Pope Francis Celebrates a Decade as Pontiff
His Life, His Role, His Titles, and His Legacy
All Through Issue

Spring Confirmation Schedule
Confirmation Masses for Spring 2023 are Scheduled
Page 3

Art Abounds at Marian High School
Students Win Hundreds of Awards at Regional Competition
Pages 8-9

The Lives of St. Patrick and St. Joseph
Celebrating Feast Days of Saints Represented Throughout Diocese
Page 11

PUERI CANTORES, page 16

10 Years as Pope: Pushing the Church to Bring the Gospel to the World

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For a decade, even when discussing the internal workings of the Vatican, Pope Francis has insisted the Church is not the Church of Christ if it does not reach out, sharing the “joy of the Gospel” and placing the poor at the center of its attention.

Signals that his papacy would be different started the moment he stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica the evening of March 13, 2013: He was not wearing a red, ermine-trimmed cape, and he bowed as he asked the crowd to pray that God would bless him.

Pope Francis laughs as he jokingly asks the congregation a question while celebrating Mass with bishops, priests, and members of religious orders in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Manila, Philippines, on Jan. 16, 2015.

His decision not to live in the Apostolic Palace, his invitations to Vatican trash collectors and gardeners and other employees to join him for his daily morning Mass, his insistence on going to the Italian island of Lampedusa to celebrate Mass and pray for migrants who had drowned in

PUERI CANTORES Mass Brings Young Voices Together in Sacred Song

BY NICOLE HAHN

More than 280 students from 22 diocesan schools in grades 4 through 12, along with Catholic Homeschoolers, came together to share their talents through their voices in a Pueri Cantores (Latin for “young singers”) choir at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades on Tuesday, March 7, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. The students were led by Angie Gocur, Guest Conductor, and accompanied by Tim Robison, Organist.

The following homily was delivered by Bishop Rhoades during the Pueri Cantores Mass on Tuesday, March 7, at St. Charles Borromeo:

Today, the Church celebrates two early Christian martyrs — two young women who suffered and died for Christ, who gave their lives rather than deny their faith in Jesus. The Greek word “martyr” means “witness.” Saints Perpetua and Felicity witnessed to Christ in their words and deeds, even to the point of shedding their blood for Him. Today, we thank...
POPE FRANCIS, from page 1

the Mediterranean captivated the attention of the media. But no one was pleased with the seeming ease with which he set aside pomp and protocol. And tensions within the Catholic community grew as he expressed openness to LGBTQ Catholics and to those living in what the Church considers irregular marriage situations and when he said in an interview in 2013 that the Church cannot talk only about abortion, gay marriage, and contraception.

One kind of summary of his first 10 years as pope can be found in numbers: He has made 40 trips abroad, visiting 60 countries; in eight consistorys he created 91 new saints, including a group of more than 800 martyrs, but also Saints John Paul II, John XXIII, and Paul VI.

In his first major document, the apostolic exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel,” he laid out a program for his papacy, looking inside the Church and out into the world to see what needed to be done to “encourage and guide the whole Church in a new phase of evangelization oriented one marked by enthusiasm and vitality.”

The document included a discussion of the need to reform Church institutions to highlight their missionary role; to encourage pastoral workers to listen to and stand with the people they were ministering to — his famous line about having “the smell of the sheep”; to deepen an understanding of the Church as “the entire people of God” and not as an institution or, worse, a club of the elect; to integrate the poor into the Church and society, rather than simply see them as objects of assistance; and to promote peace and dialogue.

For Canadian Archbishop Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the agenda of Pope Francis is the original agenda of the Second Vatican Council.

Unlike St. John Paul II and the late Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis did not attend any of the council sessions. And, in fact, because he was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 13, 1969, he is the first pope to be ordained a priest after Vatican II.

“After Scripture and tradition comes the significant foundation, and I would say, characteristic orientation of this papacy,” the cardinal told Catholic News Service. “He has taken the council not from a collection of decrees, but from the lived experience of the council as implemented, as lived, as tested, as developed, you might say, in the church of Latin America. So the council as implemented, as lived, as tested, as developed, as objects of assistance; and to a fundamental tenet of our belief, which is belief “in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.”

The synod process, which began with listening to people around the globe and will move toward two assemblies mainly of bishops, is about listening to the Holy Spirit.

While the synod involves meetings, Cardinal Tobin said, “Synodality is a way of being Church. It’s an ancient way of being Church that is being recovered and lived in the circumstances in which we face ourselves today. And so, to my mind, that’s sort of the captain of the ship.”

“As for disagreements with or even controversies about the papacy of Pope Francis, Cardinal Czerny warned against confusing “loud with representation or loud with majority. Loud doesn’t mean anything of those things; it need not be loud.”

But, he said, “the patience of Pope Francis” leads him and encourages others to recognize that the pope’s criteria “are not 100 percent off beam,” or off track; there usually is a grain of truth in what they say or an important way, the cardinal said that is being overlooked.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, told CNS he believes the first 10 years of Pope Francis’ pontificate have been preparation for “what’s happening right now, and that’s the synodal conversation.”

The Second Vatican Council called Catholics to read the “signs of the times” and respond. And, the cardinal said, “this notion that we don’t have automatically prepared prescriptions for every challenge that faces us leads us to a fundamental tenet of our belief,” which is belief “in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.”

The synod process, which began with listening to people around the globe and will move toward two assemblies mainly of bishops, is about listening to the Holy Spirit.
CONFIRMATION MASSES IN SPRING 2023

St. Dominic Church, Bremen — March 19: 10:30 a.m.
St. Dominic Parish, Bremen

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne — March 24: 7 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne

Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne — March 26: 2 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne

Our Lady of Hungary Church, South Bend — March 31: 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend

St. Michael Church, Plymouth — April 1: 10 a.m.
St. Michael Parish, Plymouth

St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville — April 9: 10 a.m.
St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville

St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven — April 10: 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven
St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven

Blessed Sacrament Church, Albion — April 11: 7 p.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion
Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne — April 13: 7 p.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne
Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne

St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Church, Fort Wayne — April 14: 7 p.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne — April 15: 10 a.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw — April 16: 10:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw

St. Mary Church, Huntington — April 20: 7 p.m.
St. Mary Parish, Huntington
SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington
St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Columbia City
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester
St. Bernard Parish, Wabash

St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne — April 21: 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur — April 22: 10 a.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur
St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton

St. Patrick Church, Arcola — April 23: 2 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Arcola

