First Class Relics Will Tour Diocese as Part of Eucharistic Revival

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

The first-class relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García will tour seven churches in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend this month.

The tour begins on Wednesday, Feb. 8, in South Bend at St. Adalbert, where the relics will be displayed from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The veneration will be paired with a 6 p.m. Votive Mass.

The relics will be displayed the next day, Thursday, Feb. 9, at St. Matthew Cathedral from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two Masses will take place that day at the Cathedral; the first at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 10, the relics move to St. Pius X in Granger. They will be present for veneration in the parish chapel beginning at 6:45 a.m. Mass will also begin in the chapel at 6:45 a.m. Relics will move to the parish church at 8:45 a.m., when Mass begins.

The relics will stay at St. Pius X as part of the second Eucharistic Formation Day in the diocese, taking place on Saturday, Feb. 11.

“We are happy to host the South Bend-area Eucharistic Formation Day, which will include Mass with Bishop Rhoades, his talks on the three fundamental aspects of the Eucharistic Ministry, and the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit,” St. Pius X Pastor Father Bill Scholer said. “We hope that the day will be well attended, as was the day hosted by Saint Charles in the Fort Wayne area last month.”

Adoration will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the church. Relics will be available for veneration until 5 p.m.

Between Saturday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, Feb. 12, the relics will move to Sacred Heart in Warsaw. Mass will be celebrated both days ... at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 and at 8 a.m. on February 12.

“It can be very powerful to be in physical proximity of the

Photos provided by Marilyn Santos

These are images of the relics that will be displayed in some parishes as part of the diocesan year activities.
Lively Panel Holds Out Hope for a True Culture of Life Post-Dobbs

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“W”e can move with confidence into a pro-life future focused on radical equality,” declared Charles Camosy of Creighton University School of Medicine, one of four speakers on a panel discussion titled, “A Culture of Life in Post-Dobbs America,” co-sponsored by the McGrath Institute for Church Life’s Office of Life and Human Dignity, and Notre Dame Right to Life, the largest student pro-life group in the United States. Invited to wrap up the Jan. 25 conversation held in Geddes Hall at the University of Notre Dame, Bishop Rhoades called it “powerful” and urged everyone to avoid the pitfalls of lethargy and fear in the wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision. He said he had come here to be so proud of the students involved in Notre Dame Right to Life, many of whom just returned from the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The consensus of the panelists was that despite the tidal wave of sensational misinformation about the dangers of Dobbs and violent attacks against churches and pregnancy centers, there is hope. Already abortions in our diocese have been cut in half through the work of pregnancy resource centers like the Women’s Care Center, offering material support and accompaniment to whole families: fathers, mothers, and children born and unborn.

Asked to provide a legal perspective, O. Carter Snead, Director of Notre Dame’s de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, first declared that Roe v. Wade had to be overturned before the political branches of government could take any steps toward protecting life. He pointed out that law is grounded in anthropology; you have to understand the nature of human beings before you can promote their flourishing. He argued that persons are not atomized individual wills but embodied and therefore vulnerable and interdependent. The question for lawmakers then becomes how can we take care of everybody? He said that in Texas, they have made a good start by not only outlawing abortion, but also appropriating $100 million to support women in need — not enough, but a proper emphasis.

Danielle Brown, who serves on the American Bishops’ Committee Against Racism, called herself a practicing Catholic, but not a spokesperson for the entire black community. Moderator Jessica Keating Floyd, Director of the Office of Life and Human Dignity, invited Brown to untangle the way anti-racism has been linked with pro-abortion, something Brown called a “crown of thorns.” She pointed out that even though people in minority communities are overwhelmingly pro-life, they have such high abortion rates that the number of black people in the United States has remained at 12 percent rather than doubling. She blamed not only eugenics and the location of abortion mills in minority neighborhoods, but the withdrawal of the Catholic Church from urban areas and lack of healthcare, housing, and healthy food. She urged everyone to “read the USCCB’s “Open Wide Our Hearts” in the same way you read Scripture, lectio divina, lingering with what strikes you and probing what upsets you.”

Participating by video, Angela Franks from St. John’s Seminary in Boston analyzed the first waves of feminism and faulted them for what G.K. Chesterton called upside-down values, viewing wage-earning as the only source of happiness, and family life as dispensable. When this misogynistic view tried to fit women into a timetable designed for men, she said, it ran up against what Franks called reproductive asymmetry, the way bearing children impacts a woman. In academia, for example, a woman can’t realistically wait until she earns tenure in her late 30s to think about marrying and starting a family. Franks said it was no wonder feminists like Margaret Sanger found women’s fertility problematic and proposed “fixing” it with technology. This is profoundly unjust to women, she added.

Camosy claimed that the culture of life is popular among Americans despite the fact that it’s almost impossible to have a civil conversation about abortion across our political divides. He regretted the way the pro-life movement became linked to Reaganomics, minimizing the role of government in favor of private initiatives. “We need an all-of-the-above approach,” he said. Scientific advancements have made it more difficult to deny the humanity of the unborn child. Camosy cited a Washington Post article in which an abortion doula forewarns those ordering abortion pills by mail that what they deliver will look like a baby. There is increasing desperation due to declining fertility. Camosy advocated radical equality rather than competition between mother and child and cited a recent poll in which 90 percent were in favor of laws protecting both women and their unborn children.

Bishop Rhoades, like the other panelists, said he remains hopeful that we can transform our culture and build a civilization of love in the world. You can learn more about the McGrath Institute for Church Life at mcgrath.nd.edu and the Notre Dame Right to Life student group at righttolife.nd.edu.
Beloved Diocesan Priest, Father Walter Bly, Passes Away at the Age of 90

BY NICOLE HAHN

Father Walter Bly, retired priest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the age of 90.

