

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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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



Provided by The Catholic Moment

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.

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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.

OSV News photo/Pablo Kay, courtesy Angelus News

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.

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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, "a time destined by God to give us a greater impetus of transformation. And Father Giussani spoke of the transforming power of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, helping us in our ongoing conversion to the Lord.

There are two formulas that can be used in the austere rite of the imposition of ashes today. I usually alternate formulas each year. I used the first formula last year, the formula that highlights our mortality: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." I'll use the second formula when I impose ashes at this Mass: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." This formula highlights conversion. In fact, it's an appeal to conversion, to turn away from sin. Literally, the word convert, metanoia, 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's good that the Church gives us the annual season of Lent, a time of repentance and conversion. How often we are tempted to leave the path of following Christ, tempted to withdraw into our selfishness and to live superficial lives of moral mediocrity, even if not lives of mortal sin, though we should beware that such a fall is always possible.



Provided by

Bishop Rhoades poses for a photo with the community of Communion and Liberation at the University of Notre Dame on Feb. 22. Bishop Rhoades celebrated Ash Wednesday and offered the Mass for Father Luigi Giussani, Founder of Communion and Liberation, on the 18th anniversary of his death.

We can get swept up in materialism, sometimes without even noticing it. Almsgiving is a good corrective. Or we can get swept up in seeking mere pleasure, hence the benefit of fasting. Or we can become immersed in the secularism 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," 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 illumined 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." These words of Saint Paul apply at all times but they have special meaning in the season of Lent. Lent is certainly "an acceptable time" for receiving the grace of God with greater openness. This requires turning away from sin and being reconciled with God. So, confessing our sins and receiving God's forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation should be an important part of our Lenten journey. But it's not enough to focus on our sins and weaknesses. We must do so with our eyes fixed not on ourselves, but on Jesus, our merciful Savior, and uniting ourselves with the Mystery of Him who, though He knew no sin, God made to be sin for our sake. It is good during Lent to contemplate the sorrowful face of Jesus, the face of Christ crucified, who out of love gave His life for us.

The most sublime gift of Lent is Jesus Himself. We should make sure that He, and not ourselves, is at the center of our Lenten journey. We are uniting ourselves with Jesus in His forty days in the desert. It is spiritually beneficial to meditate on the sorrowful mysteries of Our Lord's passion and death — to be with Him in His agony in the garden, in His trials before the Sanhedrin and before Pontius Pilate, in His being scourged and crowned with thorns, in His carrying the cross, and in His crucifixion. Doing so can move us to deeper repentance

and conversion. The Lord draws us and moves us by grace to respond to His merciful love and to receive anew the salvation He won for us. Gazing at Jesus, we can set out confidently and even joyfully on our Lenten journey, taking up our cross and walking with Him to Calvary, united with Him in His sacrifice of love, the sacrifice that is crowned by His Resurrection in which we hope to share. The Lenten season will end when we begin the Paschal Triduum at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night. The Paschal Triduum is the celebration of Jesus' hour, the hour of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The forty days of Lent prepare us for this celebration. At the same time, we know that at every Mass, the Paschal Mystery of our Lord, the mystery of His love unto the end, becomes present on the altar. The most important thing we will receive at this Mass is not the ashes, but the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. (Actually, not a thing, but the very Person of Jesus Himself, present under the appearances of bread and wine). Receiving ashes is a sign of our commitment to following Jesus more closely and to letting ourselves be transformed by His grace.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany us on our Lenten journey and help us to proceed joyfully on our way towards Easter!

Ash Wednesday Mass with Notre Dame Communion 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 when 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. 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 what Father Giussani regarded as a sacramental 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 life-long conversion we all need.

The Lenten disciplines of almsgiving, fasting, and prayer are antidotes to the materialism, hedonism, and secularism that tempt us to "moral mediocrity." But even more important than turning away from sin is that "we entrust ourselves to the living and personal Gospel which is Jesus Christ." A living encounter with Jesus was central to Father Giussani's spirituality. As Bishop Rhoades put it, "The most sublime gift of Lent is Jesus Himself." He recommended contemplating the sorrowful face of Jesus, who lovingly sacrificed His life for us.

After Mass, the community shared a simple soup supper. Bishop Rhoades spoke briefly about the Eucharistic Revival and his role in heading up the writing of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops document, "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church," as well as in planning the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. This June, not only will Pope Francis bless the four monstrances to be used in the processions to the Congress, but the bishops will also meet with the mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who enthusiastically supports the

Eucharistic Revival.

In response to a question, Bishop Rhoades said he is feeling hopeful that there is a movement of God's grace underway, despite reports about the large number of Catholics who have fallen away from Mass attendance or no longer believe in the Real Presence. He said the Eucharistic Revival is his number one priority as shepherd of this diocese. On behalf of all those in attendance, Carozza thanked him for his "paternity."

