



# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 5

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## 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 Schooler 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.

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)  
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend  
P.O. Box 11169  
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

## Editorial Department

PUBLICATION MANAGER:

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

## Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

260-456-2824

Published weekly, except for the last Sunday in December and every other week from the fourth Sunday in May through the last Sunday in August by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: [circulation@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:circulation@diocesefwsb.org)

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or email:[editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org)

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## Lively Panel Holds Out Hope for a True Culture of Life Post-Dobbs

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“We 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 because he is 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



Photos provided by Jill Boughton

Taking part in the panel discussion “A Culture of Life in Post-Dobbs America” on Wednesday, Jan. 25, in Geddes Hall at the University of Notre Dame were (front row from left) Danielle Brown, American Bishops’ Committee Against Racism; and Jessica Keating Floyd, Director of the Office of Life and Human Dignity; and (back row from left) Bishop Rhoades; O. Carter Snead, Director of Notre Dame’s de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture; Charles Camosy, Creighton University School of Medicine; and John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director.

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 being 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 happi-

ness, 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 Reagan economics, 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](http://mcgrath.nd.edu) and the Notre Dame Right to Life student group at [righttolife.nd.edu](http://righttolife.nd.edu).

# Beloved Diocesan Priest, Father Walter Bly, Passes Away at the Age of 90

BY NICOLE HAHN

**F**ather 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 Parish in South Bend, while maintaining duties at St. Isidore and teaching at Saint Joseph High School.

On May 30, 1989, Father Bly celebrated 25-years in the priesthood.

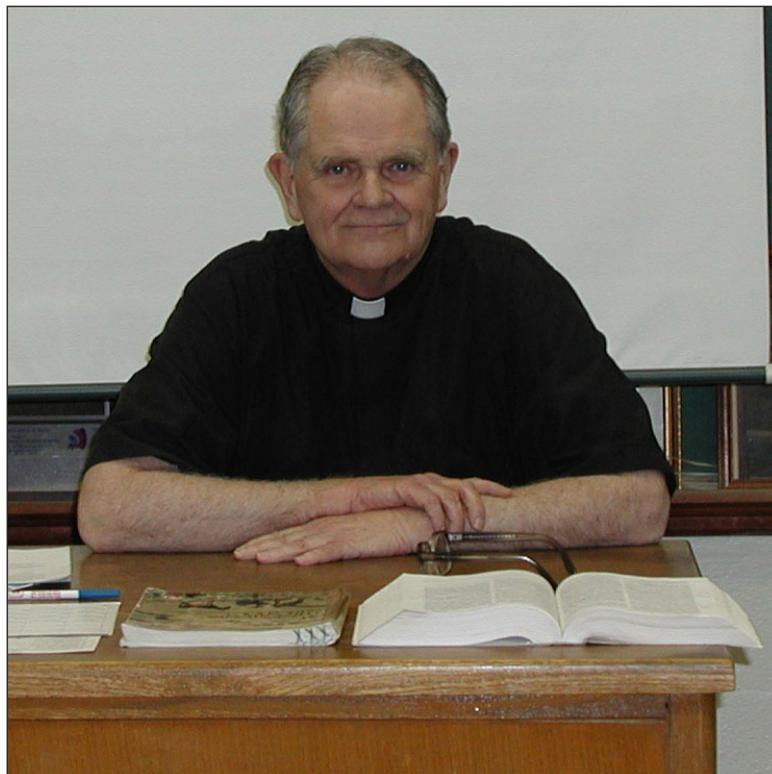
In 1992, in addition to his duties at St. Isidore and teaching at Saint Joe, he was appointed to St. Dominic Parish in Bremen.

Father Bly taught at Saint Joseph High School for nearly 43 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, Pattie (Steve) Stallous, Colleen Cornelius, 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



FATHER WALTER BLY

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.

## 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,



OSV News Photo/Bob Roller

**A woman holds her daughter during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life on Jan. 19, 2023, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. On Jan. 29, panelists at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C. discussed the Church's ministry of accompaniment, service, organizing, and advocacy to help women and children thrive.**

but really a lifeline 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.

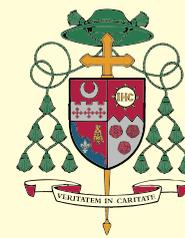
"What we were seeing was children, mothers, innocent people that were so vulnerable and completely destroyed, and they were in our community," said Sister Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus.