St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City — April 25: 7 p.m.
St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City
St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco
Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege

Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka — April 27: 7 p.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka

St. Mary’s of the Lake Church, Culver — April 28: 7 p.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
St. Mary’s of the Lake Parish, Culver

St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend — April 29: 10 a.m.
*Bishop Michael A. Blume, SVD celebrating
Holy Family Parish, South Bend
St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle
St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend
St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton
St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend
St. Augustine Parish, South Bend
Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame

Basilica of the Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame — April 30: noon
Basilica of the Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame
Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn — May 4: 7 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn
St. Joseph Parish, Garrett

St. Pius X Church, Granger — May 7: 2 p.m.
St. Pius X Parish, Granger

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart — May 12: 7 p.m. and May 13: 10 a.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart — May 13: 4:30 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola — May 18: 7 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola

St. Adalbert Church, South Bend — May 21: 5 p.m.
St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend

Adult Confirmations
St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend — May 27: 4 p.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
May 28: 11:30 a.m.
St. Patrick Church, Ligonier — June 4: 3 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier
St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne — July 1: 6 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne
**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** The Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office is marking the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis’ election with a series of four postage stamps.

“We want to celebrate some of the most significant moments of Pope Francis’ pontificate,” officials said in a statement announcing the stamps would go on sale on Feb. 27. Just about two weeks before the anniversary of the Pope’s election on March 13, 2013.

The 1.20-euro stamp features a photo of Pope Francis praying during the Mass he celebrated to inaugurate his papacy on March 19, 2013.

The photo on the 1.25-euro stamp shows Pope Francis kissing the Book of the Gospels and, officials said, was chosen to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God, a celebration Pope Francis decided in 2019 to add to the Church’s calendar.

The third stamp, carrying a value of 2.40 euros, shows Pope Francis smiling during the sacrament of reconciliation and, officials said, was chosen to celebrate the Sunday of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He added that the Vatican focused on making confession widely and easily available.

The final stamp, with a face value of 3.10 euros, features a photo from Pope Francis’ first pastoral trip outside of Rome. He flew to the Italian island of Lampedusa on July 8, 2013, to pray for the thousands of migrants who had lost their lives trying to cross the

**FORTY HOURS, from page 3**

St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur: Aug. 13-15
St. Hedwig and St. Patrick, South Bend: Aug. 14-16
St. John the Baptist, New Haven: Aug. 20-22
Queen of Peace, Mishawaka: Aug. 20-22
St. Bernard, Wabash: Aug. 20-23
St. Monica, Mishawaka: Aug. 27-29
St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne: Aug. 27-29
St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart: Aug. 27-29

**SEPTEMBER**

Corpus Christi, South Bend: Sept. 8-10
St. Michael the Archangel, Waterloo: Sept. 10-12
Immaculate Conception, Kendallville: Sept. 10-12
St. Mary of the Lake, Culver: Sept. 10-12
St. Patrick, Fort Wayne: Sept. 10-12
St. Patrick, Arcola: Sept. 17-19
St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend: Sept. 17-19
St. Michael, Plymouth: Sept. 24-26

**OCTOBER**

Sacred Heart, Warsaw: Oct. 1-3
St. Louis, Besancon, New Haven: Oct. 1-3
St. Therese, Little Flower, South Bend: Oct. 1-3
St. Therese, Fort Wayne: Oct. 8-10
St. Jude, Fort Wayne: Oct. 15-17
Holy Cross, South Bend: Oct. 15-17
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne: Oct. 15-17

**NOVEMBER**

St. Dominic, Bremen: Nov. 5-7
St. Aloysius, Yoder: Nov. 5-7
St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle: Nov. 12-14
St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome City: Nov. 19-21
St. Joseph, Bluffton: Nov. 26-28
Christ the King, South Bend: Nov. 26-28

**DECEMBER**

Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne: Dec. 3-5
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Mother of God, Fort Wayne: Dec. 3-5
St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol: Dec. 3-5

**2024**

**JANUARY**

St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City: Jan. 14-16, 2024
St. John Bosco, Churubusco and Immaculate Conception, Ege: Jan. 28-30, 2024

**FEBRUARY**

St. Joseph, Garrett: Feb. 11-13, 2024
Immaculate Conception, Auburn: Feb. 18-20, 2024
St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne: Feb. 25-27, 2024

**MARCH**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne: March 3-5, 2024
St. Casimir, South Bend: March 3-5, 2024
St. Joseph, Fort Wayne: March 10-12, 2024
St. Joseph, South Bend: March 17-19, 2024
St. Joseph, Mishawaka: March 17-19, 2024
St. John the Evangelist, Goshen: March 17-19, 2024
Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne: March 17-19, 2024

**APRIL**

St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne: April 14-16, 2024
Blessed Sacrament, Albion: April 14-16, 2024
St. Adalbert, South Bend: April 21-23, 2024
St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester: April 21-23, 2024

**MAY**

St. Joseph, LaGrange: May 12-14, 2024

**JUNE**

St. Augustine, South Bend: June 1-3, 2024
St. Anthony of Padua, Angola: June 2-4, 2024
St. John the Baptist, South Bend: June 23-25, 2024

This list has been updated.
For the complete schedule, visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist.
Mental Health Crisis Response Bill Key Priority For ICC

As lawmakers debate the next state budget, the Indiana Catholic Conference is among the chorus of voices calling for full funding of a measure that would extend a lifetime to people experiencing a mental health crisis.

The ICC recently joined numerous faith leaders in a “Call for Care” rally in support of Senate Bill 1, which would transform emergency response procedures in mental health crisis situations. Supporters of the bill propose it a potentially lifesaving measure that would more properly and safely address the needs of those in extreme distress due to mental illness or addiction.

“People dealing with mental health issues are vulnerable and are deserving of dignity,” said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “Too often in our communities, we have seen people suffering from mental health crises responded to by police who are usually not equipped or trained to handle these types of situations. Sadly, many of these crises have ended in the death of the person who needed assistance.”

For Espada, who spoke at a news conference held in conjunction with the March 7 rally at the Statehouse, this reality is deeply personal. She has a connection to the family of Herman Whitleaf, a 39-year-old pianist and composer, who died at his parents’ home in Indianapolis last April after suffering a mental health crisis and being tased by police.

“Had an appropriate response system been available, there are many conversations we might have had,” Espada said. “To butt in my mind that he would be alive today, Espada said.