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 ecclesial 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.

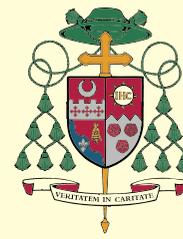
School of Community meetings involve discussion of texts, usually either magisterial documents or from the writings of Father Giussani, whose cause for canonization was opened in 2012. In May, they will together pray a set of spiritual exercises, this year one preached by the head of the worldwide Cistercian 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

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 since the movement encompasses 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.

There is also no formal formation or limited membership, although some in the local group are lay associates of Memores Domini and others have joined the religious order founded by Father Giussani, Sisters of Charity of the Assumption. As The Responsible, Carozza maintains contact with other groups as near as Chicago as well as the headquarters in Milan, Italy.

During the weekend of February 17-19, Communion and Liberation hosted an Encounter in New York City which "sought to underscore, in ways both subtle and explicit, God's intimate affection for each person, detectable amidst every aspect of reality," as the National Catholic Register reported. Sessions ranged from the testimony of a mother whose son was publicly executed by ISIS and who struggles to forgive, to an exhibit on earth's geological formation and images from the Webb space telescope, to reflections on recently-deceased Pope Benedict, who celebrated Father Giussani's funeral in 2005. At that time, the Holy Father said, "He understood that Christianity is not an intellectual system, a packet of dogmas, a moralism; Christianity is rather an encounter, a love story; it is an event." The Encounter session on Pope Benedict concluded not "with a reading from one of his encyclicals, but with a performance of a Chopin mazurka by the pianist Christopher Vath, who had played the same piece for Benedict during a small private audience in 2005. The symbolism of moving from reflections on Benedict's faith and theology to a piece of secular, classical music loved by the late pope was clear. The encounter with Christ makes one more, not less, engaged and interested in all of reality."



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 14th 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 commutation 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

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Cathopic

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 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 preparations 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 offertory 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.



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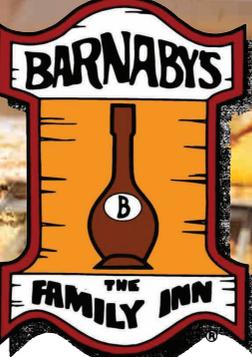
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Environmental Advocates Encouraged by Changing Climate at Statehouse

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 and 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 version — Senate Bill 335 — did get a hearing but no vote. Although the bipartisan bill will not move forward in this legislative session, advocates and lawmakers alike are expressing hope that the groundwork laid in the past couple of years will lead to success in the future.

"This is good foundation for future policy," said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "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 joined more than a dozen supporters of Senate Bill 335 to present testimony during the Feb. 20 meeting of the Senate environmental affairs committee. In his remarks, Mingus shared Catholic social teaching about the "relationship of stewardship" between 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 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 this bill does not rush into 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-efficient buildings, and support for workers affected by a changing energy industry would be among the issues addressed by the task force.

Senate Bill 335 was backed by a broad coalition of supporters ranging from business leaders to environmental groups to religious organizations. It was carried forward in the Senate by a cross-section of lawmakers representing both political parties and diverse backgrounds, including Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington), who said that his Catholic faith informs his thinking about these issues.

"One thing that God calls us to do and obviously the Church calls us to do is to care for and be a good steward of God's creation," said Bassler, a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Washington, Indiana, who was among several co-authors of the legislation. "I think that establishing this task force is a way to do that."

While expressing dismay that the bill did not come up for a vote, Bassler pointed to the circuitous path that lawmaking efforts often take.

"When it comes to the legislative process, sometimes in year one when a bill is written and submitted, it doesn't even get a hearing," he said. "And maybe in year two or three it gets a hearing but not a vote. And maybe in year three or four it gets a hearing and a vote. We can't make anything happen on the Senate side this year, but maybe we can do this again and get a vote next year."

"My instinct is that if this were to get a vote in a committee and then on the Senate floor, I think it would pass," Bassler continued. "Sometimes when we talk about environmental or climate-type issues, it can be polarizing. So maybe it takes a while for people to get used to the idea. I'm cautiously optimistic that we can

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

see something happen next session."

Sen. Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington), the primary author of Senate Bill 335, shared that hope. She and Bassler expressed gratitude to the ICC and other supporters of the legislation — and gave much of the credit behind the effort to an enterprising group of Indiana high school students.

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. Ron 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 presented testimony on Senate Bill 335.

"I appreciate so much the students coming at this with

such passion and resilience and laser focus," said Yoder, who was a co-author on Alting's bill last year. "They so effectively and relentlessly got to work, and I got to work. We worked to get our bill a hearing this year, and really worked to get it a vote, but we weren't successful at that. But we got further along in the process than we did last year, and the students should be incredibly proud of what they were able to achieve."

Rahul Durai, who at 16 is Executive Director and Co-Founder of Confront the Climate Crisis, said that his organization will redouble its efforts in 2024.