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.

For Ogechi Akalegbere, Community Organizer and the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St.

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN, page 14**



### Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, Feb. 6: 10 a.m. – Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Wednesday, Feb. 8: 9 a.m. – Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka  
 Thursday, Feb. 9: 2 p.m. – Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Pope John Paul II Center, Mishawaka  
 Thursday, Feb. 9: 4:30 p.m. – Mass Celebrating 10th Anniversary of Beatification of Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka  
 Friday, Feb. 10: 7 p.m. – Presentation to the Fiat Community, Le Mans Hall, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame  
 Saturday, Feb. 11: 9 a.m. – Mass and Eucharistic Formation Day, St. Pius X Church, Granger  
 Sunday, Feb. 12: 10 a.m. – Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville

### Announcement

by Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

"The Dicastery 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."

# Listening to the Voice of God is Focus of Kickoff to Theology on Tap Winter Series on Identity

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Father Andrew Budzinski kicked off the winter series of Theology on Tap on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Historic Women's Club in downtown Fort Wayne by speaking about identity and prayer, telling those gathered at the event that an individual's core identity is that they are beloved sons and daughters of God.

"Then we are equipped for mission. We live in relationship with the Lord: we're given our identity. And that identity helps us go on mission. Now the thing is, most people in the world reverse the order of these things. Most people in the world say, 'Give me a mission. Give me something to do. Give me something to accomplish — something that I can be successful in. And then, I'll have an identity. I'm accomplished. I'm successful. And then I'll be equipped for relationship.'"

He continued, "The problem is, what happens if the mission fails? We lose our identity. But if you live in relationship



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Father Andrew Budzinski speaks to young adults at the Theology on Tap initial session on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The winter series, "Called By Name," will continue with three more speakers, a different one each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. through Feb. 14, with a celebration to follow on Feb. 21. For the location and more details, visit [diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw](http://diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw).

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 who has a lake house. 'You 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."

One participant told him that, during the evening's small group discussion, her table talked about how to root their identity in Christ in a world that "feels so loud."

She 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."



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# 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, according to 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.

"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 alcohol-related causes.

"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 provide 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

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

behavioral health clinics, especially in Southern and Central Indiana."

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis employs a number of licensed counselors and social workers who offer services to people with mental illness and addiction issues. One example is a partnership with IU Health in Mooresville, where mental health professionals employed by Catholic Charities counsel patients on-site based on their ability to pay.

David Bethuram, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Indianapolis, says that with passage of Senate Bill 1, the Archdiocese and the other four Catholic dioceses in Indiana could broaden their scope in offering mental health services to individuals and families.

"What this bill does is put the right people together around the table and determine how we are going to provide mental health services to the people who most need them," said Bethuram, who has a background in spiritual and pastoral care.

In explaining the scope of

what the Church is called upon to provide, he offers an analogy to a well-known parable.

"What we do in Catholic Charities and mental health is that we are sometimes both the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper," said 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 in Indianapolis, 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.

"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.

His daughter, Jodie Moser, also testified at the hearing and thanked Crider for bringing Senate Bill 1 forward.

"This bill has the opportunity to not just change lives but save lives," she said. "Everyone in this state can benefit from this type of legislation, and we have the chance to not only help Hoosiers but to be a model and an example for other states."

At press time, the Senate appropriations committee was scheduled to vote on the bill on Feb. 2.

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

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## '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. 3 to Feb. 5 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 told OSV News by phone. "The East African country, home to more than 11 million people, has experienced civil war since 2013, following a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and then-Vice President Riek Machar. "It's our time, and the people of South Sudan have a chance to be blessed by the Holy Father when he visits," Bishop Emmanuel Bernardino Lowi Napeta of Torit told OSV News, calling the visit a "historical event." He added: "Pope Francis will be coming to see and hear our sufferings and help end the conflict and suffering of the people of this country. We should pray for him and prepare for his coming because this will have a historical effect on the current peace process."

## 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 arrest turned fatal in that city were released on Jan. 27. Five former Memphis police officers 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. 10 following a Jan. 7 traffic stop. Ahead of expected protests

## Statue of Christ Left Standing After Devastating Tornado



OSV News Photo/Courtesy of Father Reginald Samuels

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.

as the police body cam footage is made public, Memphis Bishop David P. Talley has urged prayers for peace. The Dominican Friars of Memphis and the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, a historically Black Catholic fraternal order, also issued statements on Jan. 27. "The time for corrective action is long overdue," said the Clavers' statement. "We no longer ask 'Why?' We now demand the end of these merciless murders which show a stark lack of regard for the most precious gift of life."

