge us to be strong and active witnesses to Jesus and to the truth of the Gospel.

Zephaniah builds the case that living without regard for God reaps the whirlwind. Paul adds another lesson. The judgments of the world are unsure if not altogether false — always. If we follow the world's assessment of things, we at best dance on the edge of the cliff.

The Beatitudes reveal to us the joy and perfection of life with God, and by inference, they summon us to do our part in redemption. This summons applies to us personally and collectively. We must accept the Lord, the Son of God, the Redeemer, born of Mary at

Christmas, seen as God at the Epiphany, the Savior manifested at the Baptism of the Lord.

We are called upon to live the Gospel in our lives, in all that we do, and thereby bring love, justice, and hope into the world.

Lent is not long away. The Church gently guides us to question ourselves, to learn of Jesus, for our own good, for the good of the world.

READINGS

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 Ps 146-150
1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26-28,
30-32 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15
Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10
Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Friday: Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21
Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

On Snow and Silence: Learning to Listen in a Noisy World

I have loved photography for years. And I think I finally found my niche: snow photography. Every time it snows — which is frequent here in Minnesota — I grab my phone, slip into my boots, and start snapping.

Some prefer their trees laced with pink apple blossoms or blazing with red maple leaves. Me? I'll take an evergreen drooping with snow.

A fresh snow renders the world new again, lifting a two-dimensional scene into 3D, illuminating every branch on every tree. Had that underbrush been there all this time? Was the backyard always so dense and layered?

Purple shadows stripe the white canvas like strokes of watercolor paint.

Adding to the sense of mystery: the silence. There is a lull after a snowfall — before the snowplow grinds in, before shovelers and shoppers venture out, before a single footprint breaks its smooth surface. The world stands still.

And it is quiet.

This is nature's acoustics. It's not our perception, not simply a lack of traffic, the buzz of neighborhood activities brought to a halt. There's scientific proof that a few inches of freshly fallen snow absorb sound. Everything sounds muted, padded.

In our modern world, where it can be nearly impossible to turn off all the noise, this quiet feels like a gift from above.

St. John of the Cross said, "God's first language is silence."

This is how He first speaks to us — before the priest reaches the pulpit, before the tulips bloom, before the newborn cries.

But we cannot hear His voice if we don't intentionally seek out silence. It takes discipline to shut off the channels. Not all the noise is negative. But taken together, it is definitely too much.

If you want a fresh start this year, make space for silence. This is how life was intended — before busyness became a badge of honor, before the advent of social media, named after the noise they make: Twitter, TikTok. Every second filled with sound.

When silence washes over us, we can open our minds and hearts. What am I afraid of? What am I ignoring? What is God asking of me?

These questions can be uncomfortable. Quiet time helps us grapple with them.

I've recently taken up painting. I set up shop in our unfinished basement, spreading butcher paper across the ping pong table and playing the "Mamma Mia!" soundtrack.

At first it energized me. Then I switched to instrumental music, which felt better. Finally, I turned it off altogether, and that felt best of all. I could listen to the house — the steady hum, water whooshing through it, the groans and creaks. At times,



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

they were surprisingly loud. It almost felt like being in conversation with the house, learning it by listening.

Maybe we avoid silence because stimulation delays contemplation, because we fear emptiness. But silence is not empty or devoid. It contains layers of information — often subtler and richer.

I want these ordinary days to reflect my highest priorities. Setting aside my hunger for external validation will help me get there.

I'm planning to begin this new year by seeking quiet. I'm hoping it will help me connect to God and see the beauty in my midst. I want to operate with a sense of place: this groaning house, this patch of sunlight in the basement, that old oak at my side.

Whenever we get snow, I'll be out there, tiptoeing under the canopy of white — breathing in, looking up, listening for God's first language.

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

than disturbing us, that reality should help Christians embrace a daily mindset of pragmatic surrender. Yes, we are responsible for ourselves, for our families, our bodies, our neighbors. We are spirit and matter and so, to a point, material considerations do matter.