"I'm encouraged by a lot of 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 show interest," 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.

Authored by Rep. Carolyn Jackson (D-Hammond), the bill now moves to the Senate for consideration at the midpoint of the legislative session, known as crossover.

The ICC and other allies will follow 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.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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 the decision by the Church of England to allow clergy to bless same-sex unions has strengthened their resolve to reset, reform, and renew the worldwide Communion. The leaders also reject the authority of Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury after he led the General Synod of the Church of England in allowing the clergy to bless same-sex civil marriages and offer additional prayers for such occasions. The General Synod did not allow same-sex church marriages however. The move has since triggered sharp reactions from traditionalists within the communion and widened an existing split within the church. "What the Church of England has done is the 'last nail in the coffin.' Therefore, we do not recognize Canterbury and the authority of the archbishop of Canterbury," Archbishop Laurent Mbanda, the Primate of Rwanda, told OSV News in a telephone interview. "It is unbiblical and the archbishop of Canterbury does not have the authority to lead anymore. He cannot lead the synod into a heresy." The Global African Future Conference, "a global family of authentic Anglicans standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion," said in a Feb. 9 statement that the archbishop of Canterbury is "shredding the last remaining fragile fabric of the Anglican Communion."

'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 on Feb. 6 in Syria and Turkey. Reflecting the richness and diversity of its apostolic churches, the Continental Synodal Assembly for the Middle East gathered from Feb. 13 to Feb. 17 in Lebanon. Representatives from Eastern Catholic Churches — Maronite, Melkite, Syriac, Chaldean, Coptic, Armenian — as well as from the Latin Church — were present. In their closing statement, the Middle

More Than 100 Migrants Feared Dead in Shipwreck



OSV News photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters

Debris is seen on the beach from a shipwreck in Cutro, Italy, on Feb. 27. Officials fear that more than 100 people, including children, died after their boat sank in rough seas off southern Italy on Feb. 26.

East assembly's participants said their meeting "comes in difficult circumstances for our region," especially economic and humanitarian, in particular "the devastating earthquake that struck our brothers in Syria and Turkey." Participants "raised daily prayers for the intention of the victims, the wounded, and the displaced in the stricken areas." During the assembly, participants broke off into working groups where patriarchs and laypeople from all Eastern rites worked together. "I think this is a great beginning. It's a new day in the life of the universal church," Lebanese Maronite laywoman Suzy El Hage told OSV News. "I think the sun is rising on all of us and the Holy Spirit is very happy ... We are from different countries and many churches (rites), but we have many things in common."

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 Office's report on child sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Baltimore must be released publicly. The judge ordered the attorney general's office to redact more than 200 names from the report and submit it to the court by mid-March. Christian Kendzierski, Archdiocesan Spokesman, said in a written statement issued in response to Taylor's ruling, "As we said publicly last year, we respect the court's decisions in this matter and will continue to cooperate with the court and the Maryland attorney general's office. The archdiocese continues to pray this report brings some measure of healing of the deep wounds caused by the scourge of child sexual abuse in the life of the church." In a letter sent to Catholics in the archdiocese on Nov. 17, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori acknowledged information in the report would be a source of renewed pain for many, "most especially those harmed by representatives of the church." 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, 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 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 scaling back the trajectory of the epidemic. The program, in part, distributes antiretrovirals in countries where as many as one-third of 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 for 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 the past before it's too late. "Right now in Jerusalem, we have about 14 excavations running — and we have 30,000 registered antiquity sites in all of Israel," said Yehiel Zelinger, a Jerusalem Region archeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority with some 30 years-experience in the field here. "We have to catch as much as we can right now because otherwise, we won't have the data," he told OSV News. One of the major projects getting a lot of attention throughout the last decade is the discovery of what is believed to be a 2,000-year-old pilgrim walking path, or stepped street, in Jerusalem's City of David National Park area. It connects the Pool of Siloam in east Jerusalem to the foot of the Temple Mount, and was likely familiar to Jesus Christ as well as the millions of Jewish pilgrims here during their ascent to the Temple.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Fire Choir Sings to Nursing Home Residents, Recruiting New Members



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 O

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, capacity building, education, disaster relief, health, justice and peacebuilding, microfinance, and water and sanitation. Health and 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 activ-



A student participates in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program.

OSV News photo/Philip Laubner, CRS

ity — 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 is, 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, or 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 in 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.

Patricio 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."

Evangelly 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 solidario' — a solidarity community. I really like that word, community."

In addition to fundraising for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, and the CRS Rice Bowl, Aliangan Ward'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 to 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 for 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, benefiting Catholic Charities.