“The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is saddened by the death of Father Walter Bly, ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on May 30, 1964,” said Bishop Kevin Rhoades. “He served in several parishes in the diocese, but of special mention is his years-long service as teacher and coach at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. We pray that God will give him eternal rest.”

Walter John Bly was born on July 24, 1932, in Yonkers, New York. He graduated from Bronxville High School in 1951, and Fordham University in 1955.

Father Bly served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957 and spent one year at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland.

He attended Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Norwood, Ohio.

After being ordained, Father Bly served from 1964 to 1966 at Saint Charles in Fort Wayne. From 1966 to 1978, he served at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in South Bend, while also teaching at Saint Joseph High School. In 1975, he was also appointed to St. Isidore in Nappanee.

In 1978, he moved from Our Lady of Hungary Parish to Corpus Christi Catholic Church in South Bend, while maintaining duties at St. Isidore and teaching at Saint Joseph High School.


In 1992, in addition to his duties at St. Isidore and teaching at Saint Joe, he was appointed to St. Dominic Parish in Bremen.

Father Bly taught at Saint Joseph High School for nearly 45 years and served as a priest in the diocese for 45 years before retiring in 2009.

Father Bly is survived by his brother, Richard, Richard’s wife, Judy, and their four children, Patrice (Steve) Stallous, Colleen Cornisos, Andrew Bly, and Eugene Bly. Father Bly is also survived by Richard and Judy’s six grandchildren.

Visitation for Father Bly will take place on Friday, Feb. 3 from 4 to 8 p.m., with the Rosary being said at 8 p.m. at Kaniewski Funeral Home in South Bend.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 11 a.m. with visitation for one hour before in Corpus Christi Catholic Church in South Bend. The Mass will be celebrated by Father Daryl Rybicki, and will be livestreamed on the Corpus Christi Parish website.

Burial will take place at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cemetery in South Bend.

Announcement

by Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

“The Diocastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome has confirmed the penalty for Reverend James Seculoff of a life of prayer and penance with no possibility ever of public ministry anywhere after he was found guilty of sexual abuse of minors on many occasions and solicitation to violations of the sixth commandment in the Sacrament of Confession on many occasions.”

Catholic Ministries Must Together Encounter, Listen To, and Accompany Women and Children, Panelists Say

BY MARIA-PIA NEGRO CHIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Efforts to help women and children thrive, across all stages of human life, need to be interpersonal and in collaboration with different ministries, panelists said at a Jan. 29 plenary session for the 2023 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that in order to help mothers and children thrive as a way to build peace, “we really have to think about the root causes of the violence and the poverty that we see all around us.”

Addressing and responding to these causes takes an all-hands-on-deck approach, he said.

“You have to coordinate, work together across church lines and across ministerial lines,” said Archbishop Lori.

“This means that parishes have to be more than houses of worship, but be beacons of hope. And Catholic schools have to be more than places of education, but really a lifetime for kids in need.”

At the gathering’s “Salt & Light” plenary, panelists discussed the importance of encountering, listening to, and accompanying women and children in their ministries.

Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville, Texas, talked about the Church’s support for women and children through the accompaniment of migrants and refugees at the southern border.

“What we were seeing was children, mothers, innocent people that were so vulnerable and completely destroyed, and they were in our community,” said Sister Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus.

The response from the Church, alongside people from all faiths in border cities, to the humanitarian crisis at the border came from the need to care for the person in front of them, she said. Working alongside the community, they are able to provide basic resources such as food and clothing and, in some cases, medical assistance.

“We are restoring human dignity,” she said of the ministry, which has helped tens of thousands of individuals since that first day.

Sister Ogechi Akaleeghe, Community Organizer and the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St.
with the Lord and receive your identity as a beloved son or daughter, the mission comes afterwards. So, even if the mission fails, your identity is not obliterated. You are made a beloved son — a beloved daughter — always."

"Focus on living in relationship with God, through prayer, through the sacraments, through works of charity and works of mercy. Focus on your relationship with God," said Father Budzinski. "When guys first go to the seminary, I tell them, "Hey, for the first two years, you don't even need to worry about asking God the question, Am I called to be a priest? Just focus on living in relationship with Jesus. Discovering your vocation will not make you happy. Friendship with Jesus will make you happy.'"

"And it's out of friendship with Jesus," Father Budzinski added, "that our vocations are naturally known. Sometimes we can treat Jesus like the friend we have a lake house, so I'm going to be friends with you so I can be at the lake house." Using a friendship with Jesus in order to find vocation, he warned, is not the route to pursue.

"When I was a kid, the priests always said, 'Pray to know your vocation.' It's obviously not bad advice, I'm not trying to say they are wrong. But actually, just pray to live in relationship with God because God is not a 'means to an end.' We can treat God like a vending machine. 'I'm going to put in my quarters of prayer so that I can receive from you, Lord, the information I want to know about my vocation.' And Jesus is like, 'no, no, no, no, finding out your vocation is actually not the most important thing. Just being with me is the most important thing — live in relationship with me.'"

Father Budzinski summarized, "Live in relationship with the Lord if you want to find your identity."

They continued that there are "so many voices telling us, 'This is who you are,' whether it's our culture, or different trends that you participate in, and you feel like, 'Okay, I will belong. I will know who I am if I dress this certain way or act a certain way.'"

Father Budzinski responded by first touching on discerning voices that influence decision-making and identity.

"This is something that frequently comes up in my discussions with people in spiritual direction and things like that," he said. "We should only ever really listen to the voice of God because all the others are frequently mistaken or frequently deceived."

"And many times," he continued, "you'll notice that that's a disturbing thought. That's a disturbing voice. But we fall into the temptation of listening to it ... Try to build a habit of saying, 'Does this sound like the voice of God? Does this sound like what the Father would want to say to me right now in this instance? And if the answer is no, you say, 'I reject this voice.'"

