Attorney Helps Raise Awareness for Wrongfully Convicted in Hoosier State

BY CATHOLIC MOMENT STAFF

On Sunday, Jan. 22, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pastorate held a Rosary for Life, followed by a presentation given by Kevin Murphy, a staff attorney for the Notre Dame Exoneration Justice Clinic in South Bend. Murphy shed light on the issue of wrongful convictions in America, and within the Hoosier State.

Before Murphy joined the Exoneration Justice Clinic in June of 2021, he was working as a litigation associate at Jenner & Block in Chicago. During this time, he was active in pro bono practice and focused on representing those wrongfully convicted, individuals on death row, and criminal defendants.

Outside of his work, he is an active member of his church, husband, and father. Murphy grew up attending Our Lady of Heartland Sings to Perform, Catholic Charities to Benefit

Kevin Murphy poses with Missionary Pastor of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pastorate, Father Richard Doerr. Father Doerr has been a spiritual advisor and mentor for Murphy since childhood.

Fellow Prelates Recall Late Bishop O’Connell for His Gospel Simplicity

BY PABLO KAY

LOS ANGELES (OSV News) —

During his seven years as auxiliary bishop in Los Angeles, Bishop David G. O’Connell made many friends — and a strong impression — among his brother bishops.

The native of County Cork, Ireland, was one of three priests named auxiliary bishops for Los Angeles by Pope Francis in July of 2015. The pope was known to refer privately to the future bishops — then-Father O’Connell, then-Father Robert E. Barron, a Chicago-born media evangelist, and then-Monsignor Joseph V. Brennan, an LA priest, as “Archbishop Gomez’s triplets.”

In his often-emotional remarks about Bishop O’Connell in the days since his Feb. 18 murder, LA Archbishop José H. Osborn said O’Connell was a “deacon, shepherd, and friend.”

A makeshift memorial is seen outside the home of Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop David G. O’Connell in Hacienda Heights on Feb. 20, hours after investigators announced an arrest in his murder.
Lent is a Time to Appeal to Conversion and Turn Away from Sin

Bishop Rhoades Visits Communion and Liberation Group in Honor of Father Luigi Giussani

The following homily was delivered by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during Mass on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the St. Thomas More Chapel at the University of Notre Dame.

Today, as you know, is the 18th anniversary of Father Giussani’s death and I am glad to celebrate this Mass in his memory with you, members of the Communion and Liberation community this evening. Normally I am reminded every year of this anniversary because Feb. 22 is the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. But today it falls on Ash Wednesday. Father Giussani saw Lent as “a sacramental time,” as “the sacramental instrument” for fostering conversion. He invited us to turn away from sin to God to give us a greater impetus of transformation. And Father Giussani spoke of the transforming power of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, helping us in our ongoing conversion to the Lord.

There are two formulas that can be used in the asute rite of the imposition of ashes today. I usually alternate formulas each year. I use the first formula last year, the second formula this year. I will use the second formula when I impose ashes at this Mass: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.” I use this formula in the Rite of the imposition of ashes doesn’t always say “turn away from sin,” it also says “and be faithful to the Gospel.” In turning away from sin, “we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.” As Pope Benedict XVI once said: “Jesus Christ is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion. He is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illuminated by His light and sustained by His power which moves our steps.” So, conversion isn’t just a moral decision. It’s “a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.” Repentance, conversion, is a no to sin, a no to temptation, a no to the devil. It is also a yes — a yes to the Gospel, a yes to Jesus who offers Himself to us as the way, the truth, and the life, as the One who sets us free and saves us.

In our Lenten journey, the Lord is inviting us to follow Him more decisively and consistently. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to do so, when done with humility, not seeking to be seen and praised, as we heard in the Gospel. In today’s second reading, Saint Paul exhorts us in these words: “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” He appeals to us “not to receive the grace of God in vain.” And he proclaims: “Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation; now is the time, the day of salvation.” We can get swept up in materialism, sometimes without even noticing it. Almsgiving is a good corrective. Or prayer, we can come to the Lord and say, “I know that ignores or forgets God, and grow distant from the Lord. Hence, the deeper commitment or recommitment to prayer that is part of the Lenten season.

Notice the formula for the imposition of ashes doesn’t only say “turn away from sin,” but they also say “and be faithful to the Gospel.” In turning away from sin, “we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.” As Pope Benedict XVI once said: “Jesus Christ is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion. He is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illuminated by His light and sustained by His power which moves our steps.” So, conversion isn’t just a moral decision. It’s “a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.” Repentance, conversion, is a no to sin, a no to temptation, a no to the devil. It is also a yes — a yes to the Gospel, a yes to Jesus who offers Himself to us as the way, the truth, and the life, as the One who sets us free and saves us.

In our Lenten journey, the Lord is inviting us to turn away from sin. Literally, the word convert, metaanoia, means to change direction. Lent invites to change direction, to turn away from the things in our life that distance us from God. It is a turning away from sin.

Our conversion to the Lord took place at the beginning of our Christian life when we were baptized, but it is something that needs to happen and be renewed throughout our life. That’s why it is good that the Church gives us the annual season of Lent, a time of repentance that we might turn from a life of self-indulgence to a life of sacrifice, of giving of ourselves and our material possessions to God. And this is why it is good that we mark our faces with ashes today at this Mass: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

We can get swept up in materialism, sometimes without even noticing it. Almsgiving is a good corrective. Or prayer, we can come to the Lord and say, “I know that ignores or forgets God, and grow distant from the Lord. Hence, the deeper commitment or recommitment to prayer that is part of the Lenten season.

Notice the formula for the imposition of ashes doesn’t only say “turn away from sin,” but they also say “and be faithful to the Gospel.” In turning away from sin, “we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.” As Pope Benedict XVI once said: “Jesus Christ is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion. He is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illuminated by His light and sustained by His power which moves our steps.” So, conversion isn’t just a moral decision. It’s “a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.” Repentance, conversion, is a no to sin, a no to temptation, a no to the devil. It is also a yes — a yes to the Gospel, a yes to Jesus who offers Himself to us as the way, the truth, and the life, as the One who sets us free and saves us.

In our Lenten journey, the Lord is inviting us to turn away from sin. Literally, the word convert, metaanoia, means to change direction. Lent invites to change direction, to turn away from the things in our life that distance us from God. It is a turning away from sin.

Our conversion to the Lord took place at the beginning of our Christian life when we were baptized, but it is something that needs to happen and be renewed throughout our life. That’s why it is good that the Church gives us the annual season of Lent, a time of repentance that we might turn from a life of self-indulgence to a life of sacrifice, of giving of ourselves and our material possessions to God. And this is why it is good that we mark our faces with ashes today at this Mass: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

We can get swept up in materialism, sometimes without even noticing it. Almsgiving is a good corrective. Or prayer, we can come to the Lord and say, “I know that ignores or forgets God, and grow distant from the Lord. Hence, the deeper commitment or recommitment to prayer that is part of the Lenten season.

Notice the formula for the imposition of ashes doesn’t only say “turn away from sin,” but they also say “and be faithful to the Gospel.” In turning away from sin, “we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.” As Pope Benedict XVI once said: “Jesus Christ is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion. He is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illuminated by His light and sustained by His power which moves our steps.” So, conversion isn’t just a moral decision. It’s “a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.” Repentance, conversion, is a no to sin, a no to temptation, a no to the devil. It is also a yes — a yes to the Gospel, a yes to Jesus who offers Himself to us as the way, the truth, and the life, as the One who sets us free and saves us.

In our Lenten journey, the Lord is inviting us to turn away from sin. Literally, the word convert, metaanoia, means to change direction. Lent invites to change direction, to turn away from the things in our life that distance us from God. It is a turning away from sin.