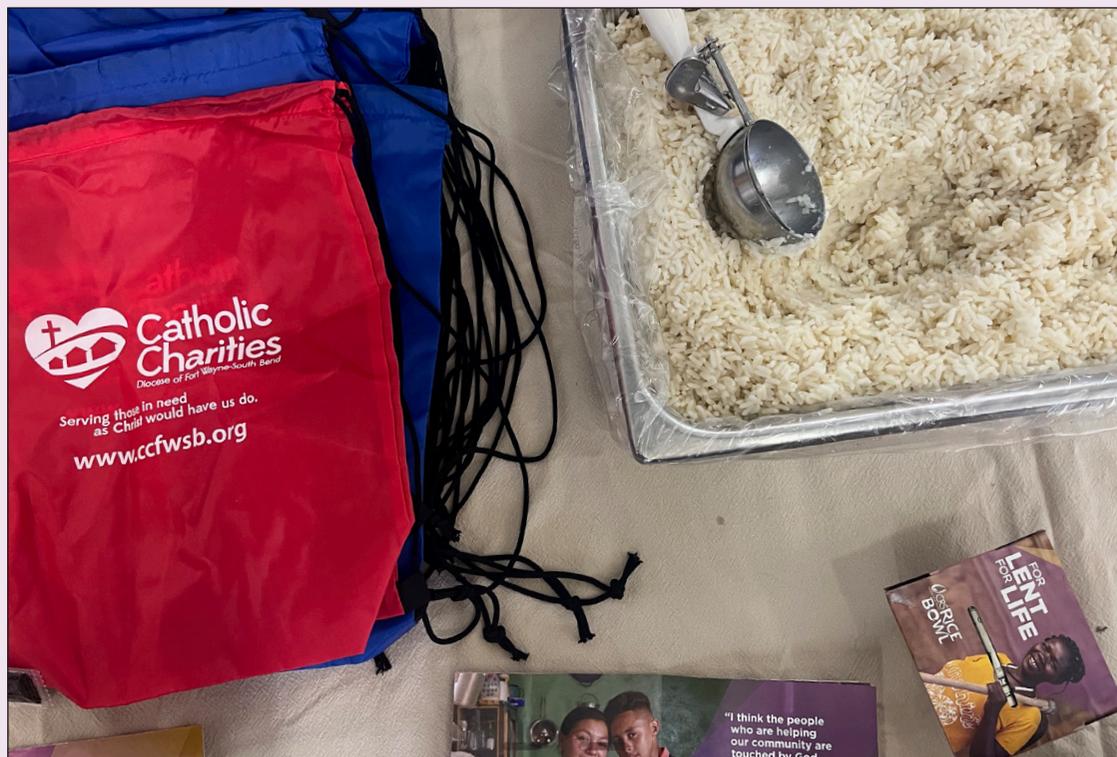
"Catholic Charities in the diocese serves four main areas; Stability Services, Migration Services, Pro Life Services, and Counseling," said Matt Smith, Chief Development Officer for Catholic Charities Fort Wayne-South Bend. "One area that Rice Bowl goes to support would be Stability Services to help 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



Cassandra Smith

On Fridays in Lent, Bishop Dwenger students from the CRS club serve rice for \$1. The proceeds from these lunch events go directly to the CRS Rice Bowl. Seventy-five percent of Rice Bowl donations fight hunger globally, while 25 percent remains in the diocese, benefiting Catholic Charities.



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.”

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

— Peter MacDonald

“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

ostracized. It doesn’t even feel ‘clicky.’ It’s a really easy event to go to, especially if you know no one. And so I think the nice thing about Theology on Tap is that it’s good for an outsider to kind of come in and be welcomed into certain Catholic communities that have already been established. All you have to do is sit at a table, and you’ll meet people. It’s a great opportunity to network in the area with Catholics who are currently trying to live out their faith lives.”

The winter installment of Theology on Tap provides young adults five weeks of community during some of the darkest days of the year, but where are they to go after that? Pratt points to several parish initiatives that invite young adults into community with each other.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne is hosting a series of “Meals in Solidarity,” in which young adults will prepare, cook, and eat a traditional simple meal in solidarity with the poor from around the world. This is in conjunction with Operation Rice Bowl, an initiative through Catholic Relief Services that seeks to raise funds for countries in need. The recipes served at St. Charles Borromeo will come from the countries that are the focus of the Rice Bowl campaign.

Pratt says that young adults can also take advantage of the Our Lady of Good Hope evangelization series which will feature a speaker from the Theology on Tap series.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, visit the Youth Ministry page on the website at diocese-fwsb.org/young-adults/.



Photos by Joshua Schipper

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.”

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



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Indianapolis Priest Named Director of USCCB's Institute on the Catechism

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — 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.