But our lives are brief ("our years are 70, 80 if we are strong" says Psalm 90), and our control is, in-part, illusory. St. Philip Neri reminds us, "All God's purposes are to the good," and they ultimately prove them-

selves to be right and just. We tend to forget that when we're stressing over schedules, taking our every mistake to heart, or letting someone else's rudeness ruin our day.

Which is why it is good to keep a smiling skull around — to help us laugh at ourselves as we remember that all flesh goes the way of the grass that fades and the flower that withers.

Elizabeth Scalia is the Culture Editor for OSV News.

Furthermore, everyone, whether professional journalist or merely a user of social media, should feel free to invoke the patronage of St. Francis de Sales to intercede for them as communicators. The saints can handle the workload, and they want to help bring us closer to Christ. As Saint Therese of Lisieux said as she lay dying, "I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth."

Who are your own heavenly patrons? Many of us bear the names of saints, either as our given names, or as a name we chose in the sacrament of

Confirmation. How much do you know about them? When did you last call upon them? And since we can never have too many friends, especially among the saints, who is the patron of your profession, your hometown, your parish, your hobby? Perhaps it's time to arrange your own meet cute, and discover a new friend in Christ.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 29, 2023

Matthew 5:1-12A

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: Teachings on the mountain. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWDS	MOUNTAIN	POOR
SPIRIT	KINGDOM	HEAVEN
MOURN	MEEK	INHERIT
HUNGER	THIRST	HEART
PEACEMAKERS	CHILDREN	OF GOD
PERSECUTED	UTTER	EVIL
REJOICE	REWARD	GREAT

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SEBASTIAN

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According to the many legends surrounding Sebastian, he was born in Gaul and raised in Milan. Though a Christian, he joined the imperial army at Rome about 283. He made converts of officials and jailers, effected cures and urged Christian prisoners to stay strong in their faith. He was named captain of the praetorian guards, but the emperor, upon finding out that he was a Christian, ordered his execution. Shot with arrows and left for dead, Sebastian survived and was nursed back to life. Later, he denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians, and the emperor had him beaten to death. A favorite subject of Renaissance artists, Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, soldiers, and athletes.

SCALIA, from page 16

relative comfort, are contingent upon controls that, ultimately, we do not possess. How often have we heard that someone who "did everything right" in terms of diet and exercise suddenly succumbed to a heart attack that came out of nowhere? How many stories can we recite about someone's life savings being lost to an unforeseen market turn?

Mostly, we are powerless over the vagaries of life. Rather

HALLENIUS, from page 16

feast, Jan. 24, the pope writes a message for the World Day of Communications. This year, Pope Francis reflects on the theme "Speak with the heart: Speaking the truth in love." In this age of social media, where we all have the ability (if we wish) to broadcast our unmediated thoughts and images via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, we should all take to heart the Holy Father's suggestion, inspired by the approach of St. Francis de Sales, to always speak the truth with love.

Mass Planned to Commemorate the 10-Year Anniversary of the Death of Bishop John M. D'Arcy

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

On Feb. 3, 2023, a special Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne in honor of the 10-year anniversary of the passing of former Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