Our conversion to the Lord took place at the beginning of our Christian life when we were baptized, but it is something that needs to happen and be renewed throughout our life. That’s why it is good that the Church gives us the annual season of Lent, a time of repentance that we might turn from a life of self-indulgence to a life of sacrifice, of giving of ourselves and our material possessions to God. And this is why it is good that we mark our faces with ashes today at this Mass: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

We can get swept up in materialism, sometimes without even noticing it. Almsgiving is a good corrective. Or prayer, we can come to the Lord and say, “I know that ignores or forgets God, and grow distant from the Lord. Hence, the deeper commitment or recommitment to prayer that is part of the Lenten season.

Notice the formula for the imposition of ashes doesn’t only say “turn away from sin,” but they also say “and be faithful to the Gospel.” In turning away from sin, “we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ.” As Pope Benedict XVI once said: “Jesus Christ is our final goal and the profound meaning of conversion. He is the path on which all are called to walk through life, letting themselves be illuminated by His light and sustained by His power which moves our steps.” So, conversion isn’t just a moral decision. It’s “a choice of faith that wholly involves us in close communion with Jesus as a real and living Person.” Repentance, conversion, is a no to sin, a no to temptation, a no to the devil. It is also a yes — a yes to the Gospel, a yes to Jesus who offers Himself to us as the way, the truth, and the life, as the One who sets us free and saves us.

In our Lenten journey, the Lord is inviting us to turn away from sin. Literally, the word convert, metaanoia, means to change direction. Lent invites to change direction, to turn away from the things in our life that distance us from God. It is a turning away from sin.
Ash Wednesday Mass with Notre Dame CSM and Liberation Community

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Bishop Rhoades never has trouble remembering the date of the death of Father Luigi Giussani, founder of the Communion and Liberation movement, since Feb. 22 is also the date of the Feast of the Chair of Peter. This year, that feast was preempted by Ash Wednesday, so that was what Bishop observed as he celebrated Mass in the St. Thomas More Chapel of the Notre Dame Law School. Paolo Carozza, Professor of Law and The Responsible for the local Communion and Liberation groups, imposed ashes on the bishop’s forehead, a rite Carozza would make a good deacon, according to the bishop.

He rearranged his schedule to begin Lent with this community, promising to pray for them and urging them to pray for him throughout the Catholic Church’s Lenten season, “a time destined by God to give us a greater impetus of transformation.”

There are two formulas for the imposition of ashes. The first is, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This year, Bishop Rhoades reflected in his homily on the second, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” an appeal to the lifelong conversion we all need.

The Lenten disciplines of almsgiving, fasting, and prayer are antithetical to the materialism, hedonism, and secularism that tempt us to “moral mediocrity.” But even more important is the impetus of transformation.

There are two distinct but connected groups at the University of Notre Dame. Undergraduates relate to similar groups on other college campuses. About a dozen students hold their weekly School of Community meetings at a public location on campus and often gather for Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. The older group of about 20, ranging in age from grad students in their 20s to people in their 50s, meets at St. Joseph Church, South Bend.

School of Community meetings involve discussion of texts, usually either magisterial documents or from the writings of Father Giussani, whose cause for canonization was opened in 2012. In May, they will together pray a set of spiritual exercises, this year one preached by the head of the worldwide Cistercian order. Although there is not a CL “spirituality” in the traditional sense, the movement’s charism is recognizing that Christ is the deepest answer to the fundamental needs of the human heart. Openness to those needs often involves art, music, and poetry.

The group is devoted to Mary and loves to sing. Their favorite prayer is the Angelus, with the final petition in Italian. They often get together for meals and have even planned vacations together. One such event encompassed leisure time as well as more formal educational and cultural events. They recently made a pilgrimage to the Cathedral in Fort Wayne. Charitable work in the past often involved being present to individuals at local eldercare facilities. Since Covid, it has meant volunteering at Cultivate Food Rescue in South Bend.

Carozza had heard of Communion and Liberation as an undergraduate, but when he arrived at Notre Dame in 1999, those formerly affiliated with the movement had all dispersed. His daughter Sofia explains its name simply, “an eclec- trical movement in the Catholic Church, a community of people who have been changed by the encounter with Christ. It is named for the fact that only the Christian event, as lived in communion with one another, can bring about the liberation of the human person. Its founder, Father Luigi Giussani, began CL in Milan in the 1960s with his high school students; he taught them a method through which they could judge the experiences of their everyday life, and discover how faith was relevant to the most fundamental needs of their hearts.”

Sofia and her older sister Giuliana have created a podcast based on the spirituality of Communion and Liberation. “The Pilgrim Soul” can be heard on Redeemer Radio.

Currently there are two distinct but connected groups at the University of Notre Dame. Undergraduates relate to similar groups on other college campuses. About a dozen students hold their weekly School of Community meetings at a public location on campus and often gather for Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. The older group of about 20, ranging in age from grad students in their 20s to people in their 50s, meets at St. Joseph Church, South Bend.

School of Community meetings involve discussion of texts, usually either magisterial documents or from the writings of Father Giussani, whose cause for canonization was opened in 2012. In May, they will together pray a set of spiritual exercises, this year one preached by the head of the worldwide Cistercian order. Although there is not a CL “spirituality” in the traditional sense, the movement’s charism is recognizing that Christ is the deepest answer to the fundamental needs of

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

March 5, 2023

Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, Mar. 6: 10 a.m. – Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, Mar. 7: 3 p.m. – Pueri Cantores Mass, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, Mar. 7: 7 p.m. – Little Flower Holy Hour, St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, Fort Wayne
Wednesday, Mar. 8: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Lenten Day of Recollection, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse Saturday, Mar. 11: 5 p.m. – Mass and Blessing of the Altar, St. Mary of the Presentation Church, Geneva

DECREE

St. Patrick’s Day and Friday Abstinence

This year, Saint Patrick’s Day (March 17th) falls on a Friday of Lent when all Catholics who have completed their 1st year of age are obligated to abstain from meat. In response to several requests for a dispensation from the law of abstinence on March 17, 2023, I hereby decree the following for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend:

Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend may substitute for abstinence from meat one of the following acts on March 17, 2023, the Memorial of Saint Patrick:

1) Attendance at Holy Mass
2) The recitation of the rosary for the intention of peace in the world.
3) One-half hour of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

This communion is meant to preserve the penitential spirit of a Lenten Friday while also allowing for the celebration of a great saint whose feast should be celebrated in a spiritual manner and not merely in a secular context.

+ Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Eucharistic Revival Palm Sunday Concert in Fort Wayne to Benefit Catholic Charities

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Throughout Bishop Rhoades’ recent presentations on the Holy Eucharist, he has repeatedly emphasized the importance of encountering beautiful Sacred Music to deepen one’s devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In the upcoming weeks, as the Church prepares to enter into the Passion of Jesus Christ, a special liturgical concert will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2, at 3 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. The event, coordinated by Bishop Rhoades as part of the Eucharistic Revival, will be led by professional singers and musicians from Heartland Sings, with the accompaniment of students from Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers High Schools.

This concert, which is open to all, aims to draw the faithful more deeply into the mystery of Christ’s Eucharistic sacrifice, especially as the Church enters into the most sacred time of the year. Heartland Sings is a non-profit vocal production company based in Fort Wayne. It is a mission-driven institution seeking to foster an appreciation for the vocal arts and inspire audiences and artists through exceptional cultural and entertainment experiences, educational programs, and community outreach. Bishop Rhoades is a member of their honorary board and has previously helped to arrange musical performances with them.