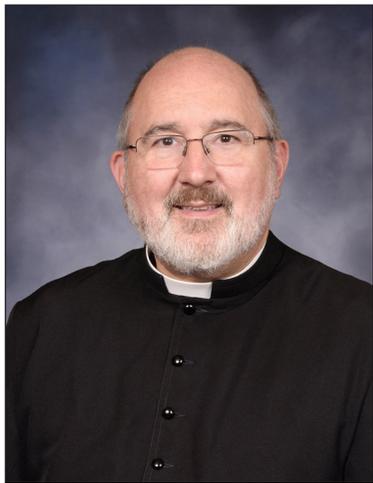
Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism, which reviews catechetical texts and provides consultation to the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, presented a proposal to create an Institute for the Catechism at the bishops' 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



OSV News photo/courtesy Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Father Daniel J. Mahan, an Indianapolis archdiocesan priest, has been named Director of the recently formed Institute on the Catechism at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Father Mahan, pictured in an undated photo, was named to the post on Feb. 27.

catechetical texts since the late 1990s and has worked as a core team member for the institute since its November 2022 launch. A graduate of the former St. Meinrad College in Indiana, Father Mahan holds a licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm in Rome.

Ordained a priest in 1988, Father Mahan has served in parishes throughout the Indianapolis Archdiocese. Currently, he serves with Father Jonathan Meyer as pastor with a team of priests serving four parishes in southern Indiana's Dearborn County.

Bishop Caggiano said Father Mahan brings to the position "a deep understanding" of the Catechism of the Catholic Church "along with the invaluable, longtime expertise of teaching it to the faithful in a meaningful way."

"At a time when there is wide-spread disaffiliation with the faith, and yet a deep desire and hunger being expressed by many to fill the void in their lives, we must take new, bold approaches to help the bishops to equip their catechists with ways to invite people to an encounter with the Lord," the bishop said in a Feb. 27 statement about the priest's appointment.

Bishop Caggiano thanked Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson "for allowing Father Mahan to serve the greater Church with the unique talents he brings to the institute."

The institute launched its inaugural meeting Nov. 10-12, 2022, in Baltimore ahead of the U.S. bishops' Nov. 14-17 general assembly.

Father Mahan told OSV News the gathering drew more than

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, engrossed 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 some great 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.



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Lenten Spiritual Advice Found in Aldi 'Aisle of Shame'

My family has shopped at Aldi grocery stores for some time. Comments about surprising finds make appearances in the group chat and are often topics of conversation at our gatherings. My cousins laud the company's logistics and organization (one who lives in Germany is particularly devoted). But recently, my OSV co-workers shared with me an Aldi trope I had not heard of: the aisle of shame.

For the uninitiated, the Aldi "aisle of shame" is the center section of the store that changes weekly, often featuring seasonal goods. An unofficial moniker, sometimes abbreviated as AOS, the aisle of shame goes by many names, including the "aisle of surprises" and the "aisle of awesome." And lest you think I'm exaggerating popular devotion to the AOS, I'll have you know that the ALDI Aisle of Shame Community on Facebook boasts 1.5 million members, who frequently swap stories and photos of triumphant AOS finds.

And so, I've been thinking about the AOS, and as I brought it up more and more frequently with my friends, I realized hidden within are not only treasures for hearth and home, but with the right eyes, a new spirituality for Lent.

— The God of surprises

First and foremost, as we begin Lent, most faithful Catholics have begun to assemble a plan for how to approach

the season. We strategize with confessors and friends about how to best approach our 40 days of penance. Sometimes, it's even like putting together a shopping list.

But just like heading to Aldi, we have to be prepared for surprises. God's providence is not necessarily our plan, so we have to be open to getting a little off track with our list. And the goal of Lent is to make the appropriate space in our lives so that we can more readily surrender to His designs. If we don't walk down the aisle of awesome, we'll miss the great bargains. So, too, in the spiritual life, we have to be open to finding the things that God wants to put in our path.

— Throw it in the cart for someone else

Another friend recently told me that she found, for less than \$5, a pair of light-up Paw Patrol boots that she knew a little boy in her parish would love. Without question she threw them in her cart. His mother called to thank her, saying, "He slept in them last night!"

The AOS is a delightful example of thoughtfulness and kindness. It even prompts it among shoppers. Spying a great find, how often have AOS devotees thought, "not for me, but I know someone who will love it!"? In fact, the AOS Facebook community is full of stories of fellow shoppers and Aldi employees who have come to the aid of mothers in distress



GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OP

and patrons in need.

That kind of considerate and gracious behavior should be part and parcel of Christian life. And we can cultivate it intentionally this Lent.

— Passion

Currently, my niece's favorite book — admittedly, at the age of 1.5 years, she can't yet appreciate the classics — is "Pizza Party." My sister found it for her in the ... you guessed it ... aisle of shame. What if we were to cling to our Lenten penances with something of the same passion a toddler clings to a favorite nighttime read? Or still what if we were to love the virtues we were trying to acquire the way a happy shopper clings to a 12-inch iron skillet, waffle maker, or a rocking chair?