He said that, while one may not be able to stop or ignore these voices, "What you can do is you can choose to not indulge them. And then it just kind of takes practice ... Just get in that habit. 'Does this really sound like the voice of the Father?' And you know the voice of the Father. Jesus has revealed the voice of the Father and the face of the Father in the Gospels."
Legislation Would Expand Mental Health Services for Those in Crisis

A bipartisan measure with far-reaching support statewide would offer a lifeline to those experiencing a mental health crisis and help address the crippling human and economic costs of untreated mental illness in Indiana.

Backed by Governor Eric Holcomb’s office and a growing coalition of Hoosiers, Senate Bill 1 would boost local implementation of the 988 national suicide and crisis hotline launched last year and continue building an infrastructure to provide for the mental health needs of people in the most urgent situations.

With untreated and under-treated mental illness costing Indiana an estimated $4 billion a year, the time is now to address these challenges, said the bill’s author, Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield). As former Director of Disaster Management and Security at Hancock Regional Hospital in Greenfield, the lawmaker has seen first-hand the pressing need for better mental health services in Indiana.

“The Church recognizes that mental illness is a condition as serious as the Good Samaritan or the innkeeper,” said Bethuram, who has a background in spiritual and pastoral care. To I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), visit indianacc.org.

“I don’t blame the police, but I believe that with training and a proper person there to care for a person in such distress, this would not have happened,” said Moser, who has turned his grief into advocacy for better mental health services.

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“In that role, I often watched individuals in mental health crisis, and I often had to personally calm down situations in the emergency room,” said Crider, who has a background in law enforcement. “This is an issue that captured my attention, and I knew there had to be improvement in that space. I firmly believe that if we can get help to people when they need it, they won’t end up in our emergency rooms and in our county jails.”

Senate Bill 1 would allocate $30 million to build on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number introduced nationally in July, establish mobile crisis intervention teams that are trained to respond to mental health emergencies across Indiana’s 92 counties, and fund additional community-based mental health clinics statewide. Crider noted that in 2020 and 2021 alone, more than 7,000 Hoosiers were lost to suicide and drug overdoses. In his State of the State address in January, Governor Holcomb noted that Indiana ranks 43rd in the nation for access to mental health providers. Lawmakers recently heard a personal plea from Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch to help change that picture.

“We know that one out of five Hoosiers struggle with mental illness or addiction, and my family is no exception,” Crouch told members of the Senate appropriations committee on Jan. 26 during a hearing on Senate Bill 1.

Crouch, a lifelong resident of Evansville, said she was raised by a mother who suffered from depression and that her sister died by suicide in her early 20s. She added that her daughter was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and that just months ago, she lost her brother to suicide.

“Hoosiers who inherit genes that predispose them to these conditions deserve an opportunity to be successful in life, and that’s what Senate Bill 1 would provide,” said Crouch, the Founder and Co-Chair of the Indiana Mental Health Roundtable.

A graduate of Mater Dei High School in Evansville, Crouch has stated on numerous occasions that her Catholic faith has always guided her service in public life. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) was among the numerous advocates for Senate Bill 1 testifying at the Jan. 26 committee hearing.

“The Church recognizes the great anguish of those who suffer from mental health challenges,” said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “And while the Church’s spiritual care can in some ways provides a source of hope for those in despair, we recognize that we cannot do this alone. That qualified mental health services are of incredible value.

“We know firsthand through the work of our diocesan Catholic Charities agencies the great need for mental health services in our communities. Some of our agencies are trusted partners with the Church is called upon to provide, he offers an analogy to a well-known parable.

“Let us take the case of the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper,” Bethuram, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. “Sometimes we have to go above and beyond and ask, ‘What other services and help do you need?’ Right now, we don’t have the capacity to help everyone. We would love to have additional therapists, but with that we need additional funds.”

In addition to funding more mental health professionals in clinical settings, Senate Bill 1 would establish and train crisis response teams that include law enforcement professionals and other first responders. The need for such resources was brought into sharp focus last April when Indiana’s Lt. Governor, when Herman Whitfield, a 39-year-old pianist and composer, died at his parents’ home after suffering a mental health crisis and being tased by police.

During the committee meeting late last month at the Statehouse, lawmakers heard another dramatic example of a mental health crisis that ended in tragedy.

Jay Moser of Indianapolis described how his son, Adam, was killed by police outside his Florida home in 2021 following a frantic call by his wife to 911. One week shy of his 40th birthday, Adam Moser was a Navy veteran who had battled depression and alcohol-related issues and was suicidal.

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers another dramatic example of a mental health crisis that ended in tragedy.

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**He is the Only Hope We Have,' Say Refugees in South Sudan about Pope's Visit**

KAMPALA, Uganda (OSV News) — Pope Francis is taking off to the African continent on Jan. 31 for a historic and long-awaited apostolic trip to Congo and South Sudan, countries longing for peace and stability. The pontiff will first travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3. From there, in what is called the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace, Pope Francis will visit South Sudan’s capital, Juba, from Feb. 5 to Feb. 7 in the presence of Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and the Rev. Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Nyakim Chuol, a South Sudanese refugee living in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda, hopes that the planned visit by Pope Francis to the youngest country in the world will restore peace and allow her family to return to their country. “We have suffered for a very long time, and his coming means a lot to us because he is the only hope we have as people of South Sudan,” the 45-year-old mother of three said. “I pray for him and his coming means a lot to us.”