Robert Nance, President and Founding Artistic Director of Heartland Sings, partnered with Bishop Rhoades to arrange and lead this performance. Nance shared, “In presenting discussions with the bishop, we thought there needed to be something to build on the National Eucharistic Revival that could be highlighted during Holy Week.”

The experience will include performances of the “Pange Lingua” written by Thomas Aquinas for the feast of Corpus Christi, Mozart’s “Ave Verum Corpus” a meditation on Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist, and “Cantique De Jean Racine” by Gabriel Fauré, a composition based upon a hymn from the Divine Office. Natalie Young, Lead Soprano, and Lisa Gerstenkorn, Lead Alto, will also perform the “Stabat Mater” with orchestral and choir accompaniment to allow listeners an opportunity to walk through Holy Week alongside the Blessed Virgin Mary. Additionally, Bishop Rhoades will provide a theological reflection at the event. Maestro Nance further expressed his joy to prepare for the performance of this liturgical concert. He shared, “This event checks off a lot of boxes for Heartland Sings’ mission, which is ‘to change lives through song.’ It is one thing to share beautiful music with an audience for the Eucharistic Revival. It is another to give our young people, students from the local parochial high schools who are learning to be good singers, an experience where they can do something with a professional orchestra and vocalists. It adds even more when the professional performers themselves are also changed through their preparation to present this music in a liturgical concert.”

As Eucharist devotion increases, so too does one’s desire to give more fully to Jesus and help support one another. Therefore, for those who wish to contribute, a free-will offering will be collected at the event to benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Dan Florin, CEO of Catholic Charities said, “This Eucharistic Revival Palm Sunday concert will be a special way to encounter Christ heading into Holy Week and Easter.” He elaborated, “As the Human Service arm of the Church, we are honored to be a part of this event. The Revival reminds us that Christ is not only truly present in the Eucharist, He is also present in our neighbors in need. The concert’s offering collection will directly benefit people throughout the diocese in need of Stability, Pro-Life, Migration, and Counseling services. At Catholic Charities, we not only provide these material services, but we do so with heartfelt concern and love for our neighbor, as Christ calls us to do.”

Advance registration is required to reserve a seat, as capacity is limited. Registration will also be available at the event, subject to availability. To reserve your space or learn more about the event, please visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-events/concert.
Environmental Advocates Encouraged by Changing Climate at Statehouse

While falling short of their goal, members of a growing grassroots movement in Indiana for addressing climate change say they are heartened by progress this year at the Statehouse in cultivating support for their cause.

For the second year in a row, advocates including the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) backed legislation to create a climate solutions task force that would study issues related to sustainable clean energy solutions. The task force, comprising legislators and environmental experts, ultimately would have been charged with delivering a report and recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor no later than November of 2024.

While last year’s proposed legislation never received a hearing, this year’s Senate Bill 335 — did get a hearing but no vote. Although the bipartisan bill will not move forward in this legislative session, Senator Bassler acknowledged it is “an idea whose time has come,” and added it would be “very reasonable” to do so in a future year.

“Preservation of state forests, funding for energy efficiency and climate change in Indiana,” Mingus said. “This is a foundation for future policy.”

Mingus acknowledged the difficulties and “ideological battles” surrounding many environmental issues — especially the topic of climate change. But he and other supporters of Senate Bill 335 emphasized that the legislation would merely establish a framework for future policy discussions.

“The task force proposed by this bill is not tied to any one policy idea, but rather sets the stage for understanding which policies might be most effective for addressing a changing climate in Indiana,” he said.

“The conversation that we had during the committee meeting was hopeful, and the ICC believes that establishing a task force is a very reasonable step — a prudent step — to studying some of the issues around environmental resiliency and climate change in Indiana.”

Mingus shared Catholic social teaching about the “relationship of stewardship” with the Earth and humanity and the environment.

This emphasis has endured through the lifetimes of the popes of recent history, continuing now with Pope Francis, Mingus said. “This teaching has been addressed not just to just Catholic Christians of the world, but to all people of good will, Catholics and non-Catholics alike.”

Most recently, the Church has viewed environmental issues through the lens of “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” the groundbreaking 2015 encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. In this pivotal teaching document, the pope called for dialogue and swift action worldwide to protect the environment, curb irresponsible development, and respect God’s creation.

Mingus acknowledged the difficulties and “ideological battles” surrounding many environmental issues — especially the topic of climate change. But he and other supporters of Senate Bill 335 emphasized that the legislation would merely establish a framework for future policy discussions.

“The task force proposed by the bill is not tied to any one policy idea, but rather sets the stage for understanding which policies might be most effective for addressing a changing climate in Indiana,” he said.

Preservation of state forests, funding for energy efficiency and climate change in Indiana would be amongst the issues addressed by the task force.

Sen. Jon Alting (R-Lafayette), who brought forth similar legislation to establish a climate solutions task force, members of the group have been actively engaged at the Statehouse and in meetings with environmental advocates.

“Confront the Climate Crisis, established in West Lafayette in 2020, is a grassroots campaign that now comprises more than 150 high school students across the state who raise awareness about environmental issues and provide research and input to lawmakers. Beginning last year with Sen. Jon Alting (R-Lafayette), who brought forth similar legislation to establish a climate solutions task force, members of the group have been actively engaged at the Statehouse and in meetings with environmental advocates.”

“The conversations I had the day of the hearing because there are some senators who are beginning to talk about climate change and are beginning to see the importance of this issue,” said Durai, a junior at West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School. “We will be pushing for this or similar legislation again in 2024 and continuing to advocate for responsible climate legislation for Indiana.”

Meanwhile, environmental advocates are hailing success on another measure. House Bill 1138, which would require childcare and pre-kindergarten facilities to test drinking water for lead contamination, unanimously passed the House on Feb. 22 on its third reading.

The ICC and other allies are following the progress of that bill while looking at ways to help ensure that the climate solutions task force becomes reality one day. Benedictine Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick, one of the founding members of the Creation Care Commission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, was among those who provided written testimony for the hearing on Senate Bill 335.

“Awareness is growing,” said Sister Sheila, a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. “We definitely made progress from last year to this year, and my hope is that it will continue to strengthen and grow.”

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church’s position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.
Anglicans in Global South are ‘Heartbroken’ by Church of England Decision to Bless Same-Sex Marriages

NAIROBI, Kenya (OSV News) — Anglican leaders in the Global South say they were heartbroken by the Church of England’s decision to allow clergy to bless same-sex unions.

The leaders said the move has weakened their communion and widened an existing split within the church. They expressed hope that the decision would not lead to the collapse of the Anglican Communion.

“We are Children of the Holy Spirit,” said the archbishop of Canterbury. “The Holy Spirit is very happy … the sun is rising on all of us. We have many things in common.”

We are Children of the Resurrection, say Participants in Middle East Continental Synodal Assembly

BEIRUT (OSV News) — As the continental phase of the synod travels across the globe in February and March, with sessions in Europe, Oceania, North America, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the Middle East encounter fell during a time of grief following the tragic earthquake in Feb. 6 in Syria and Turkey. Participants “raised daily prayers for the intention of the victims, the wounded, and the displaced in the stricken areas.”

Judge Orders Release of Redacted Report on Child Sex Abuse in Baltimore Archdiocese

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Robert Taylor Jr. ruled on Feb. 24 that a redacted version of the Maryland Attorney General’s report on child sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Baltimore must be released publicly.

The report investigates 80 years of allegations of sexual abuse and the response by the archdiocese to those allegations.

Pope Francis Will Travel to Hungary at End of April

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will travel to Hungary April 28-30 where he will meet with government officials, refugees, academic scholars, and young people in Budapest, the Vatican announced on Feb. 27.