Backed by the governor’s office and a growing coalition of Hoosiers, Senate Bill 1 would boost local implementation of the 988 national suicide and crisis hotline launched last year and continue building an infrastructure to provide for the mental health needs of people in the most urgent situations. The legislation would establish mobile crisis intervention teams that age, need to respond to mental health emergencies across Indiana’s 92 counties and fund additional community-based mental health clinics statewide.

The measure, which passed the Senate unanimously in February, is now moving through the House. Despite the broad base of support for the bill, advocates are alarmed because the legislation was stripped of its proposed $30 million funding during deliberations in the Senate.

But the author of the bill, Sen. Craig Crider (R-Greenfield), remains confident that the measure will not only make it through the General Assembly, but receive the funding required to implement it.

“Right now, everything looks good, and I don’t anticipate any problems at all in the House with the bill moving,” Crider said. “The thing that most people are concerned about is the finance portion of it, which will be an end-to-the-process decision and part of the budget discussions.”

This is a long session of the General Assembly, held every other year and culminating in the passage of the state’s two-year budget, which Crider believes will be passed in the House.

Crider explained that because his bill originated in the Senate but had a budget appropriation attached, it was not unusual for the proposed funding to be removed and tabled for the budget discussions.

“The faith-based community and the other wide-ranging coalition of advocates who continue to support Senate Bill 1,” Crider said. “I have not had a bill in my 11 sessions where so many groups are as engaged as they are on this issue.”

“Regardless of the particular religion, one of the common themes that day was respecting the dignity of the person,” Espada said. “That pillar of Catholic social teaching underscores all of the ICC’s priorities at the Statehouse. As is the case during every session of the General Assembly, Espada explained that the ICC supports legislation according to the long history of Catholic social teaching.

In addition to Senate Bill 1, the ICC is tracking other legislation of interest in Indiana. House Bill 1547 would have expanded certain subprime loans and allowed a high-interest loan product on the market that the ICC deemed “predatory.”

“A lot of allies were working against this legislation,” said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director for Public Policy of the ICC. “We are grateful to the Catholic faithful who contacted their lawmakers, and we call on everyone to stay engaged during this next critical phase of the legislative session.”

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianaacc.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 when legislation moves forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

**INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

**BY VICTORIA ARTHUR**
German Synodal Assembly Allows Women to Preach at Mass, Clears the Way for Church Blessing of Same-Sex Couples

FRANKFURT, Germany (OSV News) — The final assembly of the German Synodal Way took place in Frankfurt March 9-11, where 250 bishops and lay representatives discussed issues such as blessings for homosexual couples, the ordination of women, a relaxation of mandatory celibacy, and greater Church involvement for lay people. The agenda, with 10 resolution texts, reflected the will to “arrive at visible changes,” the President of the German Bishops’ Conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, said in Frankfurt on March 9. “This Church deserves that we do not leave it as it is,” German agency KNA reported him saying. On March 10, KNA reports, the assembly decided that in the near future, there will be blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples in the Catholic Church in Germany. People who have divorced and then remarried in a civil partnership should also be able to have their relationship blessed in the Church. Following a controversial debate, KNA wrote, the synodal path reform project had its final report correspondingly approved in Frankfurt on March 10 with a majority of more than 90 percent. The recommendations in the paper are developing and introducing appropriate liturgical celebrations and ceremonies. The assembly also decided that women will be permitted to preach during Mass.

Sectarian Partisan Lens and ‘Live the Truth’ of their Faith, Says Former Congressman

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Despite being labeled a Democratic “hater” by the media for his pro-life stand and his support for traditional marriage, former Congressman Dan Lipinski told a Washington, D.C. conference he never backed down from “what I knew was true.” It is our responsibility, especially because of our Catholic faith, to live the truth no matter what profession that we are in,” Lipinski said on March 10. “What we need to do is to be Catholic first. This means adhering to the truth in this post-truth world. It’s not always going to be easy. Sometimes we will be hated. We will have to make personal sacrifices.” Lipinski, 56, who represented Illinois’ 3rd Congressional District for eight terms, from 2005 to 2021, was a keynote speaker during a conference on “Journalism in a Post-Truth World,” sponsored by EWTN News and Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The March 10-11 conference, held in person and livestreamed, included panel discussions on the state of modern journalism and religion coverage, media ethics, media bias, the upsides and pitfalls of using social media, and how to cover the Catholic Church.

Wyoming Governor Weighs ‘Unforeseen Consequences’ of Abortion Bills Still on His Desk

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (OSV News) — Wyoming’s legislation passed two pieces of legislation in March that would restrict the use of abortion-inducing drugs, were approved by the state’s legislature. Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican who has signed pro-life measures in the past, has not yet indicated whether he will sign the legislation. He told reporters in the state that he is still weighing the constitutionality of the bills and seeking to ensure they won’t have unforeseen consequences. State law gives Gordon 15 days to veto legislation if he so chooses, otherwise it becomes law. Asked about the status of the bills, a spokesman for Gordon told OSV News on March 10 that the governor has until March 18 to consider them.

Attacks on Nicaragua’s Catholic and Civil Society Entities Must Stop, Says Human Rights Watch Head

UNITED NATIONS (OSV News) — Nicaragua’s assaults on Catholic and other educational institutions, its stripping political opponents of citizenship, and its arrest of political opponents must stop, said Human Rights Watch’s Acting Executive Director, Tirana Hassan. “The situation in Nicaragua has been getting progressively worse. What we have been seeing is there has been an attack on political opposition, on civil society, on Catholic institutions and the Church itself,” Hassan told OSV News on March 9. She was speaking two days after Nicaragua’s government-run newspaper, La Gaceta, announced the cancellation of the legal status of the country’s Universidad Juan Pablo II and Universidad Cristiana Autónoma de Nicaragua “for being in breach of their obligations under the laws that regulate them.” Hassan said HRW has seen “attacks across the board on civil society, freedom of religion, and … on political participation,” by Nicaragua’s government. Asked about the cancellation of the universities’ legal status and the reported widespread abuses, Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said, “We’ve been following this closely.” He told OSV News on March 10, “It is another example of the shrinking space for civil society that we are seeing in Nicaragua.”

Gunman Attacks Jehovah’s Witness Hall in Germany; Seven Reported Dead, Including Gunman

People lay down flowers and candles outside a building housing a Jehovah’s Witness meeting hall in Hamburg, Germany, on March 10, after a deadly shooting. German police were searching for a possible motive after a shooter opened fire on March 9 at the place of worship, killing six people, including an unborn baby, and then killing himself.