**Catholics Call for Prayer, Justice as Video of Memphis Black Man’s Deadly Arrest Released**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (OSV News) — Catholics in Memphis and throughout the nation are joining in prayer while calling for justice, as disturbing images of a police officer who was recorded tearing open the mouth of Tyre Nichols, who died on Jan. 7 in the fatal arrest of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols, who died on Jan. 7 following a Jan. 7 traffic stop. Ahead of expected protests Jan. 10 following a Jan. 7 traffic stop. Ahead of expected protests Jan. 10, officials have been charged with second-degree murder, assault, kidnapping, and other offenses in the fatal arrest of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols, who died on Jan. 7 in the fatal arrest of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols, who died on Jan. 7 following a Jan. 7 traffic stop.

A statue of Christ is surrounded by debris outside St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in the Houston suburb of Deer Park after a tornado swept through the town on Jan. 24, 2023. The storm also tore off roofs, downed utility poles and power lines, and flipped cars, trucks, and even a train. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

**Over Catholic Protests, Minnesota Lawmakers Pass Right to Abortion Law, Send to Governor**

ST. PAUL (OSV News) — In a party line vote, Democrats in the Minnesota Senate passed a bill 34-33 in the early morning hours of Jan. 28 to place a right to abortion for any reason and without a limit on viability into state law. The House passed the measure on Jan. 19 and Governor Tim Walz, a Democrat, is expected to sign it immediately. Democrats rejected multiple Republican amendments to the bill, including one that would have allowed a 20-week limit on abortions.

**Catholic Media Needs More Kindness, Truth Spoken with Charity, Pope Says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The media and the field of communications need to exercise more kindness and share the truth with charity, Pope Francis said. “Kindness is not only a question of etiquette but a genuine antidote to cruelty, which unfortunately can poison hearts and make relationships toxic,” the pope wrote in his message for World Communication Day. Just as kindness is needed in social relationships, “we need it in the field of media, so that communication does not foment acrimony that escalates, creates rage, and leads to clashes, but helps people peacefully reflect and interact with a critical yet always respectful spirit, the reality in which they live,” he added. “We are all called to seek and to speak the truth and to do so with charity,” he said in the message released on the Vatican Jan. 24 at the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. The theme of the 2023 celebration — marked in most dioceses the Sunday before Pentecost, this year May 21 — is “Speaking with the heart. The truth in love.” The pope said, “We should not be afraid of saying the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable,” but communicators should fear “doing so without charity, without heart.”
Around the Diocese

St. Vincent de Paul Holds Epiphany Concert

In a continued celebration during the Christmas season, an Epiphany Concert was held on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. The concert featured musicians from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

St. Pius X Holds Epiphany Concert

St. Pius X Parish’s Music Ministry, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy and assistants Beth Habas and Samantha Kneibel, presented their annual Epiphany Sunday Christmas Concert on Sunday, Jan. 8, that featured 45 members of the Sunday Choir, 24 from the 6th to 8th Grade Choir, 56 from the Children’s Choir, 15 from the Adult Handbell Choir, 12 from the Youth Handbell Choir, and 81 from the Orchestra, including their famous brass and tympani for a total of 235 musicians. At the conclusion following a standing ovation, Father Bill Schooler honored their four new deacons just ordained the previous day: Deacons Phil Hayes, Mike Plenzler, James Summers, Jr., and Harry Verhiley.

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Celebrates Solemn High Mass

A Solemn High Mass for the Epiphany was celebrated at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Catholic Church in South Bend on Friday, Jan. 6. Monsignor John Fritz, FSSP, Pastor of St. Stanislaus, celebrated Mass with assistance from Father Royce Gregerson and Father Christopher Lapp. Bishop Rhoades blessed the congregation following Mass.

Most Precious Blood School Hosts Trivia Night

Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne held the annual Trivia Night fundraiser in the school gym on Saturday, Jan. 21. The night included food, fellowship, and fun.
Close to 100 People Gather in Elkhart to Pray for Pro-Life Efforts

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Michiana residents gathered in Elkhart on Saturday, Jan. 21, to pray for an end to abortion. They came together for a prayer service, Elkhart Prayers for Life, on Bristol Street just outside St. Thomas Catholic Church. With thousands flocking to Washington D.C. for the March for Life each January on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the timing intentionally displays solidarity with the larger March for Life. "The good people of Elkhart have been gathering for many years to pray and show public support for the sanctity of life around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade," Antonio Marchi, Executive Director of Right to Life Michiana said. "The past few years, this gathering has taken the shape of a prayer chain along Bristol Street called the Elkhart Prayers for Life." This year, nearly 100 attended the service to pray not only for continued progress made in the pro-life movement, but also in gratitude for the Supreme Court’s recent decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. "This large group gathered to pray in thanksgiving for the many strides made in the pro-life cause this year and to ask for God’s grace to continue leading us in the long road ahead," Marchi explained. Elkhart Prayers for Life is slated to occur once again next January as part of Michiana’s Right-to-Life event lineup.

Pro-Life Advocates Rally for 49th Annual March for Life

BY NICOLE HAHN

Hundreds gathered in downtown Fort Wayne on Saturday, Jan. 28, for the Rally and 49th Annual Fort Wayne March for Life. The peaceful protest is sponsored each year by Right to Life of Northeast Indiana in response to the 1978 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in the United States.

The rally took place at the University of Saint Francis (USF) Performing Arts Center and featured keynote speaker Katie Shaw, an Indiana native and pro-life advocate who serves on the board of Down Syndrome Indiana and has lobbied for pro-life legislation at the Statehouse. Indiana Republican Congressman Jim Banks also spoke at the rally, praising officials for everything that has taken place so far in the political arena to promote pro-life, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade. He also promised to do everything he could in Washington, D.C. to protect life at every stage.

The rally was followed by the march, that went from the USF Performing Arts Center at 431 West Berry Street to the E. Ross Adair Federal Building at 1300 South Harrison Street.

Hundreds gather in front of the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center to begin the 49th Annual Fort Wayne March for Life to the E. Ross Adair Federal Building on Saturday, Jan. 28, sponsored by Right to Life of Northeast Indiana.