The pope will arrive in Budapest on April 28 and will meet with Katalin Novák, President of Hungary, the country’s Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, as well as local bishops, priests, and other members of Hungary’s Catholic community.

The pope will only spend one full day in Hungary, and the country’s Catholic community. Novák, who is Hungary’s first female head of state, invited Pope Francis to visit Hungary during her visit to the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2022.

The pope will spend one full day in the country on April 29, during which he will meet privately with children from a local school, speak with refugees and people in need, address young people in Hungary, and meet with the local Jesuit community.

Before returning to Rome on April 30, he will celebrate Mass before the Hungarian Parliament and meet with scholars from Budapest’s Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Bush Marks 20 Years of PEPFAR, Joining Catholic Leaders in Calling for Its Renewal in HIV/AIDS Fight

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Former President George W. Bush marked the 20th anniversary of the PEPFAR program at a Feb. 24 event in the nation’s capital, casting the program as an example of the global leadership the United States can provide.

PEPFAR, or the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, was authorized by Congress and Bush in 2003, as the U.S. government’s global effort to combat HIV/AIDS. The program is the largest global health program devoted to a single disease, and is credited with saving 25 million lives and slowing as well as the trajectory of the epidemic. The program, in part, distributes antiretrovirals in countries where as many as one in three adults were impacted.

Congress will consider the program’s reauthorization this year. Catholic groups including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services have backed the program’s lifesaving efforts.

Bush quipped to the audience that he was not in Washington, D.C. because he misses it, but to advocate for PEPFAR. “We’re asking Congress to fund the program to be refunded,” Bush said.

‘Pilgrimage Road’ Reveals Archaeologists’ Race Against Time in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (OSV News) — One of Israel’s leading archaeologists working on the Pilgrimage Road excavation near Jerusalem’s Temple Mount said that with so much new construction underway around the Holy City, the rush is on to document and preserve sites that are at risk.

“The pope will arrive in Budapest on April 28 and will meet with Katalin Novák, President of Hungary, and the country’s Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, as well as local bishops, priests, and other members of Hungary’s Catholic community. Novák, who is Hungary’s first female head of state, invited Pope Francis to visit Hungary during her visit to the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2022.”

The pope will only spend one full day in Hungary, and the country’s Catholic community. Novák, who is Hungary’s first female head of state, invited Pope Francis to visit Hungary during her visit to the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2022.

The pope will spend one full day in the country on April 29, during which he will meet privately with children from a local school, speak with refugees and people in need, address young people in Hungary, and meet with the local Jesuit community.

Before returning to Rome on April 30, he will celebrate Mass before the Hungarian Parliament and meet with scholars from Budapest’s Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Bush Marks 20 Years of PEPFAR, Joining Catholic Leaders in Calling for Its Renewal in HIV/AIDS Fight

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Former President George W. Bush marked the 20th anniversary of the PEPFAR program at a Feb. 24 event in the nation’s capital, casting the program as an example of the global leadership the United States can provide.

PEPFAR, or the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, was authorized by Congress and Bush in 2003, as the U.S. government’s global effort to combat HIV/AIDS. The program is the largest global health program devoted to a single disease, and is credited with saving 25 million lives and slowing as well as the trajectory of the epidemic. The program, in part, distributes antiretrovirals in countries where as many as one in three adults were impact

Congress will consider the program’s reauthorization this year. Catholic groups including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services have backed the program’s lifesaving efforts.

Bush quipped to the audience that he was not in Washington, D.C. because he misses it, but to advocate for PEPFAR. “We’re asking Congress to fund the program to be refunded,” Bush said.

‘Pilgrimage Road’ Reveals Archaeologists’ Race Against Time in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (OSV News) — One of Israel’s leading archaeologists working on the Pilgrimage Road excavation near Jerusalem’s Temple Mount said that with so much new construction underway around the Holy City, the rush is on to document and preserve sites that are at risk.

“The pope will arrive in Budapest on April 28 and will meet with Katalin Novák, President of Hungary, and the country’s Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, as well as local bishops, priests, and other members of Hungary’s Catholic community. Novák, who is Hungary’s first female head of state, invited Pope Francis to visit Hungary during her visit to the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2022.”

The pope will only spend one full day in Hungary, and the country’s Catholic community. Novák, who is Hungary’s first female head of state, invited Pope Francis to visit Hungary during her visit to the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2022.

The pope will spend one full day in the country on April 29, during which he will meet privately with children from a local school, speak with refugees and people in need, address young people in Hungary, and meet with the local Jesuit community.

Before returning to Rome on April 30, he will celebrate Mass before the Hungarian Parliament and meet with scholars from Budapest’s Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Bush Marks 20 Years of PEPFAR, Joining Catholic Leaders in Calling for Its Renewal in HIV/AIDS Fight

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Former President George W. Bush marked the 20th anniversary of the PEPFAR program at a Feb. 24 event in the nation’s capital, casting the program as an example of the global leadership the United States can provide.

PEPFAR, or the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, was authorized by Congress and Bush in 2003, as the U.S. government’s global effort to combat HIV/AIDS. The program is the largest global health program devoted to a single disease, and is credited with saving 25 million lives and slowing as well as the trajectory of the epidemic. The program, in part, distributes antiretrovirals in countries where as many as one in three adults were impact
**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Fire Choir Sings to Nursing Home Residents, Recruiting New Members**

Photos provided by Tony Wagner

Since 2015, except during COVID, the Fire Choir goes out once a month to sing to the residents of multiple nursing homes. They have performed at St. Anne Home and Retirement Community, Park Place Senior Living, and most recently at Lutheran Life Villages on Coldwater Road in Fort Wayne. They perform on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., singing traditional Catholic hymns, music from the 50s to the 70s, and even some folk songs. The Fire Choir is made up of members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, but welcome anyone who would like to join the ministry. No prior choir experience or practice is required. The group will meet at Lutheran Life Villages, 9802 Coldwater Road, at 6:20 p.m. on March 20, April 17, and May 15. For more information, contact Tony Wagner at 260-415-0881.

**St. John the Baptist Students Have Special Visitor in Jaylon Smith**

Photos provided by Jeanne Hohenstein

St. John the Baptist Fort Wayne had a special visitor on Wednesday, Feb. 15! Mrs. Keefer, who is a longtime friend and supporter of Jaylon Smith, asked him to visit St. John the Baptist School as a surprise to the students. Jaylon is a graduate of Bishop Luers High School and the University of Notre Dame and is currently playing in the NFL for the New York Giants. Mrs. Keefer “interviewed” Jaylon asking him questions about his faith, academics, and journey to the NFL. Students and staff were very excited to see Jaylon and were impressed with his sincere, kind, and gentle demeanor. Mrs. Keefer and Mr. Smith also made visits to all of the classrooms.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basketball Team Named CYO Champions**

Provided by Lois Widner

Congratulations to the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School 6th-grade boys basketball team. They were named Catholic Youth Organization Champions playing against St. John the Baptist. The boys are coached by Jeff Rice, Jason Shanks, and Danny Lai.

**Knights of Columbus District 14 Hold Free Throw Contest**

Photos provided by Dr. Tom Ryan

The Knights of Columbus District 14 held the District Free Throw Contest on Sunday, Feb. 14, at St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. Numerous boys and girls ages 9-14 competed against each other from multiple Knights of Columbus Councils within the district. Winners of each different age group from both boys and girls are pictured above. The boys, pictured left to right, are Connor McAfoose, Kaiden Payton, Lukas Conroy, Noah Smith, and James Morris. Benjamin Cliff is not pictured. The girls, pictured left to right, are Emma Cagnet, Regan Furnas, Maci Cagnet, Anza Miller, Julia Allen, and Jazmyn Scott.
**Not Just Rice Bowl, CRS Chapters and Clubs Engage Catholics in Living Out Call to ‘Missionary Discipleship’**

BY KIMBERLEY HEATHERINGTON

(OSV News) — When grim images of men and women overseas enduring poverty and devastation scroll across their television, computer, or mobile screens, U.S. Catholics may feel helpless to assist with crises that may seem too complex and so far away.

Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl — a brightly colored, cardboard almsgiving box that is a familiar annual Lenten sight in parishes nationwide — has invited Catholics to pray, fast, and give in solidarity with the world’s poor.

But Catholic Relief Services — the official international relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., active in 116 countries and serving 193 million people — is going even further today, mobilizing the faithful to share even more directly in their mission, through a national network of CRS chapters and clubs.

“We had this idea,” Bill O’Keefe, CRS Executive Vice President for Mission, Mobilization, and Advocacy, told OSV News, “about creating communities of supporters who could come together, based on faith, and take consequential actions that would really make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world.”

Members — parishioners, diocesan groups, college students, and high schoolers — assist CRS campaigns to eliminate global poverty and injustice by engaging their own communities in advocacy and giving. CRS provides specialized training and support, as well as regularly issue briefings, which they in turn can share with parishioners, small group members, or students.

With 1,705 global partners, CRS doesn’t lack projects ready to be championed by its more than 140 chapters and clubs.

“Catholics believe that we should be doing more. They maybe just don’t know how to channel that energy,” O’Keefe said. “And this is part of what we’re trying to do here — provide the structure to do that.”

CRS focuses its international programming activities on agriculture, child-feeding, education, disaster relief, health, justice and peacebuilding, microfinance, and water and sanitation. He said, “Emergency aid are by far the largest efforts, with 117.8 million and 40.9 million program participants, respectively.”

But the CRS chapters and clubs are not simply an activity — they are an intentional way of exercising “missionary discipleship,” the ordinary call of every Catholic to follow Jesus Christ rooted in their baptism. “What it means, based on faith, we can all take actions that live out the Gospel to clothe the naked, feed the poor, care for the orphan,” explained O’Keefe. “And CRS is the mechanism for American Catholics to do that overseas. So, we’re inviting Catholics to live it through our chapters.”

It also means persuading elected officials to support the Church’s efforts to advance justice and aid the vulnerable.

“As Catholics, we’re called to think about what it means to be a faithful citizen,” O’Keefe emphasized. “And part of that is to engage in the process for just policies that would help the most vulnerable.”

One particularly effective example of CRS chapter advocacy is the Global Child Thrive Act. Passed by the U.S. Congress in January of 2021, it supports early childhood development programs through the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, and other U.S. government child-focused foreign assistance programs.

“Our chapters were critical in taking that bill from an idea, and then getting it passed,” said O’Keefe. “Our chapters met with the eventual co-sponsors of that bill.” O’Keefe said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., told him, following the passage of the Global Child Thrive Act, that “had our chapter not met with him, and encouraged him along the way, this just would have been a good idea.”

To O’Keefe, this outcome is successful proof of the CRS model: “Chapters met with person with different legislators, built relationships, shared on the basis of faith why this was important — and that helped to make this issue a priority, and brought a bipartisan group of supporters together.”

He said, “Committed groups of Catholics working together as part of a movement of individuals organized through chapters really can change things.”

Larry Blankemeyer, CRS Chapter Leader at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Richboro, Pennsylvania, told OSV News the first meeting he was ever involved in with CRS was a meeting in Fitzpatrick’s office. A constituent and CRS Chapter member in Blankemeyer’s delegation made an impassioned plea for what would eventually become the Global Child Thrive Act.

“On the spot, Rep. Fitzpatrick asked us to go back to CRS and to get the basic points to form the foundation of a piece of legislation, give it to him, and he would run with it.”

Blankemeyer’s chapter is currently focused on this year’s Lenten Rice Bowl campaign and September’s farm bill reauthorization, which adds an overseas market for surplus American crops.

Patricia Pulla, Secretary of the CRS club at Fordham University in New York, said a winter break trip to the Philippines by four of its members became a practical lesson in overseas aid impact.

“We have majors that include humanitarian studies, international political economy majors, sociology majors — and all of these relate to service and development,” Pulla told OSV News. The journey “gave these students a good picture of what work in this area could be like, and gave them a better picture of what they can do with their careers.”

But according to Pulla, there was another experiential dimension as well: “Hearing their stories ... makes us more compassionate, and motivated to be advocates at our campus.”

Evangelic Aliangan Ward, who co-leads a diocesan Spanish language-preferred CRS chapter in the Diocese of San Diego, agreed.

“This is a way that I can connect with my brothers and sisters across the world,” she told OSV News. “In Spanish, we’re called ‘comunidad solidaria’ — a solidarity community. I really like that word, community.”

In addition to fundraising for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, and the CRS Rice Bowl, Aliangan’s chapter also is concerned with the Farm Bill — especially given large numbers of Southern California seasonal migrant workers.

While directly reaching elected officials is challenging, Ward persists, sharing that a staffer in one San Diego legislative office told her, “I totally get it — because I came here as a refugee.”

For more information about CRS, visit crs.org/get-involved/chapters-clubs.

Kimberley Heatherington writes for OSV News from Virginia.
Catholics in Living Out Call to ‘Missionary Discipleship’

CRS Rice Bowl Makes a Difference Globally, and Right Here in Our Diocese

BY ERIKA BARRON

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lent. Each year, Catholic families around the world participate in these practices. One such way is through the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl collection.

For more than 45 years, the CRS Rice Bowl has been a Lenten staple for American families. When you participate in the CRS Rice Bowl program, a seemingly simple cardboard box can help people in more than 100 countries around the globe, including people in need right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

For those unfamiliar, the Rice Bowl is a brightly colored collection box available in parishes throughout the diocese and across the country, beginning on Ash Wednesday. The bowl itself acts as a bank and comes with a Lenten calendar to help guide you through the liturgical season with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The calendar comes with daily reflections, activities, and stories to help you along your Lenten journey.

The Rice Bowl also comes with simple meatless recipes from around the world to make on Fridays, like black bean soup from Guatemala or a Haitian vegetable stew. The idea is that the money saved from not ordering out can then be put into your Rice Bowl, while your family eats a unique meal with meaning.

The CRS Rice Bowl Website states, “Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than $320 million.” As money collected in our diocese, 75 percent of the funds are used by CRS to alleviate need in more than 100 countries facing poverty and food shortage, while 25 percent stays right here, benefitting Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend serves four main areas; Stability Services, Migration Services, Pro Life Services, and Counseling,” said Matt Smith, Chief Development Officer for Catholic Charities Fort Wayne-South Bend. “One area that Rice Bowl goes to support would be Stability Services to help those in immediate need. Our mission is to help all those in need as Christ would have us do.”

“The money also supports our food pantries in the Auburn and South Bend regions, and our Resource and Referral program that is available in all of our offices,” said Nicole Kurut, Catholic Charities Marketing Manager.

Anyone living in Saint Joseph County or Dekalb County can benefit from the food pantries. The Resource and Referral program also provides immediate resources to anyone finding themselves in need, whether it is through food vouchers, help finding shelter, or one of the many other offerings provided.

The need locally is increasing. “We have had about a 40 percent increase in year over year of people coming to us in need,” said Smith.

There are different groups throughout the diocese that go all out during the Rice Bowl collection. One of the unique ways that students at Bishop Dwenger High School are raising money for the CRS Rice Bowl is by hosting weekly Rice Bowl lunch events.

At these events, bowls of rice are sold for $1. All of the proceeds are donated to the CRS Rice Bowl. “Last year, our club began selling the bowls of rice at lunch,” said Cassandra Smith, Co-President of the CRS Club at Bishop Dwenger.