Enter USCCB Religious Liberty Essay Contest

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, along with the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education and Our Sunday Visitor Institute, is hosting a religious liberty essay contest for high school juniors and seniors. The contest, titled “Witnesses to Freedom,” requires participants to “share the story of a witness to freedom.” "Participants should choose one person or group, such as an organization or community, who is important in the story of religious freedom," according to contest rules posted online. Essays are due by March 24. Winners will be announced in May. The first-place essay will be published in the April 15, 2023, issue of the USCCB News, and the author will be awarded a $2,000 scholarship. General information can be found online at usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay.
Pope From ‘Ends of the Earth’ Brings New Style to Rome

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Right from the start, upon his election, Pope Francis presented a whole new style of being pontiff.

The way he spoke to the vast crowd after his election on March 13, 2013, was familial and down-to-earth, beginning with, “Brothers and sisters, good evening,” and ending with “We’ll see each other soon!” and “Have a good night and sleep well!”

He repeatedly referred to himself as “Bishop of Rome,” which eventually ended up being his sole title in the “Annuario Pontificio,” the Vatican yearbook, and would be another sign of his vision for renewal by promoting a more collegial and decentralized Church.

And his invitation to the crowd on the day he was elected — “Let’s begin this journey” with “fraternity, love, trust,” and prayer, and “may it be fruitful for evangelization” — was a clear sign of a new style he saw for the entire Church, that of synodality, with all brothers and sisters in the faith walking, praying, and evangelizing together.

That first night also gave a glimpse into how Pope Francis would lead the universal Church in the uncharted situation of having a retired pope in the wings. He led everybody in prayer “for our Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI.”

Many of his most unexpected choices on how he would live as pope were offered as a kind of, “Do as I do, not just as I say,” especially to his brother bishops around the world.

He chose to live in a Vatican guesthouse instead of the Apostolic Palace, he has used an annual penance celebration at the Vatican to publicly go to confession, he responds to many people who write to him with a letter, note, or phone call, he meets regularly with many people who write to him to confession, he responds to...etc.

The election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, marked the first time a Jesuit was made pope. He ushered in a number of styles characteristic of his order: the Ignatian practice of discernment for making decisions in the presence of God; seeking God’s presence in all things; and a penchant for boiling his talks down to three bullet points.

He was the first pope to come from the Americas, born of immigrant Italian parents; this second-generation experience lent lived authenticity to his insistence migrants be respected, integrated, and appreciated for their hard work and the rich diversity they bring to a host nation.

Most indicative of his unique style was choosing the name “Francis” to honor St. Francis of Assisi, known for his poverty, commitment to peace, and love of creation. It was a signal of the style to come: simplicity, humility, working with the poor, desiring a Church that is poor and for the poor, and further deepening his predecessor’s love of creation integrated with a respect for all life.

Under his watch, the papal charities office has increased its outreach, particularly to the homeless who live near the Vatican and in other parts of the world, such as Ukraine, where he has sent his papal almoner to deliver aid directly and convey his prayers.

He also set aside the usual practice of washing the feet of 12 priests during a public celebration of the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Instead, he has celebrated smaller Masses — closed to the public — in prisons, refugee centers, and rehabilitation centers, washing the feet of Catholics and non-Catholics, men and women, in order to show Christ’s love for everyone, especially the most marginalized.

His idea of “outreach” has included reaching outside the Vatican bubble. He called in “outsiders” as the majority of the members of his International Council of Cardinals and of the Vatican safeguarding commission. He gets a new personal secretary every few years and gives dozens of interviews to big and small media outlets.

His desire to “speak from the heart” means many off-the-cuff comments, homespun anecdotes, sharp rebukes or critiques, and an occasional statement that requires clarification or an apology.

A native-Spanish speaker who grew up with Italian-speaking relatives in Argentina, the pope merges a number of styles and, as a former high school teacher, often draws on literary themes and rhetorical devices.

His memorable metaphors and allegories have a religious message: priests need to be “shepherds living with the smell of sheep”; confession is not “sitting down in a torture chamber”; and Catholics must resist “a throwaway culture” that “disposes of people’s lives and dignity.

Pope Francis also has offered a new approach to every-vangelizing, to every evangelizing.” He has mapped out in his brief address during the pre-conclave meetings of the cardinals. Cardinal Bergoglio’s words struck a chord with his listeners and formed the basis of his blueprint as pope.

The outline of his talk said that when the Church is self-referential with a kind of theological narcissism, it gets sick and is unable to carry out its mission to go out and evangelize; in effect, such a Church keeps Jesus within and does not let Him out.

Jesus is knocking so that “we will let Him come out,” the then-Cardinal Bergoglio had said, and the next pope needs to help the Church go out to the “peripheries” and become “the fruitful mother who gains life from the sweet and comforting fruit of creation.”

Marian High School’s Award-Winning Art Programming Blossoming

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Marian High School art teachers Gina Bonewitz and Elaine Desmarais are elated about the news that their students received 222 awards at the Scholastic Regional Art Competition this year.

“We are really proud of the program. The kids are really invested,” said Bonewitz, Fine Arts Department Chair at Marian for the past 19 years.

She said the awards really “bumped up the last two years — last year we had 240 awards, and before that it was 113.”

The Scholastic Art Competition is nearly 100 years old and Bonewitz said some students are able to get scholarships based on the awards they’ve won.

She said they recently added categories to the competition of Special Regional Award and Honorable Mention. The competition begins at the regional level and is held at the Century Center in South Bend. There are several categories, including drawing, painting, graphic art, photography, digital art, fashion design, mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, production, and many more.

Award winners receive either an Honorable Mention, Silver Key, or Gold Key. There are a few special awards, too. Students receiving a Gold Key go on to the national competition.

Bonewitz explained the entries had to be submitted last fall around the holidays and the teachers were notified at the end of January of the awards won. Bonewitz, who teaches photography and ceramics said for the 3D art students that for ceramics, it is “the only show they can enter locally.”

Students from all four grades enter the competition and Bonewitz said the awards are scattered amongst the grade levels. She said some students just take the art class as an elective and are surprised when they win while others are planning on pursuing art after high school and enter all four years.

Bonewitz estimates they submitted about 600 entries to this year’s competition. She doesn’t know how that compares to other schools, but she believes the total number of entries for their region was approximately 3,000. She said there is no limit on the number of entries per school, but they did limit the number of photography entries to 16 per student.

“The kids are fired up! It makes me happy that they’re excited about entering,” she said. “Because it’s not a requirement.” She added, “We really promote it and encourage the students to keep working to make it their very best work.”