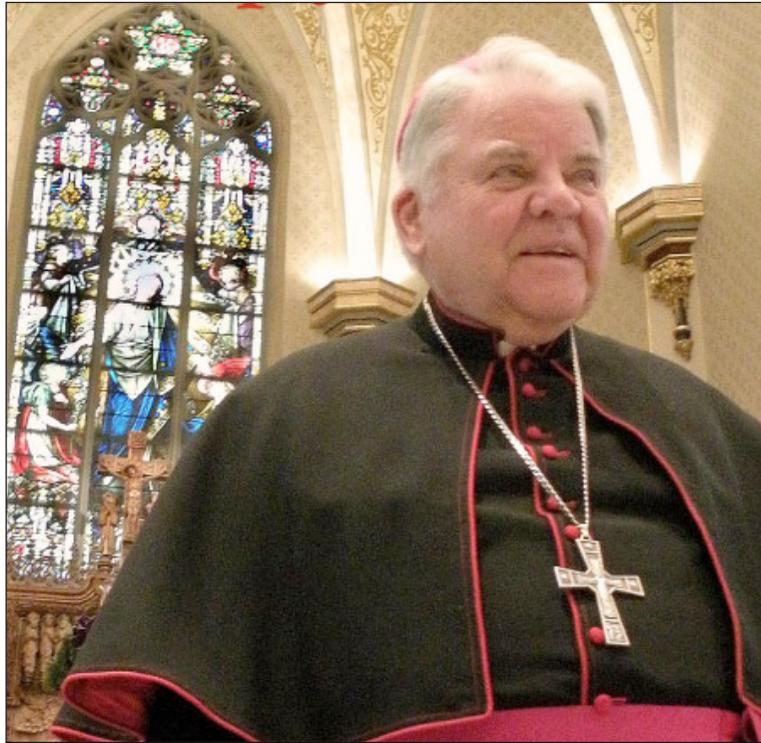
The idea of honoring the memory of Bishop D'Arcy in this way was initially brought forth by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, though he will be unable to celebrate the Mass personally on the exact date. Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will instead offer this Mass in the former bishop's honor.

Father Gurtner was accepted to seminary by Bishop D'Arcy and ordained to the priesthood by him in 1996. He further shared, "Bishop D'Arcy also served as my spiritual director, so I came to know him well. D'Arcy was a Boston Irishman, he was very serious as a bishop, but also quite lighthearted and could be really funny. His nature was very endearing to everyone."

Originally from Brighton, Massachusetts, John D'Arcy was born in 1932 and entered St. John's Seminary in 1949. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston in 1957 and later studied in Rome from 1965-1968, earning a Doctorate in Spiritual Theology from the Angelicum. He then returned to Boston and served the community there faithfully, including as Spiritual Director and Professor of Theology at St. John's Seminary. He was consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of Boston in 1975 and was appointed Vicar for Spiritual Development for the archdiocese, where he worked with determination to maintain the health of parishes, priests, and lay faithful.

It was during this time that Bishop D'Arcy on several occasions attempted to raise serious alarms about priests serving in the archdiocese who were engaging in inappropriate relationships with young boys. Unfortunately, his concerns and warnings were not acted upon with conviction and he was eventually reassigned here as the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1985.

His attempts to defend children and expose predator priests during the height of the abuse crisis eventually came to light in later years, vindicating him as one of the lone voices in the wilderness and one not afraid to disrupt the status quo if it meant protecting a life or saving a soul.



Today's Catholic File Photo

The 10-year anniversary Mass for Bishop John M. D'Arcy will be on Friday, Feb. 3, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 12:05 p.m.

As Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he continued to serve as he had in Boston, working to ensure the clergy was healthy so the parishes could thrive. Given the opportunity, both priests and laity alike expressed a desire to share fond memories of their former bishop.

Monsignor Michael Heintz, former Pastor of St. Matthew's Cathedral in South Bend, now serving as Academic Dean and Director of Intellectual Formation at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, knew Bishop D'Arcy well and had been the requested homilist for his funeral Mass in 2013.

When asked about what he had learned from the former bishop, Monsignor Heintz responded, "St. Jerome, known for being rather direct in his advice to others, in a letter to his friend the bishop Heliodorus, reminded him, 'a position of prominence in the Church does not the Christian make.' I first met Bishop D'Arcy when I was a 17-year-old senior at Marian High School. He accepted me as a seminarian and ordained me a priest. And in my years as a priest, I observed two fundamental traits of his character which demonstrated that he not only understood but embodied Jerome's advice. First, he had a profound understanding of and reverence for the office of bishop — rooted in his deep and obvious love for the priesthood — as a sacred, almost spousal, trust. And second, he was simultaneously and almost singularly devoid of pretense about or ambition for that office. He regularly and

repeatedly placed the good of the souls entrusted to his care before his own comfort, desires, or personal interest, and in this he was truly a model, not only for the flock, but perhaps especially for priests."