She added, “The money goes to the Rice Bowls and helps students who fast on Fridays. The rice is made by our lunch ladies. We have students in our club who serve it. We had a pretty good turnout of students buying it last year and hope to have an even better turnout this year.”

Beth Martin, National CRS Director of Formation and Mobilization, said, “By making a small sacrifice during Lent, Catholics and others of goodwill can be part of a larger movement to combat hunger not just globally, but here in the United States as well. CRS Rice Bowl can unite us, and when we come together to combat a problem, we can achieve far-reaching, ambitious goals like bringing global hunger to an end.”

For more information about CRS, visit crs.org/get-involved/chapters-clubs.
Theology on Tap Series Wraps Up Its Focus on Identity

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

The theme of “identity” illuminated four talks given at the winter series of Theology on Tap, Fort Wayne, between January and February, under the banner “Called by Name,” culminating in the celebration of Mass and dinner before entering the Lenten season.

John Pratt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said that this theme of identity was thoughtfully discerned by the Theology on Tap planning committee.

“We began with, ‘What do young adults need to hear?’ and one of the most fundamental things that kept coming up was identity.”

“Having a proper understanding of that — it’s rooted as sons and daughters of God. So the theme was ‘Called by Name.’ Every speaker discussed identity in relation to four various aspects: prayer, mission, community, and friendship.”

Pratt believes that this winter series was a success, with young adults returning each week for more formation and community — often bringing their non-Catholic friends.

“The combination of growth in the faith and building new friendships is what makes Theology on Tap successful.”

Peter MacDonald, a young adult participant in the series, said that he thinks that discussing identity is “really important for our age group, especially for most of America. Our culture is desperate to get identity. We’re always looking for that, and so, focusing on identity should be a huge emphasis for that age category. So, I think it hit the nail on the head in that way.”

MacDonald said that, for a social event, Theology on Tap is a very low-commitment way to learn about the Catholic faith and grow in community.

“It’s not some formal event. It is really easy to just come and check it out and not feel ostracized.”

— Peter MacDonald

Young adults gather at Brookside Manor on the campus of the University of Saint Francis on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for the last in the Theology on Tap Winter Series, “Called by Name.”

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

The March 7 Holy Hour will be led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.
Indianapolis Priest Named Director of USCCB’s Institute on the Catechism

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The recently formed Institute on the Catechism will carry out the U.S. bishops’ vision of the importance of “connecting evangelization and catechesis,” according to Father Daniel J. Mahan, an Indianapolis archdiocesan priest just named as the institute’s director.

The institute is housed within the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Father Michael J.K. Fuller, USCCB General Secretary, appointed Father Mahan to the post on Feb. 27, effective July 1. This “evangelizing catechesis,” a focus of the Church as a whole, aims to teach the beliefs of the Catholic faith in a “compelling and inviting” way to help young Catholics foster a “deeper relationship with the Lord and help them see their place within the body of Christ, the Church, and in turn, reach out to others to share the Good News,” Father Mahan told OSV News.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism, which reviews catechetical texts and provides consultation to the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, presented a proposal to create an Institute for the Catechism at the bishops’ spring meeting in June of 2021, which was held virtually because of the pandemic.

The Institute on the Catechism was created “to reimplement and reinvigorate the mandate of the subcommittee in responding to the changing catechetical landscape,” according to a USCCB news release announcing Father Mahan’s appointment.

Through the institute, catechetical publishers and developers of catechetical content will work directly with the USCCB subcommittee in new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools while aiming to reach a more diverse Church. The institute will help them address today’s challenges to catechesis, such as young people’s disaffiliation with organized religion, the growing secularism in society, and the influences of social media.

The institute will also provide resources to dioceses and yearly, in-person training conferences and retreats for diocesan catechetical leaders.

Father Mahan has reviewed 130 Church leaders, including bishops, other diocesan officials, staff of the USCCB subcommittee, priests, and others currently helping review catechetical texts as well as representatives from various publishers of catechetical materials.

He called it a “beautiful opportunity” for all involved in catechesis “to be together. We are in this together. The institute is meant to keep us together and help us work together for the same goal — to form young people in the faith, help them live the faith for a lifetime.”

“We know we have a lot of young Catholics who are leaving the Church, some at a very early age. Some kids will make that decision in middle school ... opting out even if they are still going to Mass and religious ed. They’re already out the door,” he said.

The bishops want to make sure “we’re doing the best we can in catechesis” and help those called in that direction “to produce high quality, doctrinally sound, compelling materials for our young people that grab them by the heart.”

He paid tribute to the late Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein for playing a significant role in the renewal of catechesis in the U.S. while he was chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on the Use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In spite of the great efforts by catechists and publishers of catechetical materials to date, “we are still losing young people,” Father Mahan said, due in part to the many “powerful influences in our culture that are sort of like tentacles that can wrap around and not let go.”

“The ‘isms’ are rampant — individualism, materialisms, narcissism that leads to nihilism,” Father Mahan told OSV News. “When we look at how saturated many young people are in media — whether watching TV, music, movies, engaged in social media there are a lot of influences that mitigate against a solid formation in the faith.”

“I’m not sure we can do a whole lot to change what’s out there. That may be someone else’s calling,” he said. “But the Church can make sure what we are offering is top-notch, innovative ... We know we are one screen away from anyone else in the world and that can present extra opportunities for us in using media in ways that glorify God.”

For more information about the Institute on the Catechism, visit evangelizingcatechesis.com.

Julie Asher is Senior Editor at OSV News.
**Lent: A Time to Reinforce Your Faith**

The Book of Genesis is the source of this weekend’s first biblical reading. As its name implies, Genesis reveals the divine origin of life and the divine plan in the forming of the Hebrew race. First and foremost, Genesis is a splendidly vivid revelation of God’s majesty and power, but also of the dignity of humanity and purpose of life. It is a great pity that this marvelous book has been so tortured and misconstrued by well-meaning but uninformed readers over the years. The message of Genesis is not about the details of how creation occurred.

This weekend’s reading is about Abraham. Considered by scholars to have been an actual person and not a myth, Abraham is regarded as the first of God’s chosen. The reading makes several points. God is active in human affairs, and God communicates with humans, and they with God.

Abraham has very strong faith. God rewards this faith by pledging that Abraham’s descendants, until the end of time, will be God’s special people. It is not a dignity conferred without expectation. Descendants of Abraham must be loyal to God and, by their lives of faith, reveal God to the world.

For its second reading, this weekend’s liturgy presents a passage from the Second Epistle to Timothy. Timothy was a disciple of Paul. The Church venerates Timothy as a great saint, very important in the formation of Christian belief. According to the New Testament, Timothy was the son of a pagan father and a devout Jewish mother. He was Paul’s secretary at one point and once was imprisoned with Paul, although eventually released. Tradition is that Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus, then a major city, its present ruins on the Mediterranean coast of modern Turkey. This reading encourages Timothy to be strong in his Christian belief despite difficulties and obstacles.

St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story of the Transfiguration, ablaze with symbols of God with which any Jew instantly would have been familiar, as these images appear throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. In these Scriptures, brilliant light, mountains, and pure white all symbolized God. Finally, surrounding Jesus were Moses and Elijah, the great heroes in the Hebrew religious tradition.

This scene utterly contrasts with that of Calvary. Instead of shining figures, Jesus is crucified after being stripped of his garments. Instead of glowing clouds and brilliant light, darkness surrounds the cross.

**Reflection**

Lent is little more than one week along, and already the Church is encouraging us and reinforcing our faith. Today, Jesus strengthened the faith of the Apostles who stood trembling and in dismay before the divine sight manifested on the mountain.