## Dolores Leckey, Founding Director of U.S. Bishops' Laity Secretariat, Dies At 89

ARLINGTON, Va. (OSV News) — Dolores R. Leckey, Founding Director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Laity in 1977 and at the time one of the highest-ranking women in the U.S. Catholic Church, died peacefully of natural causes on Jan. 17 in her home in Arlington.

She was 89. Leckey worked in the area of lay spirituality as a retreat leader, lecturer, and writer for more than 40 years. She was the recipient of 13 honorary degrees and among her many other honors, she received the St. Elizabeth Seton Medal from Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati in 2012, given in recognition of distinguished women in theology. During her 20 years at the helm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat, now called the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, Leckey was an official adviser to the U.S. bishops at both the 1980 world Synod of Bishops on marriage and the family and the world Synod of Bishops on the laity in 1987. When she retired from the post in 1997, she went to Woodstock Theological Center at Jesuit-run Georgetown University in the spring of 1998 and was the first woman to be a senior fellow at the center. Leckey was the author of numerous published articles, talks, and reflections and also wrote more than a dozen books.

## 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 approved the measure on Jan. 19 and Governor Tim Walz, a Democrat, is expected to sign the bill into law. Pro-life and pro-abortion advocates gathered in large numbers outside the Senate chambers at the State Capitol in St. Paul shortly before the debate began about noon on Jan. 27. In that debate, which lasted more than 15 hours, Democrats rejected multiple Republican amendments to the Protect Reproductive Options, or PRO Act, before the final vote on Jan. 28.

## Catholic Organizations Applaud, Express Concerns About New Program for Refugees

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Catholic organizations applauded the announcement on Jan. 19 of a new State Department program that allows groups of private individuals to directly support refugees resettling in the U.S. The Welcome Corps allows applications from private groups formed by five or more people to sponsor refugees for their first 90 days in the U.S. The groups would be responsible for raising at least \$2,275 per refugee, greeting them at the airport, arranging housing, enrolling children in school, and finding jobs for adults. The State Department's goal is for 10,000 Americans to join in the program's first year. Catholic groups working in resettlement, including the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services Office, praised the new law and hoped parishes would embrace the opportunity to help refugees arrive in the U.S. and potentially help reunite families. Some groups however expressed concerns that three months of support was not long enough for new arrivals to the U.S.

## Mass 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 exasperates, creates rage, and leads to clashes, but helps people peacefully reflect and interpret 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 at the Vatican on Jan. 24, 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 proclaiming 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



Provided by Monica Aquila

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



Phil Niswonger

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



Provided by St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr

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



Provided by Angela Gernhardt

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 Supreme Court's 1973 decision that ruled abortion as a

constitutional right, Elkhart Prayers for Life also occurs each January. 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.



Photos by Mary Beth Greer

Holding signs of pro-life support in both English and Spanish, nearly 100 people gathered in Elkhart on Saturday, Jan. 21, to pray in support of the sanctity of life.



# 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.



Photos provided by Allison Maluchnik

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 Rhoades. “During this time, he saw so many needs to help unemployed families, 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.”

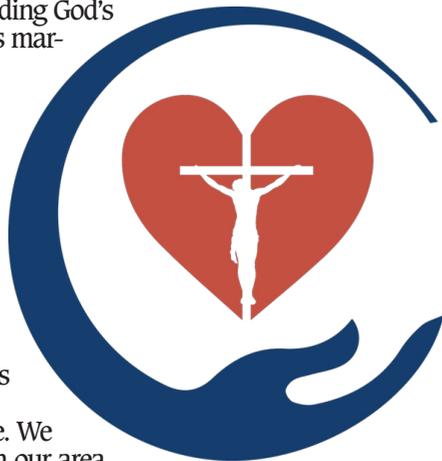
From 2021 to 2022, Catholic Charities had a nearly 50 percent increase in revenue — mainly due to two legacy gifts totaling \$1.5 million — and a 27 percent increase in expenses. “Another fact most people don’t know is that Catholic Charities receives support not only from many Catholic faithful and 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 programs, as listed in its 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 vol-



Unsplash



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

FORT WAYNE + SOUTH BEND

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.

unteer programs, Hispanic health advocacy, City ID, 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



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# Armor of God Men Seek Understanding of Mass

BY ERIC PEAT

*Osacred 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



Photos by Eric Peat

Father Brian Isenbarger discusses the significance of each sacred vessel at the Armor of God spiritual workshop on Understanding the Mass on Jan. 28.