A group representing St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church participates in the 49th Annual Fort Wayne March for Life.

Keynote speaker and Indiana native Katie Shaw, who has Down Syndrome and advocates against all abortions, specifically fetuses diagnosed with disabilities, speaks to the crowd at the rally before the 49th Annual Fort Wayne March for Life.
Much More Than Numbers: Catholic Charities 100th Anniversary 2022 Year in Review

BY ANDREW JACOBS

“Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” This quotation, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, is an apt expression of the work of Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In 2022, the organization’s 100-year anniversary, 47,000 services were provided to more than 19,000 people in the name of Jesus and His Church.

The stated mission of Catholic Charities is “Serving all those in need as Christ calls us to do,” and its staff, volunteers, and donors work to live out this mission every day through those they serve. “Bishop Herman Joseph Alerding instituted Catholic Charities in 1922 to serve the unique needs of our Diocese,” explained Bishop Rhodes. “During this time, he saw so many needs to help unemploy family, immigrants, widows, orphans, and pregnant mothers. A hundred years later, Catholic Charities is still committed to providing God’s love to these oftentimes marginalized populations.”

“Evangelization through service” is the model that Catholic Charities follows,” said Matt Smith, Ph.D., Chief Development Officer for Catholic Charities. “It’s sometimes misunderstood that Catholic Charities serves only Catholics, but that is certainly not the case. We serve anyone in need in our area, from any faith tradition, ethnicity, nationality, or socio-economic background. We strive to serve everyone as Jesus did.”

From 2021 to 2022, Catholic Charities had a nearly 50 percent increase in revenues - mainly due to two legacy gifts totaling $1.5 million — and a 27 percent increase in expenses. “Another fact most people don’t know is that Catholic Charities receives support not only from many Catholic faithful and organizations, but also from businesses and even from non-Catholic faith-based organizations wanting to contribute to our mission of service.”

The relatively large jump in revenue in the past year allowed the organization to expand both its number of clients and services in 2022. Some examples of this can be seen in the results of Catholic Charities’ 2021-2022 annual report:

- **Stability Services**: 16,669 people received Stability Services in 2022. This has been a large area of focus for Catholic Charities since its founding days, and includes homeless case management, food pantry, senior volunteer programs, Hispanic health advocacy, and more.
- **Migration Services**: 1,883 people received Migration Services. An influx of refugees from war-torn areas like Afghanistan and Ukraine drove an increased need for services including legal immigration assistance and refugee placement and support for things like English language classes, resettlement, and finding jobs.
- **Counseling Services**: 623 people received Counseling Services. The COVID-19 pandemic and other societal factors in recent years have resulted in a historic rise in the need for counseling of various types including mental health counseling in the community and schools, outpatient addiction therapy, and help for survivors of trafficking.
- **Pro-Life Services**: 182 people received Pro-Life Services. This has long been an area of support for the organization and includes pregnancy case management, adoption record services, and ECHO (Education Creates Hope and Opportunity), which provides support to young parents so they can stay in school and create a better future for themselves and their children.

While Catholic Charities is grateful for figures, it is driven by much more than numbers. “Behind each number is a person. Each person has the dignity of being a child of God,” said Smith. “We serve in solidarity with them. Each person served is someone who needed assistance in an emergency situation or help with a long-term need.”

Catholic Charities continues to look ahead to anticipate new needs and how to best prepare and provide for them. “Our vision is to continue with a Christ-like servant’s heart, but be as organizationally efficient as possible,” said Smith.

Dan Florin, CEO of Catholic Charities, since July of 2021, has brought financial and business management experience and skills from the corporate world to lead and operate the thriving organization.

“People who donate or volunteer often want to know: Is your organization being fiscally responsible? Are you using your resources as wisely as possible? One of our CEO’s goals is to ensure we are doing that … to strive for continuous improvement as an organization while increasing our capacity to fulfill our mission of service,” said Smith.

As 2023 gets underway, Catholic Charities leaders look for ways to continue to expand the number of clients and services, work toward continuous improvement and efficiency, and strive to be a place where hope begins, answering the call of Christ to serve all those in need.

**Catholic Charities Fort Wayne + South Bend**

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

The Feb. 7 Holy Hour will be led by Father Andrew Budzinski.
Armor of God Men Seek Understanding of Mass

BY ERIC PEAT

O sacred Banquet! In which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory to us is given.

The words of this antiphon, written by St. Thomas Aquinas, came to life at Armor of God’s spiritual workshop on Jan. 28 at the St. Vincent de Paul Life Center in Fort Wayne. The event, titled Arming Men to Understand the Mass, gave a comprehensive look at the history and mystery of the highest form of prayer in the Catholic Church. A series of guest speakers — including several priests — also provided a walk-through of the Mass, explaining why we do what we do and offering meditations on Christ’s Eucharistic Sacrifice. Rob Gregory’s opening remarks set the tone for the session. “If we take the words of Jesus seriously, we must take the Mass seriously,” Gregory implored the men in attendance. “It’s no longer about checking a box when you’re desperately seeking your Lord and Savior.”

Early to grab the front seats in a stadium and come prepared to take photos of their favorite athletes, they should be even more willing and eager to come to Mass early, sit in the front of the church, and prepare ahead of time by reading the scriptures.

The first speaker of the session was Justin Aquila, Pastoral Associate at St. Vincent de Paul. Aquila focused on the history of the Mass, tracing its roots back to the Old Testament and the Passover meal that the Israelites celebrated while enslaved in Egypt. The first Passover involved the sacrifice of the unblemished lamb and the recollection of God’s saving events, followed by the eating of the sacrificial lamb. Aquila described the Last Supper as an inversion of this original Passover ritual, as Jesus offers His body and blood at the meal before sacrificing Himself on the cross as the new Passover lamb. “At Mass, we remember what Jesus did, saving us from the slavery of sin,” said Aquila. “We eat and drink the flesh and blood of the lamb who saves us; it completes and consummates the sacrifice.”