For Father Andrew Budzinski, Pastor of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, while much of his pastoral leadership was influenced by Bishop

D'Arcy's example and instruction, he remembers him most fondly as a father. He shared "one of my favorite memories is being with Father Drew Curry shortly before bishop was going to throw out a ceremonial first pitch at a baseball game and wanted some practice. So, together the three of us stood behind the Cathedral, playing catch in the backyard; a dad and his sons."

Christina Nicholson, a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, echoed these sentiments by sharing her personal experiences. She revealed, "Bishop D'Arcy was a dear and true friend. He helped me discern many things, including through struggles in my faith and prayer life in high school. He always pointed me to Christ and what truly matters: virtue and getting to Heaven. He was the prime example of the priesthood and the good shepherd that a bishop is called to be. He saw this diocese as his bride and he loved everyone in it. He was willing to lay down his life, to suffer, and to pursue virtue for her — for us. He embodied that, I know he was passionate about it, and I believe he accomplished that." Nicholson added, "when I was in college, Bishop D'Arcy was very instrumental in helping me discern my vocation to married life and I later ended

up coming to work for the diocese in the Office of Catechesis. While I am sad that he wasn't around to marry my husband Ben and me, it had been on my heart to name my first son after him, which we were blessed to do with the birth of Michael D'Arcy Nicholson on Easter in 2016. Afterwards, I was reminded that this had been bishop's father's name. He would always speak so lovingly and with such respect about his parents, so to inadvertently name my son after his dad was a special, unexpected gift."

Robert Kloska, a South Bend native and parishioner at St. Matthew's Cathedral, likewise shared his gratitude for the bishop, saying, "I loved Bishop D'Arcy. I'll always remember how thoughtful and attentive he was when I was going through several bouts of cancer. He inquired about my situation constantly and even called my wife out of the blue to see how she was doing while I was on the ropes in the hospital. That was very touching and I'll forever be grateful for his prayers and encouragement."

All are welcome to pay tribute to the memory of our former bishop and continue to pray for him at this anniversary Mass on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 12:05 p.m.

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Anniversary Mass for the death of Bishop John M. D'Arcy

FORT WAYNE — Very Rev. Mark A. Gurtner, JCD, Vicar General for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will celebrate a Mass commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the death of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, on Friday, Feb. 3, at 12:05 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1102 S. Clinton St.

Knights Host Breakfast at Most Precious Blood Parish

FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon in the gymnasium to kickoff Catholic Schools Week at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. Cost is \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, and \$25 for a family. \$5 carryout packs will also be available. Contact Kevin Booker at 260-458-1644 or gk@kofc11043.org for information.

Open House for New Families

MISHAWAKA — New families who are interested in a Catholic education are invited to visit Queen of Peace school, 4508 Vistula Rd, on Jan. 29, from 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Kim Obringer at 574-255-0392 or kobringer@queenofpeace.cc for information.

Signs from God: Miracles and their Meaning

WARSAW — Sacred Heart Parish will host 'Signs from God: Miracles and their Meaning' Feb. 1 and 2 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the church, 125 N. Harrison St. Tim Francis shares the journey that brought him back to the Church with video clips from a documentary reporting on amazing miracles that ultimately convicted him of the truths of our faith. Same presentation each night. Contact Ida List at 574-376-9046 or i.list@shcwarshaw.org for information.

St. John the Evangelist Trivia Night

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist Parish will host a Valentine's themed Trivia Night on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 6-9:30 p.m. in the school gym, 109 W. Monroe St. Cost is \$10 per person. There will also be heads and tails, ultimate trivia and a live auction for answers! A silent 'basket' auction will be held and proceeds support the work of the St. John's Welcoming Committee. Contact Denise Fedorow at 574-533-3385 or fed1@bnin.net for information.