Father Daniel Scheidt discusses meditations on the Mass at the Armor of God spiritual workshop on Understanding the Mass on Jan. 28.

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." Gregory contrasted the Mass to a sporting event with open seating, stating that if men would arrive

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 workshop 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 priestly 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 Koehl spoke on the "why" behind several aspects of the Mass. He began by stating that what we pray must also be what we believe and live, highlighting the importance of active participation. "If we go to church to be involved in the community and make a difference in the world but don't pray, our work is foundationless and won't bear the fruit it was meant to bear," said

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Father Koehl. He then walked through three ritual actions of the Mass: the Confiteor (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 gathered 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 Ort, 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' antiphon stood out as a tool for his own spiritual growth. "It's a short prayer, but [Father Hellinger] put a lot of flesh to it," said Jennings. "It puts you in a better frame of mind and openness as you enter into Mass."

Armor of God's next event is titled Arming Men on the Power of the Holy Spirit. Sister Maria Gemma Salyer will present the spiritual briefing on Feb. 16 at 6:45 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Life Center.

## Opposing Catholic High Schools Celebrate Mass Together Before Wrestling Meet



Carl Loesch

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



Photos Provided by Monica Aquila

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.



Men listen intently to presenters at the Armor of God spiritual workshop.



Father Daniel Koehl speaks to men at the Armor of God spiritual workshop on Understanding the Mass on Jan. 28.

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*Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul*

# An Unforgettable Story of Forgiveness

Four years ago, I watched a video on YouTube of a woman who was doing impressive work caring for underserved children in downtown Columbus, Ohio. She'd started a center for after-school activities, where young people could come and have a snack, do their homework, learn about Jesus Christ, and spend time with one another in a safe environment.

What a great initiative, I thought. And then I kept watching. There was a reason she was doing this work. Isn't there always a reason? But Rachel Muha's was nothing short of astounding.

In 1999, Rachel had lost her younger son, Brian, when he was violently murdered after he and his roommate were abducted from their off-campus apartment at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Brian, a bright, caring 18-year-old from Westerville, Ohio, had his life ahead of him. He had wanted to be a doctor — to work with, you guessed it, underserved children.

But there is an even more incredible part of this story, and it's that Rachel publicly forgave her son's killers before his body had even been found. And it's that act of forgiveness that has gone on to change life after life in the 20 years since.

How do I know this? Because I got to tell her story. After watching the YouTube video (on a tip from Kevin Lowry, a member of OSV's Board of Directors), I spoke

with book editors at OSV and volunteered to work with Rachel to make her story — and the work of The Brian Muha Foundation — better known.

For the next three years, I spoke and visited with Rachel, talking to her about Brian's kidnapping and what it was like to search for him (even looking in dumpsters); about dealing with grief and her decision to forgive; about the two young men who had murdered her son; about her older son, Chris, and his own heartbreak; about the terrible criminal trials that occurred and then occurred a second time; about grief, racial tensions, and the death penalty; and finally, how she has been an inspiring one-woman agent of change in her community and beyond. The result was a new book, published in November, called "Legacy of Mercy: A True Story of Murder and a Mother's Forgiveness" (OSV, \$19.95).

Through those pages, I do my best to introduce the reader to the woman who had first captivated me in that YouTube video — the woman who had spent her life in the service of others and, in doing so, in service to God. And who has experienced this best but the young people who she has served through the years? One of my favorite examples of the success of Rachel's work is how people who first came to the center as children are now returning to help the next generation. Daniel Houston, 22, is



## GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN CROWE

one of those "Racers" who is now working full-time with the day school. He told me, when I recorded him for an interview, "If Miss Rachel is hearing this: I love you, man. I appreciate everything you've done for me." His comments bring me to tears to this day.

Thanks to Rachel's tireless effort and hard work, "Legacy of Mercy" is already outdated. There are more students at the day school (complete with new uniforms!), and a gym expansion is underway. And watching over it all is a big photo of Brian, hanging on the wall outside the center's office. Thanks to his mom — to her tremendous faith, her love for others, and her decision to forgive against all odds — he will not be remembered just as a boy who died. He will be remembered as a boy whose untimely and tragic death helped change the world.

