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**

**SB MARCH, page 2**

Bishop 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

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
SB MARCH, from page 1

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... like a baby in the womb, but... 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.

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.
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 knit 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 conscience, 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 loving action of God our Creator, life unfolds in the womb in a marvelous process. 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.
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, recognizing the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Falk said that citizens “have plenty of places in the constitution where that question is answered.” 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, there’s a possibility 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 law through a referendum and the question put to the people?” he asked. “Why shouldn’t 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 undiscovered 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 Hoefer is a Reporter for The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
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.”

Pro-life Advocates

Senate Bill 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 abnormalities that would mean the life of the mother (up to 20 weeks post-fertilization).

In addition, the measure terminated the licenses 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.

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 now in full swing, providing Hoosiers care for their employees.

“For those who sign up for the child care program for their employees, 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 indianaicc.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.

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 to enable 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 258, 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 care for their employees.”

“The Church’s social doctrine insists on the profound dignity of the human person, a principle that guides the ICC’s policy work,” Espada 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.”

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

ZAPORIZHZHA, 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 than any longer with 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 transgender politics.” “We didn’t support this bill, and we were against clauses which have now been questioned in the UK Parliament on Dec. 22 by 89 votes to 39, allowing 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 ordering 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 “a disaster.” The liturgical director of 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. "God되고 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 apostolic spirit," he said. But, in the Catholic Church, he said, "in general, the homilies are a disaster." The liturgical director 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 apostolic 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 been interwoven 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. "God하고 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 apostolic spirit," he said. But, in the Catholic Church, he said, "in general, the homilies are a disaster." The liturgical director 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 apostolic 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.

Mass Shooting at California Club Leaves 10 Dead

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.

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 epidemic — but dioceses are discovering 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
‘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 Life contest would continue, and that “just because Roe is nullified until abortion to state legislation on is workplace flex

The 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, “God won,” Roumie said. “We’ve got to make these (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 front of her organization’s activism will focus on fighting the use 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,” said Islyn Aviles Rodriguez, who came to the march from Miami, told OSV News. Rodriguez 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 a sea of pro-life marchers on the route instead passing by the West Front. For the 50th time, organizers had planned for a smaller-in-scale event at the National Mall, where they assembled at the noon rally and prepared to begin marching an hour later.

The wake-up call for Roe, organizers had planned for a reworked march route, resulting in a new final destination: the Entertainment & Sports Arena in the Congress Heights neighborhood, another new precedent for the once a year event a sold-out crowd of pro-lifers. Sponsored by the Sisters of Life and the Knights of Columbus, the annual Marching Life pilgrimage, will be a more personal testimonies that concluded with Eucharistic adoration and Mass.

As in prior years, the March drew... (but) hearts need to change toward advancing a culture of life in this nation,” Sister of Life Ehlis said, for 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, said Ehlis. “We must be as tireless as ever” not to let the cause 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 National Park Service reported an estimated crowd of about 200,000 people, with most of the con

As in prior years, the March drew thousands of people, with most of the con

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

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.
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..."
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**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**MRG. OWEEN F. CAMPTON**

**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 have even 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 people 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 neighborly neighbors, and as history unfolded, powerful neighbors repeatedly overran them.

Zephaniah included, saw the peril facing the Chosen People not so much because of policies for conquest of those 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 Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the next reading this weekend. The reading presents us a paradox. This is not discussed. 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 the 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 the Lord 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 this weekend, welcomed 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 Savor 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 146:6-10
1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

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

**Tuesday:** Heb 12:14-18 Ps 22:26-28,
30:32-Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** Heb 12:7, 17-18 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mt 6:1-6
Ps 127:1-2 Ps 247:1-10
Heb 2:14-18a Lk 22:20-40

**Friday:** Heb 13:1-5, 8-9
Ps 64:2-9 Mt 5:1-12

**Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21
Ps 25:1-6 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 backyard always so dense that it felt best of all. I could listen to the house — the steady hum, thumping, ping pong table and playing the old oak at my side.

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, before the noise they make. I turned it off altogether, and then I switched to instrumental music. I set up shop in our unfinished basement, spread butcher paper across the floor, and painted. I set up a canvas like strokes of watercolor paint. This is nature’s acoustics. It’s not our perception, not simply a suggestion, inspired by the photograph of St. Francis de Sales, who “did everything right” and they were surprisingly loud. It almost felt like being in conversation with the house, learning 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 Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

SCALIA, from page 16

relative comfort, are contingent upon controls that, ultimately, we do not possess. How often have we heard that those 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 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 themselves to be right and just. We tend to forget that when we’re stressing over schedules, taking every mistake to heart, or letting someone else’s readiness 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.

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 your 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.

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 heavenly 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.

THE BLESSED

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SCAPULAR POST

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

SEBASTIAN

FEAST JAN. 20
DIED C. 288

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.
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.

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 parishioners 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 make the Christian.” 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 person to know 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 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 in a 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 courteously 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 so 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.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

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 Barfield 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@queensofpeace.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@shcwarsaw.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 MachMichael at 260-399-1426 or bmacmichael@diocesefwsb.org for information. Visit diocesefwsb.org/trainings.

SUBMIT EVENTS at TodaysCatholic.org/event

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Willa Caroline Wise, age 84, St. Anthony of Padua
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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
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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
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, Malinalli Granados-Rios, and Infiñ 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, “Inni, Malinalli, 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 that students submitted with their nominations, including the following:

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

“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 called to follow Jesus, to follow Him more closely in His Church. He loves you so much. You’re a great community of faith. You have that Luers Spirit. I hope you’ll always have it.”

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 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 sweatshirt 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 aside time 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.”

Pastoral Visit to Bishop Luers High School

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