Culture of Art Appreciation

Teacher Elaine Desmarais, who has taught art for 16 years and has been at Marian since 2019, talked about what she thinks has attributed to the success of the students and the school.

“Having a culture of appreciation of arts at the school,” Desmarais said, “we have a really good reputation and students seek us out. It comes from the top down — the appreciation of the importance of the arts.”

She said the Fine Arts Department also has “very healthy financial support” with quality materials and equipment. She said they have college-level printing machines and photo enlargers, for example.

“We’re doing things at Marian I didn’t do until college,” she said. Desmarais teaches 2D art — drawing and painting, among others. She said the students think the art competition is cool.

“It’s up there with winning a sectional game,” she laughed.

Photos provided by Gina Bonewitz

Marian High School student Helen MacWilliams poses with her Gold Key Award visual voice-winning portfolio of ceramic sculptures from the Scholastic Art Competition.

Pictured above is Marian High School student Layne Schmitt’s Silver Key Award piece “Monster” from the Scholastic Art Competition.

Pictured on the left is Marian High School student Hailey Abbott’s Gold Key Award piece “Maggie’s Mind” from the Scholastic Art Competition.
Art Programming Blossoming

“It’s a key part of our identity at Marian,” Desmarais said she and Bonewitz are coaches. They give the students the tools and techniques to build their skills and enable them to embrace and take ownership of their art work. She said the art is student-driven but as teacher-coaches, they don’t hold back in telling them how to edit their work to bring out their best.

She said that she and Bonewitz have “very high expectations and the students always meet them. This is an expectation of excellence and it’s done positively.”

“Our classes are packed. We have six classes each — one more than expected.”

When asked if many of their students go on to careers in art, she responded that a lot of the skills they learn can be integrated into a lot of degrees — that thinking outside the box and working collaboratively are just a couple. She said this year, there are five seniors who plan to go into the art field — one in fine arts, one in animation, another in art education, one in architecture, and one in advertising.

Religion in Art

Desmarais said religion in art is also incorporated into the curriculum, especially, “how the Church was the main patron of the arts for centuries.”

She said some of the students focus on the Virgin Mary in their art, while others participate in the Right to Life poster contest.

Desmarais believes it’s important to “allow students to have an authentic voice.” Anytime I let students have their authentic voice, they were more invested and did their very best work,” she said. “It’s amazing to see them get a Gold Key!”

Bonewitz and Desmarais tell their students that they are artists and the art class is their studio. Bonewitz said they have more than 40 Gold Key winning pieces going to nationals. They’re not sure when or where that will occur yet, but it is usually held in New York.

Desmarais added, “Another reason I think Gina and I are successful is because we love it! We’re so passionate and we’re both practicing artists and we put our work out there, too. That love and passion for art is translated to the students.”

Pictured here is Marian High School student Riley Collins’s Gold Key Award piece “Carrie Cameleon” from the Scholastic Art Competition.

Student Awards from the Scholastic Regional Art Competition

- 42 Gold Keys
- 69 Silver Keys
- 98 Honorable Mentions
- 1 Gold Portfolio
- 1 Silver Portfolio
- 1 Honorable Portfolio
- 2 American Visions Award Nominations
- 8 Special Regional Awards

Pictured here is Marian High School student Helen MacWilliams’s Silver Key Award piece “Lil’ Dusty and his Friend” from the Scholastic Art Competition.
CRS Rice Bowl 2023 — A Journey to Three Countries

"Life is so much easier now that we have the fish for our daily living."
— Rhodora

In the Philippines, farmers are learning about the importance of diversifying their livelihoods in order to improve their sources of income and nutrition for their families.

**A Story of Hope from the Philippines**

Raul and Rhodora Enecillo live on their farm in Northern Samar, Philippines, with their granddaughters Loraine and Kate.

Raul and Rhodora get up at 5 a.m. each day to tend to the fish pond, pigs, and chickens before getting their granddaughters off to school. Education is important to Raul and Rhodora. Their dream is that Loraine and Kate will graduate from college and get good jobs — Loraine wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

For years, Raul and Rhodora worked hard as coconut farmers. After harvesting, they prepared the coconuts for making oil — but it took a lot of work before they made money. On top of that, periods of heavy rain caused flooding, making farming difficult.

Then Raul and Rhodora participated in a Catholic Relief Services program where they received training and assistance to build their own fish pond. They bought little fish to stock the pond, fish food, and a net. The fish grew bigger, and soon they were able to sell them at the market. The fish pond also provided food for their family so they could enjoy nutritious meals together.

"Life is so much easier now that we have the fish for our daily living," Rhodora says.

Since joining the program, Raul and Rhodora also learned how to better prepare for the increasing natural disasters in their area — like typhoons, flooding, earthquakes, and landslides. They made improvements to their house, using stronger, sturdier materials to protect their home and family.

In the program, Raul and Rhodora also learned how to better prepare for the increasing natural disasters in their area — like typhoons, flooding, earthquakes, and landslides. They made improvements to their house, using stronger, sturdier materials to protect their home and family.

Since joining the program, Raul and Rhodora added two more fish ponds along with pigs and chickens. With the extra income from their farm, their granddaughters can enjoy their childhood and live a more comfortable life, giving them the opportunity to study hard and finish school.

"I have many dreams for my family and my grandchildren," Raul says. "I hope I can give them something good."

For more information about the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program and to donate, visit crsricebowl.org.
With five diocesan parishes (South Bend, Fort Wayne, Logansport, Arcola, Walkerton) and two chapels (Lagro and Notre Dame’s Dillon Hall) named in honor of St. Patrick, it is clear that his legacy has deep roots in Indiana.

Outdone only by Our Lady, St. Joseph totally of his mission of evangelization to Ireland. The widespread legacy of these two saints reveals the impact that can occur when one relies completely on the providence of God. Both St. Joseph and St. Patrick were given divinely appointed mandates to go into new lands with nothing more than trust in God’s Word, believing He would provide for them in every need.

St. Patrick, who was of British — and not actually Irish — descent, was kidnapped by Irish pirates as a teenager and forced to work on the Emerald Isle for six years as a shepherd. His time of personal isolation provided him time to consider his life’s meaning and purpose, leading him to more seriously embrace his Christian faith.