Gretchen R. Crowe is Editor-In-Chief of OSV News.

# The Hardening of Hearts Caused by the Deceit of Sin

There is a line from the Letter to the Hebrews. In it was an important admonition, especially appropriate for our times:

*Encourage yourselves daily while it is still today, so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit of sin* (Heb 3:12).

Collectively speaking, we have been hardened by the deceit of sin. Many of us who are older remember times when sins that are openly practiced (and even celebrated) today were considered shameful a mere fifty years ago. Pre-marital sex (fornication), living together before marriage (which many called "shacking up"), and divorce were considered scandalous. "Gay" was a word that meant happy or joyful, and condoning (let alone celebrating) homosexual acts would have been inconceivable to most Americans. The concept of same-sex marriage was foreign and not even imaginable to most. Up through the 1950s, even contraception was considered by most Americans to be a loathsome practice and was often associated with prostitution.

This is not to say that it was a sinless time; it was not. There were indeed some who transgressed. Young, unmar-



## 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

POPE, page 13

# 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 the source of this weekend's first reading. Scholars believe that this section was written perhaps in Jerusalem for the Hebrew remnant that 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 overtaken 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!

This seemingly wondrous 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 life and peace.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This epistle was addressed to 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 founder 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.

St. Matthew's 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 Lord admonishes followers to be the "light of the world". These images, salt and light, hardly are unknown today, but an ancient aspect of each of them 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 unrefined. 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 Feast 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 intentional resembling of Christ in our daily lives.

Matthew makes clear that believers have a strength upon which to draw as they illuminate 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 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2, 27-30 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

**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 deceit 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 and erroneous 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 1969, 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 deceit of sin was growing worse. Jesus Himself attributed the desire to divorce to hard hearts (See Matt 19:8).

A nation increasingly hypnotized 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 maneuverers 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 deceit of sin was by now full. Thanks be to God, 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 added to it 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: *Encourage yourselves daily while it is still today, so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit 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 protests get louder as the years go by because as the darkness deepens, the light seems increasingly intolerable.

The text says that it is the deceit of sin which does this. The Latin roots of the word "deceive" present a picture of being picked up and carried off (*de* (from) + *capere* (to take or carry away)). The image of one who has been deceived is that of a small animal hanging limply from 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 can unlock 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 deceit 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 celebrate today with "pride" parades and divorce "parties." Fornication and shacking 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 glamorized. That this no longer shocks or surprises us shows the hardening that the deceit of sin 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 God loves, that values what God values, and that 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" (Mat 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 deceit of sin.

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

**Msgr. Charles Pope** is the Pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH®**

Gospel for February 5, 2023

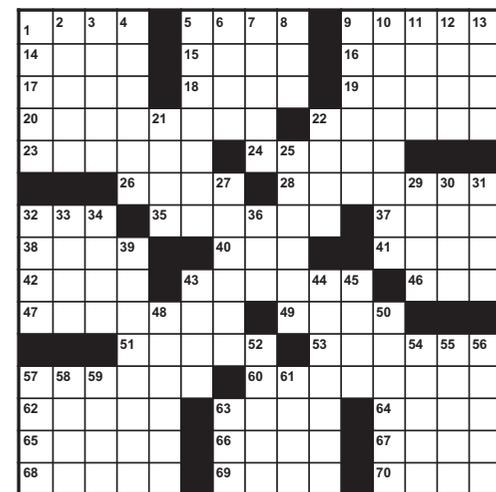
1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16

Following is a word search based on the Second and Gospel readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE SALT	EARTH	TASTE
GOOD	ANYTHING	THROWN OUT
TRAMPLED	UNDERFOOT	LIGHT
CITY	BE HIDDEN	A LAMP
BUSHEL	BASKET	LAMPSTAND
IT GIVES	HOUSE	SHINE
BEFORE	OTHERS	FATHER

**SALTED THE EARTH**

T H E S A L T H G I L Y  
 R E J U N D E R F O O T  
 A N K P M A L A G T D I  
 M N A S J K T L H X N C  
 P N N H A H F E L Y A I  
 L E Y E E B R P I K T B  
 E D T R E S U J O G S E  
 D D H C H A E S I F P F  
 O I I I F T R V H D M O  
 O H N D S U E T B E A R  
 G E G A E S U O H L L E  
 V B T H R O W N O U T B