The message is clear. Jesus is God, active and present among us.

To be saved, we must believe, and in our belief, we must commit our very lives to Christ. This is hard.

Abraham is critically a part of this weekend’s lesson as an example. He was firmly loyal to his faith in God regardless. Nowhere in these readings is any account of the crucifixion, no reference to Calvary. Nevertheless, the event of the Lord’s death on the cross is essential to understanding this weekend’s message.

Calvary represents the world. It was for a moment, seemingly, the triumph of earthly power and human sin over good. Jesus died, but then came the wonder of Easter.

Every human being can be tricked into assuming that earthly things, or earthly satisfaction, will bring them reward. Instead of reward, sinning brings death. All around it is gloom.

So, the Church counsels us. Have faith, see beyond the gloom, rejoice in the light of Jesus. Remember the Transfiguration, and remember Abraham, our model of absolute faith. Remember what truly matters in life.

**READINGS**

| Sunday: | Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2 Tim 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday: | Dn 9:9b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38 |
| Tuesday: | Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 508-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12 |
| Wednesday: | Jer 18:18-20 Ps 315-6, 14-16 Mt 17:28-30 |
| Thursday: | Tt 175-10 Ps 1-1, 4, 6 Lk 16:19-31 |
| Friday: | Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 |
| Saturday: | Mt 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 |
The Joyful Season of Lent

Welcome to the joyful season of Lent! Now, I suspect that you have never thought of Lent as a time of joy, and no wonder. It seems more like a dry, bare season in the Church: it begins with ashes, we don’t hear a lot of music, and we don’t sing the Gloria nor the Alleluia. And what about the raucous parties that led right up to the very edge of Lent? Think about the city of New Orleans, for example, which started celebrating Mardi Gras season at the beginning of the new year, only to have Ash Wednesday come and pull the rug out from under Bourbon Street. It’s nearly impossible to find a King Cake now that we’ve been reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

And yet I’m here to let you in on one of the best-kept secrets of our Church’s calendar: Lent is actually a time of joy, and everything about this season is meant to prepare us for a greater joy than we could ever imagine. As St. Paul, quoting the prophet Isaiah, promised, “eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, what God has prepared for those who love Him” (2 Cor 4:9). But because we are busy people pulled in dozens of directions, we all need to be reminded to re-focus our attention, to prune away some of the spiritual clutter, in order to recognize and appreciate the joys that God has promised to His sons and daughters.

If you’ve ever prepared a family feast, you may have had the experience of the actual meal itself being anticlimactic. The work of cooking a huge spread can both tire you out and diminish the appeal of the meal itself. Food blogger Dana Velden writes, “sometimes when I cook, by the time I sit down to eat my dinner I’m kind of done with it. Between tasting it for seasonings and doneness and inhaling all the aromas of cooking, I don’t get that clean, first-bite thrill when I actually eat it. There are no surprises in flavor or texture.

POPE, from page 12

image for family life. We are the rocks and the tumbler represents life with all its twists and turns. The sand is the tinture from the beach that comes from living in a world that has its fair weather but overall, is a kind of sandstorm of trials and tumult and face the often-abrasive sands of life. But through it all, our rough edges are chipped away, the sands cause a polish to emerge on each of us. The process is harsh and gory, but at the end, someone beautiful emerges: the very man or woman God has created us to be. We begin as diamonds in the rough or coarse stones and come forth as beautiful jewels, polished and lightsome.

HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

you shall be glad, O Lord, and ever with their joy, and you shall dwell among them” (Wednesday, Week 1):

“May this Communion, O Lord, cleanse us of wrongdoing and make us worthy to the joy of heaven” (Monday, Week 2):

“You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.” (Wednesday, Week 3):

“Cleanse your people, Lord… and do not let them cling to false joy, but promise them the rewards of your truth” (Thursday, Week 5):

We especially focus on Christ’s joy in the Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday. The liturgy of the day is meant to prefigure the Eucharistic banquet that is the mystery of the resurrection. We hear the Antiphon bids us: “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.” And in the prayer over the offerings we pray, “We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully reverence them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of the world.” 

Our Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving prepare us to both offer and to receive the Eucharistic banquet that is the salvation of the world. Truly, that is something worth anticipating with joy.

Ken Hallenius is a syndicated radio host and podcaster living in South Bend. For more, visit blog.hallenius.org.
Parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Huntington gather with Father Thomas Zehr inside Assumption Hall next to the church on Feb. 15, Ash Wednesday, for a simple soup supper following evening services at the church. Ladies from the church prepared homemade broccoli cheddar and vegetable soups, served with bread and peanut butter sandwiches.

Father Emmanuel Abuh administered ashes to parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege, on the morning of Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.
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.

Fish Fry in Bremen
BREMEN — St. Dominic Church, 803 W 8th St., will have a fish fry prepared by Tyner IOPF Lodge 821 on Friday, March 3, starting at 4 p.m. until fish is gone. Tickets are $13 per dinner which includes fish, sides, drink, and dessert. Dine-in only $6 for children 6-10 years of age. Contact Diane Banic at 574-546-3601 or office@stdominic.info.

Queen of Angels Lenten Fish Fry — Drive-Thru Only
FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Church, 1500 West State Blvd., will host a drive-thru only fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4-7 p.m. (or until fish runs out). Dinners will include: a generous portion of fish, tartar sauce, chips, applesauce, and cookie and will cost $12.50 per dinner. Please enter parking lot from Irene Avenue. Contact Laverne Gladieux at 260-482-9411 or parishsecretary@queenoangelswf.org.

Fish Fry at Our Lady of Hungary
SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will have a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4-7 p.m. at the school, 735 W. Calvert St. Meal includes fish, baked potato, choice of three salads, and ice cream. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets are $15 for an adult dinner; $10 for children 5-12 and children five and younger are free. Tickets at the door. Carryouts available. Contact Kathy Baughner at 574-289-2143 or parishoffice@queenofoh.org.

Fish Fry at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel
FORT WAYNE — A St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus drive-thru fish fry will be held on Friday, March 3, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the school, 11337 US HWY 27 S. Tickets are $12 per dinner which includes fish, potato wedges, coleslaw, applesauce, and roll. Call 260-659-3748.

Our Lady of Good Hope Knights Host Lenten Fish Fry
FORT WAYNE — Knights of Columbus Council 12417 is hosting a Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 Saint Joe Rd. Dinner includes Alaskan pollock by Dan’s of Huntington, tartar sauce, baked potato, dinner roll, and applesauce. Cost is $12. Drive-thru only. Contact Benjamin Rinaldo at brinaldo@gmail.com.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at Queen of Peace
MISHAWAKA — Queen of Peace Parish, 4508 Vistula Rd., will have a fish fry dinner on Friday, March 3, from 5-7 p.m. Meal includes fried fish, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, bread and butter, and dessert. Tickets are $15 per meal. Contact Craig Anthony at 574-255-9674 or parishoffice@queenofopeace.cc.

St. Vincent Boy Scout Fish Fry
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scouts will have a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 5-8 p.m. with potato, mac and cheese, coleslaw, roll, and dessert. Dine-in or carry-out. Enter at Auburn Rd., south of Wallen. Tickets are $15. Contact St. Vincent Scouts at 260-489-1763 or svboy scouts@svboy scouts.org.

The Light Of Christ Our King: Praying with our Stained-Glass Windows
SOUTH BEND — Join Christ the King Parish for their mission: “The Light Of Christ Our King: Praying with our Stained-Glass Windows” from Sunday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. with Father Kevin Grove, CSC, in the church, 52473 Indiana State Road 933. Contact Amy Tatay at 574-272-3113 or atatay@christthekingonline.org.