Lector Training

SOUTH BEND — Education and formation for lectors will be Saturday, Feb. 4, at Holy Cross Parish, 1050 Wilber St. Contact Brian MacMichael at 260-399-1426 or bmacmichael@diocesefwsb.org for information. Visit diocesefwsb.org/trainings.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Edward James Lopshire, 95, St. Anthony of Padua

John Edward Thomas, 67, St. Anthony of Padua

Willa Caroline Wise, age 84, St. Anthony of Padua

Auburn

Connie Helmkamp, 91, Immaculate Conception

Fort Wayne

Jerry Bovie, 52, Our Lady of Good Hope

Beverly Grote, 93, Our Lady of Good Hope

William Nussa, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope

Susan Ann Clark, 68, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Dene Dahm, 95, St. Charles Borromeo

David Hefty, 59, St. Charles Borromeo

Prathane Poulima, 74, St. Charles Borromeo

Michael Seleme, 55, St. Charles Borromeo

Fremont

Patricia Elizabeth Chebowski, 82, St. Paul Chapel

Goshen

Florence A. Makousky, 80, ST. John the Evangelist

Granger

Christopher Deneen, 35, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Judith Noens, 76, Queen of Peace

Margaret M. Christ, 94, St. Monica

Betty J. Troyer, 83, St. Monica

New Haven

Deborah Evard, 71, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

David Carroll, 77, Cathedral of St. Matthew

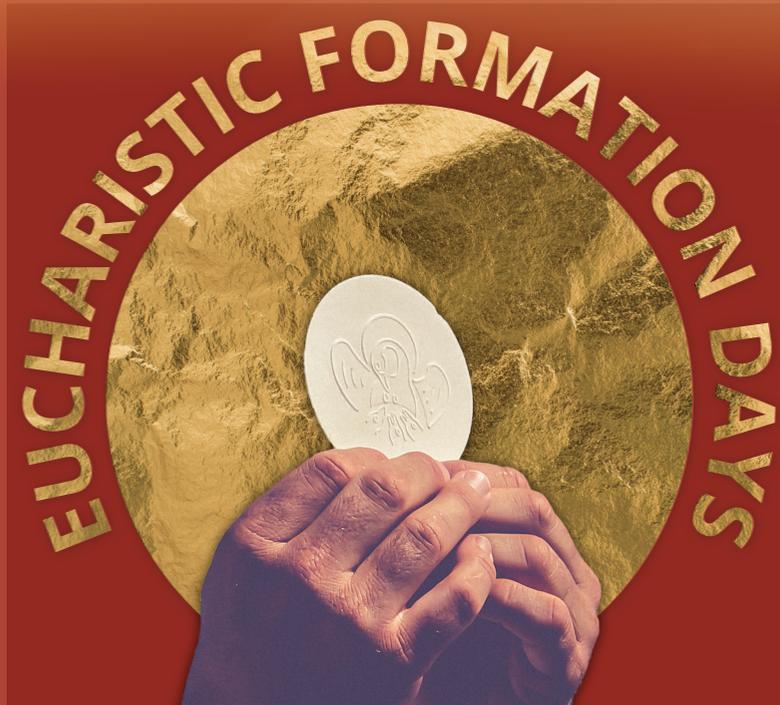
Rose Mary Bella, 88, Holy Family

Dianna M. Conley, 73, Holy Family

Barbara J. Dudley, 86, Holy Family

Joshua Glenn, 45, Holy Family

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Bishop Rhoades Experiences “Luers Spirit” During Pastoral Visit to Bishop Luers High School

BY GEORGIA LIEB

It was a joyful day at Bishop Luers High School on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades arrived for his annual pastoral visit and began his visit with an All-School Mass. Priests in attendance were Father Paolo Degasperi and Father Patrick Hake (Bishop Luers High School Chaplains), and Father Nathan Maskal. During Mass, five students received the Sacrament of Confirmation, including Julio Ortega, Saul Badillo, Lila Trout, Malinally Granados-Rios, and Infini Hill. Three of these students received their First Holy Communion (Trout, Granados-Rios, and Hill), and one student, (Hill), was received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Bishop Rhoades spoke about St. Anthony the Abbot (the saint of the day) during his homily, comparing him to the rich young man in the Gospel Reading. He explained that while the rich young man went away from Jesus sad because he did not want to give up his possessions, St. Anthony did not. He listened and followed Jesus, giving away his riches that he had inherited and living a life of prayer and work in the desert.