Escaping captivity and after difficult journeys, he eventually returned home and reunited with family. There he continued his spiritual and intellectual walk with Christ and began studying for the priesthood. It was then that he experienced a mystical vision where he felt beckoned to return to the people of Ireland and bring them the Gospel. After being ordained a priest, and later consecrated as a bishop, he went on to establish a seminary to prepare future priests. He also dedicated himself to spiritual conversion,TO D AY’S CATHOLIC

St. Patrick and St. Joseph Very Well Represented Throughout Diocese

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Both St. Joseph and St. Patrick were given divinely appointed mandates to go into new lands with nothing more than trust in God’s Word, believing He would provide for them in every need.

faith, the same faith that St. Patrick spent his life sharing and defending. It might even include using the simple and seemingly insignificant things, like a little shamrock, to point towards the eternal truth and beauty of Christianity. Particular inspiration might also be found by recalling the words prayed at Mass each year on St. Patrick’s feast, that “through his merits and intercession, those who glory in the name of Christ may never cease to proclaim God’s wondrous deeds to all.”

The other saint mentioned previously who will be celebrated in the upcoming days needs less of an introduction. St. Joseph, known only for his actions — not his words — since the Church has no official account of anything he ever said during his earthly life, was the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Like St. Patrick, Joseph was also given a vision to venture into a foreign land when directed by an angel to take his wife and infant child into Egypt. The Holy Family lived in this pagan territory for seven years, witnessing in simplicity and humility the reality of the one true God. One imagines what sorts of impressions this family left on their Egyptian neighbors that may have prepared them to later receive the Gospel after the fires of Pentecost propelled the apostles forward on their evangelical missions.

While Patrick is claimed as the “plump of persons. He remained in Ireland, continuing to preach, teach, and bring the sacraments to countless souls for the rest of his life amid dangers, opposition, and threats of martyrdom. His legacy also includes the establishment of many monasteries and convents, which kept the Catholic faith — some argue even western civilization itself — alive and sustained throughout multiple persecutions across Europe. He remains a heroic and beloved figure in Ireland, where his feast on March 17 is observed as a national holiday.

Within the diocese, the presence of numerous churches in St. Patrick’s namesake reveals a patron for those — initially those of Irish descent — seeking Christ in a land that initially felt rather foreign, but would, in time, eventually come to feel like home.

This year, as St. Patrick’s Day falls on a Friday, Bishop Rhoades has encouraged parishioners to continue to honor the penitential spirit of Lent by attending Mass or offering specific prayers. He has also emphasized that the legacy of such a revered saint with deep personal connections to the diocese should also be celebrated. For those who go to Mass or spend a half hour before the Blessed Sacrament or pray a rosary for peace on Friday, March 17, Bishop Rhoades has commuted the Lenten abstinence of meat. This directive honors both the seriousness with which St. Patrick dedicated himself to the spiritual conversion of those under his charge as well as the joy of the Church, which recognizes the influential legacy of St. Patrick that continues to bear fruit in the lives of Christians today.

On this day when many choose to customarily partake in a celebratory drink, it also seems most fitting to honor St. Patrick by gathering around a fire, recounting the blessing and gift of Catholicism, and maybe inviting someone new into a conversation about St. Joseph, the preeminent foster-father of Our Lord and our universal spiritual mother.

The other saint mentioned previously who will be celebrated in the upcoming days needs less of an introduction. St. Joseph, known only for his actions — not his words — since the Church has no official account of anything he ever said during his earthly life, was the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Like St. Patrick, Joseph was also given a vision to venture into a foreign land when directed by an angel to take his wife and infant child into Egypt. The Holy Family lived in this pagan territory for seven years, witnessing in simplicity and humility the reality of the one true God. One imagines what sorts of impressions this family left on their Egyptian neighbors that may have prepared them to later receive the Gospel after the fires of Pentecost propelled the apostles forward on their evangelical missions.

While Patrick is claimed as the “plump of persons. He remained in Ireland, continuing to preach, teach, and bring the sacraments to countless souls for the rest of his life amid dangers, opposition, and threats of martyrdom. His legacy also includes the establishment of many monasteries and convents, which kept the Catholic faith — some argue even western civilization itself — alive and sustained throughout multiple persecutions across Europe. He remains a heroic and beloved figure in Ireland, where his feast on March 17 is observed as a national holiday.

Within the diocese, the presence of numerous churches in St. Patrick’s namesake reveals a patron for those — initially those of Irish descent — seeking Christ in a land that initially felt rather foreign, but would, in time, eventually come to feel like home.

This year, as St. Patrick’s Day falls on a Friday, Bishop Rhoades has encouraged parishioners to continue to honor the penitential spirit of Lent by attending Mass or offering specific prayers. He has also emphasized that the legacy of such a revered saint with deep personal connections to the diocese should also be celebrated. For those who go to Mass or spend a half hour before the Blessed Sacrament or pray a rosary for peace on Friday, March 17, Bishop Rhoades has commuted the Lenten abstinence of meat. This directive honors both the seriousness with which St. Patrick dedicated himself to the spiritual conversion of those under his charge as well as the joy of the Church, which recognizes the influential legacy of St. Patrick that continues to bear fruit in the lives of Christians today.

On this day when many choose to customarily partake in a celebratory drink, it also seems most fitting to honor St. Patrick by gathering around a fire, recounting the blessing and gift of Catholicism, and maybe inviting someone new into a conversation about
Pope Francis: Titles for 10 Years

Before he was known for anything else, Pope Francis was known as “the first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years.” Throughout the last 10 years, he has led the church with energy and optimism, traveling four times a year, on average. Usually, he starts and ends those trips by praying before the fifth-century Byzantine icon Salus Populi Romani (“Our Lady, health of the Roman people”), because, “With the Virgin, I go with certainty.” Rarely seen with a rosary, Francis’ devotion to the Blessed Virgin is nevertheless deep and transparent for Mary, as he has written, she is “always listening to us!”

So, we quickly gleaned that the 266th pope would be a Pope of the Patrons of All Humanity. As we’ve grown to know him, we have also learned to call Pope Francis:

**The Pope of Pragmatic Humility**
When a stunned looking Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was announced to be Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square, his self-effacing remark (that the conclave seemed to have “gone to the end of the world”) to find a new bishop of Rome, led immediately to a request for prayers — first for his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, and then for, well, everybody: “Let us pray for each other (and) for the entire world because there is great brotherhood in the world.” Eschewing the papal apartments to reside in a guesthouse for visiting clergy, Pope Francis (in his first act of papal continuum) packed his own bags, carrying them to his new apartment.