Next, Father Mark Hellinger joined the group virtually from Rome to address the mystery of the Mass. Leading those gathered through the aforementioned antiphon by St. Thomas Aquinas, Father Hellinger offered reflections on each individual line. He explained that not only do we receive Jesus at Mass — through the Gospel, the priest, the fellow Catholics gathered with us, and the Eucharist — but we are also received by Christ. For that reason, Father Hellinger said, “You are never more fully alive or fully yourself than when you are at Mass.” In fact, he referred to Mass as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits those who live in Christ.

Father Brian Isenbarger, Parochial Vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, followed this presentation with a Dry Mass, or a walk-through of the entire Mass. Father Isenbarger took great care in naming every priestly garment and sacred vessel, explaining each priestly movement or pause, and even sharing prayers that are often recited in silence. He reminded the men in attendance of their role in the Mass, not just as bystanders but as participants who are making an offering of themselves as well. While reenacting the consecration, Father Isenbarger remarked on the wonder that he still feels in his vocation. “Let me tell you, the most surreal moment as a human is holding Christ like this,” he said.

After lunch, Father Daniel Scheidt discussed meditations on the Mass at the Armor of God spiritual workshop on Understanding the Mass on Jan. 28. He began by stating the reason, Father Hellinger said, that not only do we receive Jesus at Mass — through the Gospel, the priest, the fellow Catholics gathered with us, and the Eucharist — but we are also received by Christ.
Father Koehl. He then walked through three ritual actions of the Mass: the Consecration (or the “I confess” prayer during the Penitential Act), the Liturgy of the Word, and the words of consecration. These actions, Father Koehl explained, must all be sacramental in nature: outward signs of inward realities.

The final presenter of the workshop was Father Daniel Scheidt, Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul. Father Scheidt brought visual aids to help the men gather and contemplate a series of meditations on the Mass. For example, just as a seed possesses the organic power and memory to do what God created it to do, the Eucharist holds the memory of Christ’s objective gift of self. Another meditation focused on the interconnectedness of the Eucharist. “We come to Mass to allow ourselves to see what God sees: our lives as mysteriously connected,” Father Scheidt explained. “The people we meet through the Eucharist, the people whose lives we bless through the Eucharist — the Lord is taking what we celebrate together, taking it away to connect peoples’ lives in various, eternal ways.”

Indeed, many of the men who attended the Armor of God event left feeling more connected to the Mass and to each other. “It made you realize that there’s an infinite number of things in the Mass that you don’t realize,” said Ed Orl, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul. “It helped to show why we do what we do and why we believe what we believe.”

For Rick Jennings, a parishioner at Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Thomas Aquinas’ laysman, and parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul, “It helped to show why we do what we do and why we believe what we believe.”

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Opposing Catholic High Schools Celebrate Mass Together Before Wrestling Meet

Prior to the Marian High School-Saint Joseph High School wrestling match in Mishawaka on Wednesday, Jan. 18, Marian Head Coach, Wes LaFluer, and Saint Joseph Head Coach, Will Howell-Bey, gathered their teams for Mass, arranged by Carl Loesch, Secretary for Pastoral Ministries and Catechesis, in the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes at Marian High School. Father Jason Freiburger, Pastor of St. Monica’s, was the Mass celebrant.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Holds Gospel Music Concert

On Saturday, Jan. 21, St. Vincent de Paul Parish held a Gospel Music Concert featuring John Angotti. Angotti sang and played the piano. The concert, which was open to the public, also featured the St. Vincent de Paul choir.

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We Must Resemble Christ in Our Daily Lives

The Sunday Gospel

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:13-16

The Book of Isaiah’s third section is that of this weekend’s first reading. Scholars believe that this section was written perhaps in Jerusalem for the Hebrew exiles who had returned from Babylon.

This would put this section of Isaiah at a date after the epic Babylonian Captivity. As political fortunes turned, the Persian ruler, Cyrus, had taken Babylon, and his decree allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland after an absence of four generations. Indeed, probably few had ever seen their homeland.

Nevertheless, release from Babylon brought utter exhilaration to the exiles. They were free to go home!

A wonderful opportunity was bittersweet. When the exiles reached their ancestral homeland, they found deprivation and want, conditions worse than anything that they had experienced in Babylon.

Imagine the disappointment and anger, but the prophet reaffirmed God’s goodness, calling upon the people themselves to provide for those in need. Then they would experience the fullness of vindication, the fullness of God’s promise to give them a land of peace.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This epistle will be studied as Christians living in Corinth, then one of the major cities of the Roman Empire. Rich and sophisticated, Corinth was a virtual center of the culture at the time. It also was a cesspool of vice.

Paul’s ran directly opposite all that mattered in Corinth. Of course, skeptics scorned him asking if the Christian Gospel made any sense. The Lord was an obstacle for many. After all, importantly for so many, the founding religion of Christianity, Jesus of Nazareth, had been legally executed as a common criminal and as a traitor to the empire.

The Apostle’s proclamation of Jesus in itself put mere human knowledge in its place. In response, Paul insisted that he relied upon a source greater and more dependable than human wisdom, namely the Holy Spirit.

The Sunday Gospel furnishes the last reading, a collection of two brief statements by Jesus, given in highly descriptive and clear imagery.

In the first statement, Jesus tells the disciples that they are the “salt of the earth”. In the second, the disciples followers to be the “light of the world”. These images, salt and light, hardly are unknown today, but an ancient aspect of each is unknown in this culture.