Lent is a time for renewal. But to be revived, we need to surrender to God's plan for our lives, cultivate generosity, and feed our passion for Christian life.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

Family Life as Seen in a Rock Tumbler

Most Lenten reflections center on fasting or abstinence along with prayer and almsgiving. However, the word "repent" in our English bibles translates the Greek word "Metanoiate" which most literally summons us "to change (meta) the way we think (noiate)." With this in mind, I would like to post some articles this Lent that help us to think of and see things differently, and in a more helpful way.

Family life is so central to our experience and moral life that I begin by offering a humble picture of it that emphasizes its somewhat tumultuous quality. As we well know, family life can be wonderful, but it can also be challenging and even terrible at times. We can choose our friends, but seldom can we choose our family. Family is assigned by God and thus, we do well to understand that what we want is not always the same as what we need.

Family members have a way of keeping us humble. Siblings, especially, are ever present to remind us that we are "not all that" and that life isn't just about us. Sadly today, many people have few, if any, siblings and this factor tends to produce a lot more narcissism and idiosyncrasy. But oh, for a few siblings to keep you humble! Parents too can humble us and also encourage us. They can edify us and also cause deep pain. Add to the mix cousins and in-laws of every sort and



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

the mix becomes quite a show. Our families can have all the glory, and all the gory. Among us, there are saints and there are aint's; there are the mighty oaks of legendary renown and more than a few nuts falling from the same family tree. Ah family, can't live with it, can't live without it.

This Lent we do well to ponder however that even the difficult and trying aspects of family life have a way of helping us. Somehow it all reminds me of a rock tumbler.

Indeed, when I was a kid there was a school geology kit that included a "rock-tumbler" which was meant to teach us how stones can go from being jagged and drab to being smooth, polished, and even colorful. It was a round drum that looked a bit like a cement mixer. Throw in some rocks and various sorts of sand and run it for a few weeks and, shazam, the rocks came out looking beautiful, almost like gems or marble.

And this is all a paradigm or

POPE, page 13

Lent is a Time to Reinforce Your Faith



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday of Lent Matthew 17:1-9

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 father of the Jewish people.

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 obligation. 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 Christianity. 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, mountaintops, and pure white all symbolized God. Finally, surrounding Jesus were Moses and Elijah, the great heroes of the Hebrew religious tradition.

This scene utterly contrasts with that of Calvary. Instead of shimmering clothes, 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, just as 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 fully 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 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 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: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 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 eve 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 we do in 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" (1 Cor 2:9). 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 chaff, 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 joy of the meal itself. Food blogger Dana Velden writes, "sometimes when I cook, by the time I sit down to eat my dish 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 tuff grit that comes from living in a world that has its fair weather but overall, is a kind of sandstorm of trials and tumult, tensions and disagreements. And so, the world turns and we, especially in our families, bump up against each other 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

So while I can be satisfied that it tastes good or even great, it's more of a confirmation than a discovery." Like parents tell their children, "Quit snacking or you won't be hungry for dinner!"

Lent is our yearly reminder that God is the one preparing the feast, a banquet better than we could ever make ourselves, and that we need not tucker ourselves out trying to out-do Him. We are invited through our Lenten observances to focus our thoughts, our appetites, and our hearts on the One who generously pours out "a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing." (Luke 6:38). The somewhat bare season of Lent reminds us that the many joys of this world, truly delightful though they are, bear no comparison to the joy that we shall find in the resurrection.

To help us prepare our thoughts, appetites, and hearts to truly appreciate this joy, the Church proposes specific Lenten practices, drawing upon the experience of generations of believers who themselves prayed, fasted, and gave alms in imitation of Jesus, "the leader and perfecter of faith" (Heb 12:2). These practices strip away whatever obscures our focus on the Lord. In imitation of Jesus, we fast as a reminder that we do not "live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4).

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are effective practices for honing our spiritual focus, but what do they have to do with joy? There's an ancient saying in the Church, *lex orandi, lex credendi*: "the law of prayer is the law of belief," or to put it another way, "as we pray, so we believe" (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1124). Multiple times throughout the 40 days of Lent, the Church speaks of joy in the liturgy, illustrating via both Scripture and prayer that Christian joy is about anticipating God's presence:

"All who take refuge in

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.

Hence, even the less desirable aspects of life can ultimately be a blessing for us. Scripture says that "All things work together for good to those who trust the Lord and are called according to His purposes." (Rom 8:28) So, in marriages, families, and parishes, the rough and tumble of human interactions is often permitted by God to smooth us, polish us, and beautify us.

This is not to sanctify every problem in family life. There is some abuse that is simply evil



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

you shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and you shall dwell among them" (Wednesday, Week 1);

"May this Communion, O Lord, cleanse us of wrongdoing and make us heirs 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 joys, for you promise them the rewards of your truth" (Thursday, Week 3).