—The Pope of the Poor:
In his 2016 apostolic letter, “Misericordiae et Misericors,” Pope Francis established the first World Day of the Poor, later kicking it off in the Paul VI Hall, sharing a beautifully catered luncheon with the destitute of Rome. In a tradition that — pausing for two years due to the global pandemic — was joyfully reestablished in 2022, however, a pontifical hall had arranged for showers to be provided for the homeless near the Bernini colonnades embracing St. Peter’s Square. Reminding critics that Jesus said the poor would always be among us, (1:28) the pope wrote, “There is no all to justify not engaging with the poor when Jesus has identified Himself with each of them.”

**The Pope of Pastoral Tenderness:**
Tenderness comes up frequently in Pope Francis’ remarks, and he has a marked penchant for an informal “Theology of Tenderness,” demonstrating an informal “Theology of Tenderness,” demonstrating how love is the most taken for granted — a shower, clean clothes, and sometimes simply being seen and greeted instead of ignored — the stuff of dignity. “Tenderness is something greater than the logic of our limitations. Our exaggeration of what is, our obsessive and boastful as were the scribes and the Pharisees, so self-satisfied and so confident in their own knowledge and in their own high estimates of themselves.”

**The Pope of Protecting the Enemy:**
Tenderness even slips into his thoughts on ecology. Upon receiving the fisherman’s ring, Pope Francis remarked, “Let us be protectors of creation, of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another, and of the environment,” adding, “Protecting demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness.”

**The Pope of Pandemic Prayer and Consolation:**
In a fearless and grave moment, Francis turned the lightning-rod world into lockdown — isolated and prevented from being with loved ones dying all across the world. Francis brought us into supplication before God, making “An Extraordinary Prayer in the Time of Pandemic” on the evening of March 27, 2020. Starkly alone in St. Peter’s Square, accompanied only by a 15th-century crucifix, the pope gave voice to what all humanity was feeling, “Thick darkness has gathered . . . taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void . . . we find ourselves afraid and lost.”

**The Pope of Plain (and Plane) Talk:**
During 40 trips abroad, Francis — who has expressed a dislike of excessive formalities — has often gone “off script” amid in-flight news conferences. His remarks, especially when taken out of context, have often become inaptions. While returning from the 2015 World Youth Day gathering, the pope was asked about homelosness announced in his book-length interview with Andrea Tornelli published in 2016, “Francis addressed the brouhaha head-on, saying he had paraphrased the Carthusians and said that people should be treated with charity and social friendship.”

**Elizabeth Scalia, page 13**

We Must Always Turn to God, As He Alone Is Light

**The Sunday Gospel**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

_John 9:1-41_

Drawing from the first word, in Latin, in the Entrance Antiphon for this weekend’s liturgy, this Sunday long has been called “Laetare Sunday.” Laetare means “to rejoice.” The Church rejoices that despite the darkness of Lent, the glory of Christ shines forth. Despite the ugly quality of the beauty of the Lord is radiant.

The first reading for this weekend is from the First Book of Maccabees, and therefore God’s representative and spokesman, Samuel selected the young David to be king of Israel. To signify this appointment, Samuel anointed David with oil.

Anointings have always marked persons for special jobs or to strengthen them in certain circumstances, as if the mark of the oil on the flesh is indeleible, and the oil infuses the person with grace.

All Catholics are anointed when they are baptized or confirmed. Priests and bishops are anointed. Faithful people in good health are anointed to in Christ. Rejoice!

**Reflection:**
The Gospel story recalls a miracle. It also is a study in contrasts. On the one side is the man born blind whom the Pharisees viewed as having been healed. The other side is that of the Pharisees, so self-satisfied and so confident in their own knowledge and in their own high estimates of themselves.

**Empirical Explanations:**
We must apply these contrasts to ourselves. We may not be very an, or holistically pompous, but we are not as we were the Pharisees. Still, we downplay our limitations. Our exaggerat-ed judgments of ourselves trick us again and again. This keeps us in the dark. Lent is the time to face facts. We must recognize our need for God. We must turn to God. He alone is light.

The wonder of this is that God will receive us, love us, forgive us, and give us light to see reality. The light of God awaits us in Christ. Rejoice!

**Readings**

_Sunday:_ Ps 23:1-6; 5:31-47

_Monday:_ 5:4a, 12a-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27; 29 Rom 4, 13, 16-18, 22 Mt 11:25-30

_Tuesday:_ Ez 47:1-9; 12a 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-6

_Wednesday:_ Is 49:15-16; 15489:13-14, 17-18; Is 55:13-17

_Thursday:_ Ex 32:17-24; 5:19-23 Jn 6:13-15; 19 5-10

_Friday:_ Wis 8a:21, 12a-22 Ps 14:1-7; 21 3:1-7, 10-12, 20-25

_Saturday:_ Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 126-38
How I Learned Pope Francis was a True ‘Pope of Peripheries’

It is often said that we are our truest selves when we are happy, comfortable, and surrounded by those we love and trust. During each of the nearly 30 trips I made with Pope Francis, there was always a memorable moment when his true self would come out to play.

Early on, we would recognize this moment. The pontiff would completely disregard his prepared remarks and start speaking in Spanish — with the interpreter often struggling to follow, but caught up — especially when he was in the small and intimate scenes that are so common in Francis called on the world to see not only their plights, sufferings, and marginality, but also the spiritual resources both nations have. As he said of Congo, it is a “land rich in resources and bloodied by a war that never ends.”

When he is on the road, Pope Francis chooses to speak to the world from places that truly need a papal spotlight — not only to highlight the suffering experienced there, but also to highlight the many gifts they could share with the rest of the human family, but with justice. From the Central African Republic to Bangladesh, from Thailand to Paraguay, from Iraq to Kazakhstan, Pope Francis models what he preaches — he is a true pope of the peripheries.

Even when visiting the world’s superpowers, Pope Francis brought the marginalized to the fore. The historic visit to Cuba on his way to the United States in 2015 wasn’t a stop on the way to the communist regime. He made a trek, seemingly impossible at the time, to insist on the need to maintain open spaces for diplomatic actions. With reflection and dialogue, he wanted to prevent — and in this case try to resolve problems.

When he went to France in 2014, Pope Francis delivered a somber diagnosis in the European economy. In Strasbourg, Europe, he declared, had lost its way, its energies sapped by economic crisis and a remote, bureaucratic hierarchy. The continent was only a bystander in a world that had become less Eurocentric. He said the rest of the world often looks at the continent as an old, barren lady: “In many quarters we encounter a genuine impression of weariness and aging, of a Europe which is now a gray mother, ‘no longer fertile and vibrant,’ the pontiff stressed.