At the time of Jesus, salt was precious. Roman soldiers were paid in salt, (“He is not worth his salt.” “Salary” derives from this practice.) Salt also was unreffined. Dust or sand usually mixed with salt. The less the dust and sand, the better the salt.

Today people are accustomed to seeing bright lights at night. Darkness was a serious obstacle at the time of Jesus. Light, then, was precious in its own sense.

Jesus urges disciples to uplift the earthly society by being “salt” and “light”.

Reflection

Gently, but deliberately, the Church is guiding us onward from its introduction of Jesus of Nazareth as Son of the human Mary, and Son of God, and Redeemer of the sinful human race, as given at Christmas, Epiphany, and the blessing of the Lord’s Baptism. It challenges us to respond to Jesus.

These readings are clear. Discipleship is no mere lip service. It is the actual and intended resembling of Christ in our daily lives.

Matthew makes clear that believers have a strength upon which to draw as they illumi- nate the world. It is within the grace of their faith. As disciples, they are empowered. Being a disciple is demanding, but it is not impossible.

Of course, to be pure, worthy, and therefore as genuine as salt free of impurities, disciples must rid themselves of sin and fortify their Christian resolve. This will be the task of Lent, soon to begin.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-9 1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16
Monday: Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35 Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 2:1-24 Ps 84:9-10 Mk 7:13
Wednesday: Ps 2:1-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2, 7-20 Mt 7:14-23
Thursday: Ps 119:26-27 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 31:8-32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 39:24 Ps 90:2-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

ried girls who got pregnant were generally sent to live with relatives or taken into the care of religious sisters until they gave birth; children born under such circumstances were usually given for adoption. But those cases were relatively rare and handled discreetly. There certainly weren’t child care centers in public high schools! So, while some did stray, there was general agreement that such behavior was wrong.

Many of these attitudes began to shift in the cultural revolution of the 1960s. Although the tumultuous change of that decade was already brewing in the 1950s, it is rightly said that we entered the 1960s through one door and came out a very different one.

The cultural revolution had different aspects. There was a revolution against authority and

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POPE, from page 12

tradition, including religious faith; a steep drop in church attendance began. There was the feminist revolution, proper in some of its concerns, but also beset by a growing radicalism that ridiculed motherhood and men. And there was the rampant use of hallucinogenic drugs, which devastated the intellect and judgment of many young people. The hardening of hearts by the defeat of sin was underway.

The most long-lasting and devastating aspect of the 1960s was the sexual revolution. The spread of revolutionary sexual attitudes was facilitated by the availability of “the pill.” Thus, there arose the evil notion of “sex without consequences.” This notion has ultimately led to widespread fornication, consumption of pornography, adultery, abortion, divorce, sexually transmitted diseases, and large numbers of children being raised by single mothers.

The resistance to divorce rooted in religious concerns and the common-sense notion that divorce was harmful to children, had been eroding through the decade as many celebrities began flying to foreign countries in order to be divorced. Slowly, the shock that divorce once caused, began to give way. Prior to 1960, obtaining a divorce was a difficult, lengthy, legal process. But due to growing pressure, states began to pass “no-fault” divorce laws, making marriage one of the easiest contracts to break. The hardening of hearts by the defeat of sin was growing worse. Jesus Himself attributed the desire to divorce to hard hearts (See Matt 19:8-9).

A nation increasingly hypnized by fornication and the evil deception of sex without consequences began to show a decline in the rightful indignation at killing babies in the womb. Legal maneuvers to permit abortion had already been underway. But abortion remained illegal in most of the United States until 1973, when the dreadful, immoral Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court made abortion the “law of the land.” The hardening of hearts by the defeat of sin by Roe was finally overturned last year. But the backlash by the left is truly horrifying and shows that we still have a long way to go in convincing nearly half of Americans that something as obviously horrifying as abortion is wrong.

Things continuously worsen and the hardening of hearts has seen it to the darkening of our intellects (see Romans 1:21). Rational conversations about moral topics are becoming nearly impossible.

Added to all of this is the recent, bewildering rise in the outright celebration of homosexual acts and subsequent approval of same-sex “marriage,” along with the latest cause célèbre, “transgenderism.”

And thus, the words of the Letter to the Hebrews ring true: “since we are accurate enough while it is still today, so that none of you may grow hardened by the defeat of sin (Heb 3:12).”

Sin hardens the heart and darkens the intellect. Many people today hold deeply and stubbornly to errors and are lost in moral confusion. Attempts to disabuse them of such deceptions often leads to venomous accusations of intolerance, bigotry, and hatred.

The hardness is deep; the deception is dark. When one grows accustomed to the darkness, the light seems harsh and painful in comparison. The hardness deepens, the light seems harsher and less shines through them.

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The hardness is deep; the deception is dark. When one grows accustomed to the darkness, the light seems harsh and painful in comparison. The protesters get louder as the years go by because as the darkness deepens, the light seems increasingly intolerable.

The text says that it is the defeat of sin which does this. The Latin roots of the word “deceive” present a picture of being picked up and carried off (de [from] - captive [to take or carry away]). The image of one who has been deceived is that of a small animal hanging limp, prey, in the jaws of a predator. To be deceived is a very dangerous thing. It means that the devil has us in his grasp; the end will come soon unless we understand the jaws of the evil dragon through the grace of mercy that comes from repentance.

Our age, like few others, demonstrates just how bad things can get when we are individually and collectively hardened by the defeat of sin. This has happened to us fairly quickly. It was not that long ago when we were still shocked by the things that many celebrated today with “pride” parades and divorces. “Fornication” and shaking up were once considered scandalous. A sex scene in a movie was considered indecent. Many other sins today, such as greed and disrespect for elders and leaders, are also glorified. That this is no longer shocking or surprises us shows the hardening of that can bring.