We especially focus on Christian joy in the Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday. The liturgy of the day is all about rejoicing (which is what the Latin word *laetare* means). The Entrance 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." 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 revere 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.

and should in no way be considered part of the rough and tumble that helps perfect us.

But in Lent, we do well to see beyond the annoyances of life and the tensions of family, to the greater purposes of God who permits such things for our good. A little less resentment and a lot more acceptance is a good Lenten theme.

Metanoiate! Think differently this Lent about the ups and downs of Family life. Thank God even for those gifts in strange packages.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 5, 2023

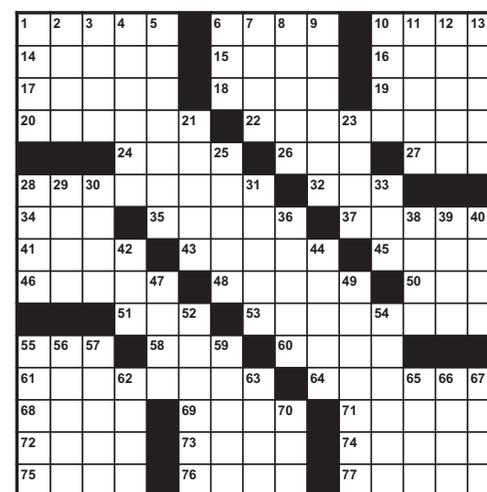
Matthew 17:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the revelation of Jesus' glory. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| LED THEM UP | HIS FACE | LIKE THE SUN |
| CLOTHES | ELIJAH | LORD |
| IS GOOD | THREE | SPEAKING |
| CLOUD | VOICE | PLEASED |
| LISTEN | HEARD | FELL |
| AFRAID | NO ONE | ALONE |
| VISION | RAISED | THE DEAD |

SHINING THREE

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



ACROSS

- 1 "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will ___ it up." (Jn 2:19)
- 6 Xanadu's river
- 10 Gusto
- 14 Aquatic mammal
- 15 Rake
- 16 Alcohol prohibitors (abbr.)
- 17 "But ___ up treasures in heaven" (Mt 6:20)
- 18 Decorative hair accessory
- 19 Dash
- 20 Fortify
- 22 One of the seven
- 24 To you, to Pierre
- 26 Diocese
- 27 Hesburgh of Notre Dame, to friends
- 28 Disregards
- 32 Baby cry
- 34 Native American
- 35 Gold coin
- 37 Snake
- 41 C or F
- 43 Small tree
- 45 Scottish Celt
- 46 Nosh

DOWN

- 48 Eli
- 50 Dietary data
- 51 Fact finale
- 53 One who commandeers
- 55 Vane reading
- 58 ___ Minister
- 60 Ponder intently
- 61 Declared a sacrament invalid
- 64 Empty the truck
- 68 Makes a doily
- 69 Fine and delicate
- 71 Arm joint
- 72 Space
- 73 Zeus took away her wings
- 74 "___ Regina"
- 75 Ball used for dorm hoops
- 76 Cut
- 77 People looked like this to the blind man Jesus cured
- 1 The Mystical ___
- 2 Envelope letters
- 3 "Take ___ leave..."
- 4 Ongoing story
- 5 Built
- 6 Trajectory
- 7 Apparatus for weaving
- 8 Cougars

- 9 Biblical language
- 10 Number of Commandment that forbids taking the Lord's name in vain, in Mainz
- 11 Great achievement
- 12 Phase
- 13 Adjusted pitch
- 21 Hoax
- 23 500 sheets
- 25 Rarin' to go
- 28 Members of a religious order
- 29 English public school
- 30 "___ grip!"
- 31 Her tomb was the first thing bought in the Bible
- 33 OT prophetic book
- 36 Bell-shaped flower
- 38 An evangelist
- 39 Monk called "The Father of English History"
- 40 Having wings
- 42 *Name of the Rose* author
- 44 A jewel
- 47 "___ the fatted calf"
- 49 Serious in intention
- 52 Catholic university in Texas
- 54 Underground room
- 55 "I have observed ___ fall like lightning from the sky." (Lk 10:18)
- 56 Trap
- 57 "___ through the narrow gate" (Mt 7:13)
- 59 Long
- 62 Mil. branch
- 63 701, to Cato
- 65 Ready, willing and ___
- 66 The Spirit descended on Jesus as this
- 67 Female sheep
- 70 Affirmative

Answer key can be found on page 15

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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.



Joshua Schipper

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.

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Fish Fry in Bremen

BREMEN — St. Dominic Church, 803 W Bike St., will have a fish fry prepared by Tyner IOOF 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, tarter 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@queenofangelsfw.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 Baugher at 574-289-2143 or olhp@sbcglobal.net.

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 260-639-3748.

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 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@queenofpeace.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 svboyscouts@svboyscouts.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.