- DOWN**
- Rod of \_\_\_\_\_
  - AMC vehicle
  - Angry
  - Whole
  - Corpus \_\_\_\_\_
  - "... come to judge the living and the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Ran swiftly
  - Engage in espionage
  - Deprived
  - Denial of faith
  - Floor length vestment
  - River in central Europe
  - Make a home
  - Thrust with a knife
  - Make haste
  - Lector
  - Catholic sovereign of Monaco (with 11)
  - Implement
  - Continental money
  - Killed, old biblical style
  - Molar drs.
  - Poultry enclosure
  - Roman statesman
  - OT prophetic book
  - Geniality
  - Patron saint of the Philippines
  - Mass
  - Notice
  - Gloomily dark
  - Canonized ones
  - Snob
  - Frighten
  - Reduce gradually
  - Quench
  - Songbirds
  - Dash
  - Vex
  - Is not (slang)
  - Windy city transport initials

- ACROSS**
- Recent pope, affectionately
  - Writable storage media, briefly
  - Doctor Mirabilis, Franciscan friar and early advocate for the scientific method
  - Pull down
  - Rattletrap
  - Lyric poem
  - Cat command
  - Suggestive
  - Novices have to learn them
  - Save for later use
  - The Israelites wandered here
  - Builds
  - Delineation
  - Bye bye
  - Plantations
  - 700, to Caesar
  - Rachel's maid
  - It is immortal
  - Land where Moses died
  - Immoral
  - Long ago
  - Inflict on
  - Counter forces
  - Uncharmed Tridentine Mass
  - Person who accompanies another preparing for Confirmation
  - Tears
  - "Heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ sing alleluia..."
  - Drinks to one's health
  - Saint who translated the Bible into Latin
  - Pertaining to ships
  - You may be out on one
  - Coconut husk
  - California valley
  - Eli
  - Secret Chinese society
  - Proceed on foot
  - Scoff
  - Trial fig.
  - Withered

www.wordgamesfor Catholics.com



**SEVEN SERVITE FOUNDERS**

FEAST FEB. 17  
 13TH CENTURY

In 1233, seven Florentine laymen – two married, two widowed, three single, all well-known merchants and members of a Marian confraternity – abandoned homes, jobs, and wealth for a life of poverty, prayer, and penance at Monte Senario, where they built a chapel and hermitage. Within a few years, they had formed the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, or Servites, a mendicant order that received formal papal approval in 1304. The seven founders, jointly canonized in 1888, are: Bonfillius, Bonajuncta, Amadeus, Hugh, Manettus, Sostene, and Alexis. Alexis, who out of modesty refused ordination, served the order in various ways as a lay brother; he outlived the other founders and reportedly died at age 110.

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# SERVICE DIRECTORY

### WOMEN AND CHILDREN , from page 3

Rose of Lima Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, in the Archdiocese of Washington, addressing women's and children's needs requires an understanding of the systems that keep people in poverty and of intersectionality.

"What affects women affects Black women or Hispanic women detrimentally more. What affects children affects Black and brown children detrimentally more," she said. "And the margins will continue to exist unless we eliminate them."

Akalegbere shared insights about her work on racial equity, how faith calls people to do justice, and how community organizing empowers families to access resources so their children can thrive.

One of the many examples she gave came from her work with Action in Montgomery, an organization funded by a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty initiative. They secured after-school enrichment programs at schools serving low-income students to support families and children at a crucial age for their learning and development.

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 a parish such as racism, and the need to do more to make single or divorced mothers feel welcomed and more accepted.

Akalegbere encouraged others to continue striving for justice and cautioned against getting too comfortable. "Christ is not asking us for comfort, and we're called to discomfort, and dismantling systems of racism — dismantling systems that keep families apart, that harm women, that harm children, especially the youth that I see dealing with so many issues like mental health and stability in their households," she said.

"Catholic social teaching is not something that is on the fringes of our faith, but part and parcel to how we live through Christ," she added.

Archbishop Lori added that a ministry of listening and understanding would enable ministers to accompany mothers, children, and society better.

"As we attempt and strive to minister across all the stages of human life, there is a sense that we are walking together, accompanying one another, and that the ministry is not something that we do to people or for people, but something that we do with people," he said.