Ask the Lord for a sensitive conscience. It is a precious gift that is not to be confused with scrupulosity. A sensitive conscience is one that loves what the Lord loves, hates what the Lord hates, values what the Lord values, and shares His priorities. A sensitive conscience loves God’s law and His truth, and is saddened and productively mournful at the reality of sin, whether personal or collective.

Ask also for the gift to mourn. Scripture says, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matt 5:4). Who are those who mourn? They are those who see the awful state of God’s people (that they do not know God or glorify Him in their lives and that they are locked in sin and its deceptions) and are motivated to pray and speak the truth. They will even endure suffering in order that some may be snatched away from the evil dragon and from the hardening that comes from the defeat of sin.

Lord, heal our land; for we are surely hardened by the defeat of sin. Heal our land and turn to you. May you use our holy tears to wash away our sins and give us new and tender hearts.

SALTED THE EARTH

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Answer key can be found on page 15
Panelists agreed that having divisions among the faithful is something to be avoided. “When we start to see ourselves divided, we risk losing our power to make a difference in the lives of women and children,” said Andrea “Andy” Hall, a certified public accountant and former chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

At the plenary, Akalegbere encouraged people to be “peacemakers for justice” who put their faith in practice and to move beyond just inspiration to concrete action. “A Church that is pro-life has to address all of the issues that speak to human flourishing at every stage,” Archbishop Lori said.

“When we think about pro-life, we sometimes think of it as being in a box. But it’s really part of a continuum of accompaniment,” said the archbishop and former chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “There is a solidarity and a network of relationships that has to follow mother and child.”

Archbishop Lori hailed the USCCB’s Walking with Moms in Need as one of the “most effective and most important pro-life initiatives” around, because it enables parish communities to get to know the moms and connect them with services based on their needs.

Panelists also discussed challenges to their work, such as the fear of the “other,” the Church’s divisions, the danger of working in silos, the lack of good explanations about Catholic social teaching, the need to engage more people in ministry and service, and fighting indifference.

They also answered audience questions about how to encourage bishops to communicate on other issues within pro-life ministries, the importance of a father’s role, addressing “uncomfortable” issues within pro-life ministries, the importance of good explanations about Catholic social teaching, the need to engage more people in ministry and service, and fighting indifference.

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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.

Reserve Summer Camp Spot
FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Summer Camp-Great Lakes has reserved a number of camper spots for middle school and high school youth from the diocese. Those interested can learn more by visiting diocesefwsb.org/retreats-pilgrimages and request these spots for Catholic Youth Summer Camp. For more information, contact John Pratt at jpratt@diocesefwsb.org.

Parish Speaker Series: Robert Rogers
AVILLA — The Knights of Columbus will welcome Robert Rogers to St. Mary of the Assumption, 228 N. Main St. He will present a talk on “Loss and Hope” for the Lenten season. A potluck will be held in the school on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m. with the talk in the church at 7 p.m. The Knights will provide meat and drinks for the potluck, please bring table service and a dish to share. Contact Mike Hudecek at 260-410-0301 or council14214@indianakofc.org.

Battle of the Bands Trivia Night
COLUMBIA CITY — St. Paul of the Cross, 315 S Line St., will offer prizes for the highest scoring team, the best decorated table, best band impersonator, and intermission games. Cost is $100 for a table of up to 10 people. All proceeds will go towards World Youth Day Pilgrims. Contact Stephanie Hamilton at 260-610-3777 or youthministry@saintpaulcc.org.

SUBMIT EVENTS at TodaysCatholic.org/event

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Elizabeth “Nancy” Fuller, 98, Immaculate Conception

Fort Wayne
Kenneth Pallotta, 75, St. Charles Borromeo
James Farkas, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Colleen E. Stalter, 78, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
James Frosch, 69, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger
Donlan Einfalt Jr., 68, St. Pius X
Ema Fleischman, 98, St. Pius X
William Niemann, 83, St. Pius X
Theodore Sauerbeck, 86, Saint Pius X

Mishawaka
Pattiann Meeks, 55, Queen of Peace

New Haven
Robert Gerardot, 93, St. Louis Besancon
Warren Weltner, 89, St. John the Baptist

South Bend
Father Walter Bly, 90, Corpus Christi
Karen Pennino, 86, Holy Cross
Santiago Ariel Flores Galvan, newborn, St. Adalbert

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Relics of saints, because it reminds us that they were real and died with hope in the resurrection,” Sacred Heart’s Father Jonathan Norton said. “I hope that all of the parish comes to venerate these relics, and it means a great deal for Sacred Heart to have this opportunity. The relics will be displayed before the altar during Eucharistic Adoration.”

The relics will stay in Warsaw on Sunday, Feb. 12, and be available for veneration at Sacred Heart between 7:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. before moving to Our Lady Guadalupe for viewing beginning at 10:30 a.m. Two Spanish Masses will be celebrated — at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. — that day at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the relics will be displayed from 8:15 a.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph in Fort Wayne. Bishop Rhoades will say Mass at 8:15 a.m., and there will be a Mass celebrated in Spanish at 6:30 p.m., with Adoration between each Mass.

The tour will end on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne, where the relics will be available for veneration beginning at 8:15 a.m. Mass will also be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. Later in the evening, Bishop Rhoades will celebrate a Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Adult Ministry Pastoral Associate Dorothy Schuerman said with enthusiasm, “We welcome all to come and see!!”

Both Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García are known for their devotion to the Eucharist. Born in London, Blessed Carlo Acutis was a Catholic Italian who passed away in 2006 at the age of 15. He was designated as Blessed just four years later.

St. Manuel González García was a Spanish bishop born in Seville in 1877. He founded the Missionary Sisters of Nazareth.

For more information on Blessed Carlo Acutis, St. Manuel González Garcia, and the relics tour, visit 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 Garcia. 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.

**RELICS TOUR**

**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. – 5 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

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