REST IN PEACE

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Lucille Schiffl, 97, Immaculate Conception

Donaldson

Sister Cathy Schwemer, PHJC, 68, Ancilla Domini

Peter Henry, 64, SS. Peter and Paul

Ronald Leist, 72, SS. Peter and Paul

Fort Wayne

Genelle Louise Lee, 81, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Granger

Erika Clarivio, 87, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Frank J. Jermano, 95, St. Monica

Gerald Mittendorf, 88, St. Pius X

South Bend

Jean Connell, 92, Christ the King

Gloria Samson, 86, St. Charles Borromeo

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Sara Driscoll, 89, SS. Peter and Paul

Stanley Stopczynski, 95, St. John the Baptist

Martha Rarick, 86, St. Jude

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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 Pastorate,” he said.

During Murphy’s high school years, Father Doerr would often times go over to the Murphy household for dinners. It was there 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 treats each person he encounters as if he or she were the one that matters the most to him,” Murphy said.

While Murphy was fortunate to have Father Doerr’s guidance, he also recognizes the work that his parents, Pete and Elaine, did to instill in him what it meant to be a Catholic.

“They taught me that being a Catholic is not about just going to church or praying — it is about living the Gospel every day and, in particular, serving those around us in need,” he said. “My parents are my 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, summa 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 when they were reunited 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’s 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, what inspired him to begin working at Notre Dame and with those wrongfully convicted.

Here, he answers questions about his work, his faith, and about how you may be able to help make a difference to those who are experiencing wrongful convictions.



Provided by The Catholic Moment

Staff Attorney for the Notre Dame Exoneration Justice Clinic in South Bend, Kevin Murphy, gives a 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 in 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 Hoosiers 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 in this country, including here in Indiana. And second, there are many things that they — as Catholics and citizens — can do to help fix the problem, including educating themselves about the problem, advocating for commonsense reforms, supporting the creation of conviction integrity units, urging elected officials to take action in cases where innocent people are in prison, and of course, praying for the wrongfully convicted, their families, officials who can impact their fate, and victims of all crime.”

The Catholic Moment is the newspaper of the Diocese of Lafayette-In-Indiana.

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Gomez has described him as “a man who loved Jesus Christ, and gave his whole life to following Jesus, to being his friend and to helping others to find Jesus.”

And in interviews with Angelus, the archdiocesan news outlet, bishops from around the country and even across the pond in England expressed admiration for Bishop O’Connell’s energetic faith, his ability to work with all types of people, and his kindness.

“If you had to write a play about his life, it would be ‘A Man for All Seasons,’” said Bishop Brennan, who left LA in 2019 to lead the Diocese of Fresno, California. “He was ‘all things to people,’ as St. Paul described his mission.”

Bishops O’Connell and Brennan were ordained priests for the Los Angeles Archdiocese a year apart in 1979 and 1980.

“I remember thinking, here’s this great Irish guy, hope he does well,” said Bishop Brennan, who also is of Irish descent. “Little did I know he was already working circles around us native guys, just in terms of totally immersing himself in the community.”

Bishop Brennan said that Bishop O’Connell had a special way of “making everyone feel that he was a kindred spirit to them,” from community organizers to law enforcement officials.

“And he was,” Bishop Brennan added. “But Dave was never a chameleon. He was never pretending to be any of these things. He did it because he was genuinely interested in everyone, wanting to love everyone.”

Bishop Barron, who now heads the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in Minnesota, said he was “absolutely devastated” by the news of Bishop O’Connell’s death.

“He was a man of enormous kindness, dedication, good humor, and Gospel simplicity,” Bishop Barron told Angelus. “I always came away from meetings with him feeling more alive, more confirmed in my faith. I will miss him tremendously.”

Bishop O’Connell served in the archdiocese for all of Cardinal Roger M. Mahony’s 25 years as archbishop of Los Angeles.

Cardinal Mahony recalled that “his entire life and ministry were devoted to his people, those who were poor, powerless, and on the margins of society,” praising Bishop O’Connell’s ability to bring people together and to work to overcome differences and build trust and understanding.

He 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 assignments.

Brennan agreed that Bishop

O’Connell would often express privately that “he didn’t want to be anywhere else. He loved that ministry. He loved those people.”

Among current American bishops, there are two other Bishop O’Connells, including Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, New Jersey.

The third, Auxiliary Bishop Mark W. O’Connell of Boston, first met LA’s Bishop O’Connell at “Baby Bishop School,” the unofficial name of a multi-day course for new bishops held at the Vatican.

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

The 58-year-old said the pair called each other “cousins,” since they shared not only a last name but also family roots in County Cork.

His LA 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 person.”

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

“We had a number of challenging issues to discuss, and I marveled at how he kept 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 bump into Bishop O’Connell on walks during silent retreats for bishops, and Bishop O’Connell would be either praying the rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours.

“I found that 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 region’s episcopal vicar, 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.