Bishop Rhoades then asked for St. Anthony's intercession for the students to be confirmed, as well as the intercession of their chosen confirmation saints: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. Lawrence, and St. Joan of Arc.

Bishop Rhoades addressed the Confirmandi, saying, “Infini, Malinally, Lila, Saul, and Julio, the rich young man in the Gospel went away sad because he did not follow Jesus. You won't leave Mass today sad because you have chosen to follow Jesus, to follow Him more closely in His Church. He loves you so much and wants you to find meaning, purpose, and joy in your life through Him.”

Afterward, Assistant Principal Scott Kreiger presented the annual Christ the Teacher award to English Teacher Mayson Whitman. This award goes to a teacher from each school in the diocese that especially models Jesus Christ in the classroom, interactions with others, and in extracurriculars. Nominations for this award are made by students and staff. The votes then go to a committee who presents the award to the person who most represents the values of Christ. Kreiger listed several of the comments about Whitman



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades answers questions from freshmen in a classroom at Bishop Luers High School on Tuesday, Jan. 17, as part of his annual pastoral visit to the school.

that students submitted with their nominations, including the following:

“She has given me awesome advice, and she is very understanding.”

“She helps her students in any way she can, and she keeps her cool. She cares about us.”

“She is an extremely Christ-like individual, who puts her faith before teaching in every way.”

Kreiger said, “Other words used to describe her are ‘kind, cool, caring, and loving.’” Whitman has assisted with Bishop Luers High School student retreats and is one of the coaches of the Girls Soccer team. Whitman came up to the front, where she was handed a bouquet of flowers and shook hands with Bishop Rhoades.

Kreiger said, “Every teacher who was eligible for the award received nominations. In my mind, that speaks volumes about the connections that are made every day between our students and teachers. Praise God for that!”

Bishop Rhoades had a question-and-answer session with the whole student body in the gym following Mass. He explained his discernment process before becoming a priest, then expanded on how he was appointed as a bishop, saying,



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades enjoys lunch with members of Student Council at Bishop Luers High School on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

“I was really surprised. I was only 46-years-old.” Bishop Rhoades said that he was “the youngest bishop in the United States” when he was ordained.

When asked about his vocation as a priest, Bishop Rhoades shared his personal testimony. He mentioned how he had studied political science in college and was thinking about going into law. He also mentioned that he had the desire to get married and have a family, so he had to discern. He said, “I was up in the mountains above the college, and I was praying.” He said that he “felt an amazing peace” about the priestly calling he had received.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades processes out of the gym after Mass at Bishop Luers High School on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

to root for. Bishop Rhoades explained that he doesn't take sides, and that he has a sweat-shirt with a Knight on one side, and a Saint on the other that he can wear to games.

Bishop Rhoades then had lunch with the Student Council, made a promotional video with a film student, met with members of the Theology Department, and visited theology classrooms throughout the day. He gave the students additional opportunities to ask questions. Some questions included what his average day looked like, what his responsibilities are as a bishop, and why he has a “scarf belt”, referring to the sash around his waist. Bishop Rhoades explained his attire, including the Pectoral Cross that he wears, which he said was given to him by the late Pope Benedict XVI.

The last classroom Bishop Rhoades visited was a senior theology class, and he offered suggestions such as setting time aside to pray and read the scriptures.

Bishop Rhoades had good things to say about Bishop Luers High School. “You always make me feel very much at home. You're a great community of faith. You have that Luers Spirit. I hope you'll always have it.”

Photos by Georgia Lieb

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Bishop Rhoades also discussed his past visit to Nigeria and his close

encounter with a potential terrorist ambush, as well as other travels he has had during his life. “I've probably been to about 50 countries,” he said.

Other light-hearted questions from students included whether Bishop Rhoades was coming to the Battle of the Bishops basketball game on Friday night against Bishop Dwenger High School, and which school he was going