Panelists agreed that having divisions among ministries is a luxury people cannot afford. Likewise, Church divisions and an "us-them" mentality hinder the work.

"When we start to see ourselves divided, we divide ourselves more," said Sister Pimentel. "We don't all have to agree on how we move forward, but we all have to agree that we're one."

Focusing on people's shared humanity is what would make a difference in the lives of women and children, Archbishop Lori said.



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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](http://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](http://diocesefwsb.org/retreats-pilgrimages) and request these spots for Catholic Youth Summer Camp. For more information, contact John Pratt at [jpratt@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jpratt@diocesefwsb.org).

at 260-410-0301 or [council14214@indianakofc.org](mailto: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](mailto:youthministry@saintpaulcc.org).

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Y	A	L	I	E	T	O	N	G	T	R	E	K	
S	N	E	E	R	A	T	T	S	E	R	E		

**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

## 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**

Dorian Einfalt Jr., 68, St. Pius X

Erna 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**

Roberta 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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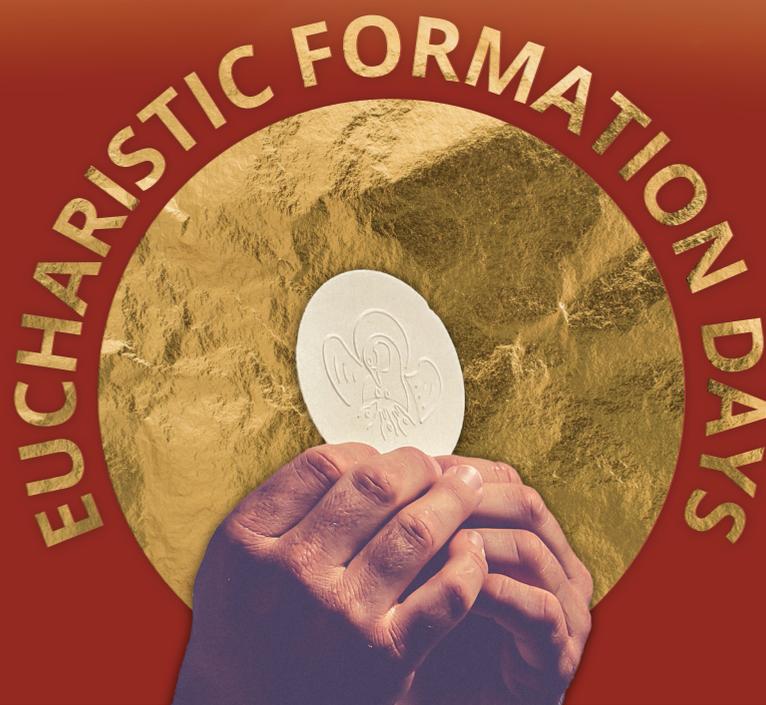
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**RELICS, from page 1**

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.