First Saturday Devotion
Our Lady, Patroness of America Center
Mass the First Saturday of each month at 11 a.m.
PatronessOfAmerica.org
2780 E. Northport Rd., Rome City, IN 46784 260-404-4990

Print subscribers receive 30% OFF one regular-priced item
*20% on books, CDs & DVDs*
Must present this original PRINT coupon at time of purchase

Digital subscribers receive 20% off one regular-priced item
Must show your digital copy of coupon at time of purchase.

www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe
www.goodshepherdbookstore.org
915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne | Free Parking in the Garage
March 5, 2023

ATTORNEY, from page 1

Mount Carmel Church, which he described as a wonderful foundation to his growing faith life. “Our Lady of Mount Carmel always felt like a spiritual home base for me, and that was largely due to Father Richard Doerr, Missionary Pastor of the Parishes,” he said.

During Murphy’s high school years, Father Doerr would often times go over to the Murphy household to dinner. It was then that Murphy said Father Doerr became a spiritual mentor, advisor, and friend. “He has been there for me through all of the ups and downs of my life. Even though he leads a parish of thousands of families, he always made time for me. He frequently would encounter Father Doerr’s guidance, he also recognizes the work that his parents, Pete and Elaine, have done for him. “They taught me that being a Catholic is not about just going to church or attending Mass— it is about living the Gospel every day and, in particular, serving those around us in need,” he said. “My parents are the biggest role models because they live to serve others — their families, their friends, and their community every day.”

After high school, Murphy went on to attend and graduate law school from Notre Dame, suma cum laude, in 2014. During his time in college, he met the love of his life, Alisa. The two quickly became friends but didn’t start dating until several years later. “My parents are the biggest role models because they live to serve others—their families, their friends, and their community every day.”

Alisa is also a lawyer who now works in the General Counsel Office at Notre Dame. Together, the two have a beautiful and energetic one-year-old daughter, Alex. “I went to the law firm Jenner & Block in Chicago, working for the same law firm. Murphy noted that his work wouldn’t be possible without her love and support.

“Marrying Alisa was the best decision I have made in my life,” he said. “She is my north star; always keeping me focused on what matters most in life and drives me to be a better, more compassionate, more selfless person.”

Alisa is also a lawyer who now works in the General Counsel Office at Notre Dame. Together, the two have a beautiful and energetic one-year-old daughter, Evelyn Rose Murphy that they just, “love to pieces.”

The Catholic Moment recently had the opportunity to speak with Murphy about the details of his presentation on Jan. 22 in Carmel to raise awareness about the issue of wrongful convictions in America and in the Hoosier State.

**What inspired you to become an attorney, more specifically, what inspired you to work with the Exoneration Clinic at Notre Dame?**

Murphy: “I wanted to become an attorney because I wanted to be a voice for those in need. I did not have in mind, at the time, what type of law that I would practice. But I felt that I was being called to pursue this path and that, sometime down the road, the best use of these skills would be revealed to me.

When I was in law school, I had the opportunity to do criminal defense work for the first time through an externship at Notre Dame Law School. We got my first client ever out of jail on Christmas Eve, and he called me tears of gratitude. At that point, I think I knew that this sort of work was what I loved and was a vehicle through which I could serve others.

I went to the law firm Jenner & Block in Chicago after law school because I knew that Jenner placed a huge emphasis on pro bono work.

At Jenner, I was given extraordinary opportunities to work on wrongful conviction and criminal defense cases even as a young lawyer. I worked on a post-conviction case where we got our client off of death row in Texas. Then, I worked on another case where we freed an innocent man from prison in Illinois after 23 years of wrongful conviction.

Working for these extraordinary clients solidified for me that doing wrongful conviction and criminal defense work was the best way I could use my talents to serve others.

When a job opportunity at the Notre Dame Exoneration Justice Clinic opened up, I was elated. My wife and I love Notre Dame with all our hearts, and the idea of coming back here to work with the finest students in the country on wrongful conviction cases was nothing short of a dream.”

**How does your work go hand-in-hand with your faith? In what ways do you feel your work helps raise awareness in the pro-life movement?**

Murphy: “My faith informs and drives all of the work that I do at the Notre Dame Exoneration Justice Clinic. As Catholics, we believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God and with an inviolable human dignity. This belief is at the heart of the pro-life movement.

That inalienable dignity is violated when an innocent person is deprived of their life or liberty for a crime they did not commit. Catholic teaching is clear that, when such violations happen, they damage not only the individual, but our society as a whole. That is why we, as Catholics, should be particularly outraged by wrongful convictions, and particularly vigilant to see that wrongful convictions are prevented and corrected.”

**Tell me more about the talk you gave at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. What is something you hope people can take away from your presentation?**

Murphy: “At Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I had the opportunity to pray the rosary with and speak to a wonderful group of parishioners about the problem of wrongful convictions.

We discussed the problem through the lens of two innocent men who spent years in prison for crimes they did not commit.

We discussed why Catholics, in particular, should stand against wrongful convictions, the scope of the problem of wrongful convictions, the principal causes of wrongful convictions, and how members of the public can help prevent and correct wrongful convictions.

My hope is that the parishioners were left with a clear sense of two things. First, there is a serious wrongful conviction problem that is plaguing us here in Indiana. And second, there are many things that they — as Catholics and citizens — can do to help fix the problem. Some of these include praying about the problem, advocating for common-sense reforms, supporting the creation of conviction integrity units, urging elected officials to take action in cases where innocent people are in prison, and engaging in the work to overcome differences and build trust and understanding.

We also said that Bishop O’Connell had “made it clear that he never wanted to be moved away from Central and South-Central LA” when it came to his parish assignment. Brennan agreed that Bishop O’Connell would often express privately that “he didn’t want to be anywhere else. He loved Los Angeles. He loved those people.”

Among current American bishops, there are two other Bishop O’Connell, including Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, New Jersey. The third, Auxiliary Bishop Murphy. We first met LA’s Bishop O’Connell at “Baby Bishop School,” the unofficial name of a multi-day conference for new bishops held at the Vatican.

“He was a truly humble and holy man,” he told us.

The 98-year-old said the pair called each other “cousins” since they shared not only a last name but also family roots in County Cork.

Brennan’s counterpart later recruited him to serve on the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, where he made an impression as “a very strong advocate for the poor and for the dignity of every human being.”

Auxiliary Bishop Tim E. Freyer of the neighboring Diocese of Orange, California, mentioned that one of O’Connell’s recruits to the subcommittee.

“We had a number of challenging issues to discuss, and I remember seeing how he and the conversation rooted in prayer, focused on how to best help the poor, and would bring us to consensus,” Bishop Freyer recalled.

Bishop Freyer said that he would jump into Bishop O’Connell’s shoes and devote silent retreats for bishops, and Bishop O’Connell would be either praying the rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours while saying “he was a man of deep faith, was very thoughtful and joyful,” he said.

LA Catholics prepared for Bishop O’Connell’s funeral Mass on March 3 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. On March 2, there were public viewing hours for the bishop, followed in the evening by a vigil Mass for Bishop O’Connell at the cathedral. On March 1, a memorial Mass organized by the San Gabriel Pastoral Region, which Bishop O’Connell oversaw as the archbishop of Los Angeles, was celebrated at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Hacienda Heights.

Bishop Brennan from Fresno offered some thoughts on his legacy.

“We need to channel our inner Dave O’Connell, defender of life everywhere.” Bishop Brennan said. “We need to be tenacious when it comes to reaching out to folks, as Pope Francis keeps telling us. Dave actually did it— going out to the people who are unwelcome, marginalized, on the peripheries.”

-Pablo Kay is Editor-In-Chief of Angelus, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.