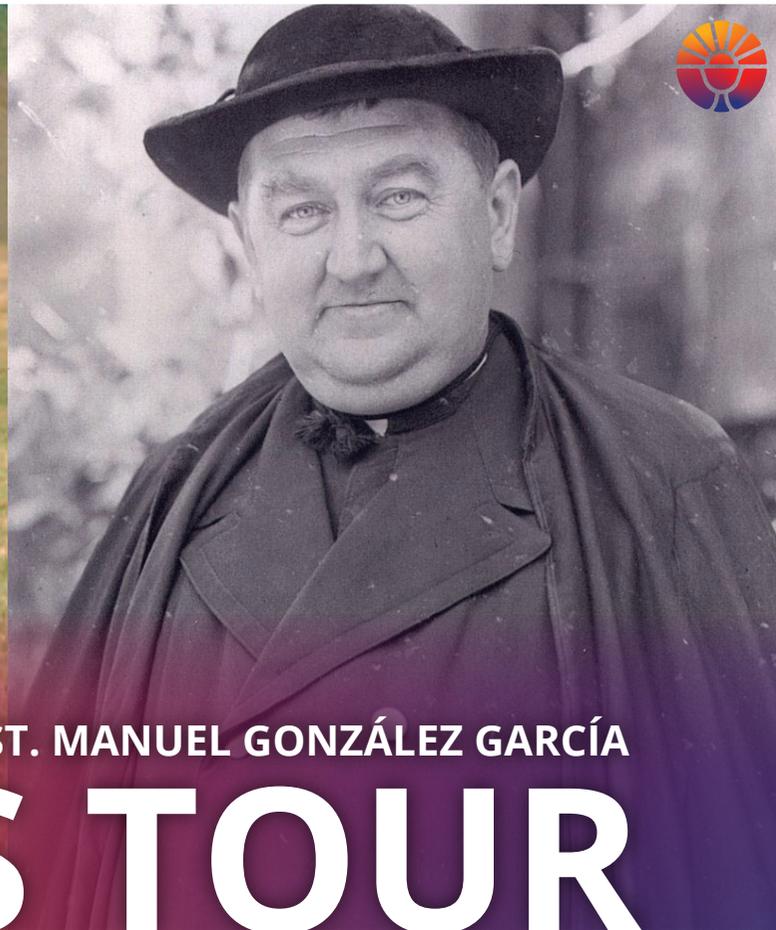
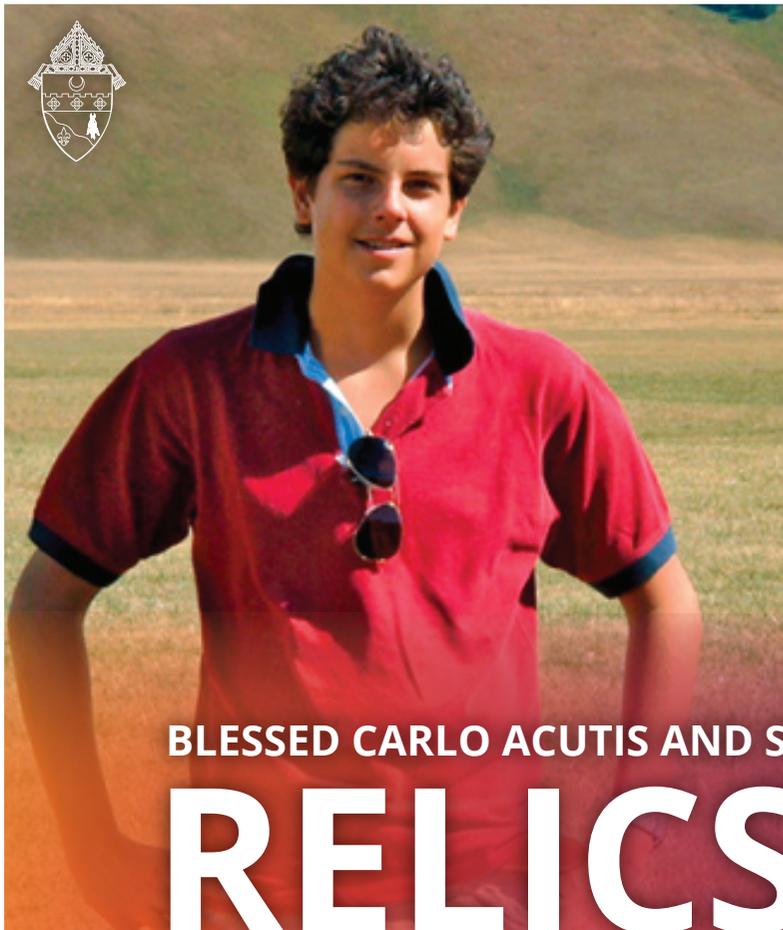
St. Vincent de Paul Adult Ministry Pastoral Associate Dorothy Schuerman said with enthusiasm, "We welcome all to come and see!!"

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 García, and the relics tour, visit [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-relics](http://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-relics).



## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS AND ST. MANUEL GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA RELICS TOUR

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

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

### 8 FEB | ST. ADALBERT, SOUTH BEND

6-9 p.m. Relics present in church  
6 p.m. Votive Mass (Spanish)  
honoring St. Manuel González García.

### 9 FEB | ST. MATTHEW CATHEDRAL, SOUTH BEND

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Relics present in church  
8:30 a.m. School Mass  
5:30 p.m. Mass

### 10 FEB | ST. PIUS X, GRANGER

6:45 - 8:45 a.m. Relics present in chapel  
6:45 a.m. Mass in chapel  
8:45 a.m. – 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/EUCARIST-RELICS](http://DIOCESEFWSB.ORG/EUCARIST-RELICS)**



Visit [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist](http://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist) or  
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