The humbler the people he encounters, the more, it seems, the pope’s face is to praise and champion them. This is not, of course, a pope who promotes poverty, but a man who has encountered others in the unsavory corners of this earth, the clear representation of what he means when he calls for a “poor Church for the poor,” one that gets out of the sacristy to find people where they are — “an Iglesia en salida” (or a “Church that goes out”).

For many, understanding what he means by this has been a challenge. There are those who think he wants a Marxist, populist, or Pentecostal Church, in reference to Argentina’s Justicialista party, founded by General Juan Domingo Peron and immortalized in a dance, if historically inaccurate, way by Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Evita.” Others believe he wants to reform the Church so it focuses solely on the excluded because they live in situations the Church teaches are irregular — the divorced and remarried, those who cohabitate, the LGBT community, and so on. But at the end of the day, people who know the pope best — those who knew him when he was Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio — understand that the idea of a “poor Church for the poor” is a literal one, not a metaphor.

Argentine theologian Juan Carlos Scannone says a key part of what shapes Francis’s thought is a strongly Argentinian stream of Catholic thinking called “theology of the people.” It holds, Scannone told me years ago, that reflection on virtually any topic shouldn’t start with ideological categories, but with the concrete experiences of people.

Ines San Martin

SCULLA, from page 12

— The Pope of Perpetual Hope: “Lumen Fidei” (“The Light of Faith”)

He is slowing now. At the funeral of Pope Benedict XVI, it was obvious that the pope was suffering as he strolled before the casket was borne into St. Peter’s for interment. Sometimes using a wheelchair, he recently made a plea for those enduring chronic pain.

As this formerly vigorous bishop of Rome winds down, we remember these moments of greatness and know the pope by his fruits; all while acknowledging what work is yet undone — that scandal and crises within the Church remain insufficiently addressed — that people are still in pain. We can do that prayerfully and compassionately, remembering the intentions of a pope who — now perhaps in his twilight — is daily wrestling with substantial and challenging issues within the culture, the Church, and his beloved Society of Jesus.

Doing so would demonstrate that we have learned something about tenderness, and spiritual generosity, over these past 10 years.

Elizabeth Scalia is the Culture Editor for OSV News.
For a full job description and to apply, visit diocesefwsb.org/careers or scan the QR code.

**Director of Children’s Catechesis Sought**

Holy Cross Parish, South Bend, is seeking a part-time Director of Children’s Catechesis. The Director of Children’s Catechesis is a practicing Catholic who is responsible for the coordination and implementation of catechesis and sacramental preparation of children ages 3 through grade 8. Children ages 3-9 participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; upper elementary age students in catechetical instruction; and junior high students in Bible study. In addition, the Director supports school sacramental spiritual formation, parent formation, and homeschooling catechesis. This position is 20-hours per week. For further information and a job description, please visit hcpsb.org or contact Father Jim Fenstermaker, CSC, at jfenstermaker@hcpsb.org.

**St. John the Baptist School Principal**

Fort Wayne, IN

Qualifications
- Practicing Catholic
- 5 Years Teaching Experience
- Eligible for Indiana Administrative License
- Commitment to Cultivating Strong Catholic Identity

For more information, visit diocesefwsb.org/careers.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Drive-Thru Only Lenten Fish Fry
SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 65568 Old U.S. 31-South, will have a drive-thru only fish fry by Tyner I.O.O.F. on Friday, March 17, from 3:30-7 p.m. Pre-sale tickets recommended. All meals are $13 each. Pre-sale children’s meal available for $6. Call 574-291-3775 for information.

Knights of Columbus Council 11276 Annual Fish Fry
FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council 11276 is sponsoring a Dan’s Fish Fry on Friday, March 17, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Center Road. Dine in or drive up. Adult meals are $13 and child meals are $7.

St. Matthew Cathedral Lenten Fish Fry
SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew Cathedral, 1015 E. Dayton St., will have a fish dinner on Friday, March 17, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the school gym. Single dinner ticket is $20 at the door. Family Dinner (feeds family of four) $30. Pre sales available through the rectory: individual $15; family $25. Salad Bar Available. Contact Ellen Dettmer at 574-904-6672 for information.

St. Aloysius Fish Fry
YODER — Dan’s Fish Fry will be at St. Aloysius, 14623 Bluffton Rd., on Friday, March 17, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Cost is $12 all-you-can-eat dine-in, children 6-12 are $7, and children 5 and younger are free. Carryout meals are just $12. Contact 260-622-7151 for information.

Most Precious Blood Fish Fry
FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1529 Barthold St., will have a fish fry provided by Big Eyed Fish on Friday, March 17, from 4-7 p.m. in the Parking Lot; Drive-Thru Only. Menu includes baked potato, applesauce, coleslaw, and rolls. Cheese pizza will be available. Drinks and cookies will be provided. Contact Mark Linker at 260-341-6209 or victoria.linker@gmail.com.

Central Catholic Alumni Plan Open House
FORT WAYNE — The Central Catholic Alumni Association Board Members will have an open house on Sunday, March 19, from 1-3 p.m. in their office located in the back of Redeemer Radio, 4816 East State Blvd. Meet the Association Board Members, and view the memorabilia that has been collected over the years. Everyone is welcome. Drinks and cookies will be provided. Contact Mark Linker at 260-341-6209 or victoria.linker@gmail.com.

First Saturday Devotion
Our Lady, Patroness of America Center
Mass the First Saturday of each month at 11 a.m.
PatronessOfAmerica.org
2730 E. Northport Rd., Rome City, IN 46784 260-404-4990

St. Patrick, Arcola
12305 Arcola Rd, Fort Wayne
Fish Fry
Drive-Thru ONLY
Friday, March 24
4-7 p.m.
Tickets are $13 dinner, $16 all fish

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne
Jeremy Wait, 95, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Robert Fox, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

New Haven
Patricia Swaidner, 84, St. John the Baptist

South Bend
Barbara Conner, 92, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Robert Askins, 82, St. Charles Borromeo
Robert Fox, 86, St. Vincent de Paul
Granger
Gill Laveare, 80, St. Pius X
Joseph Pusztai, 94, St. Pius X

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.

Crossword Solution

Mary Green
Owner
574.232.3354
800.994.2687
www.wygants.com

Wygant FLORAL
Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons | & more!

S P R I N G
S a l e
MARCH 20 – MARCH 25
20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE!
GIFTS FOR EVERY OCCASSION!

Good Shepherd Books & Gifts
915 S. Clinton St, FW, IN 46802
260.399.1442
WWW.GOODSHEPHERDBOOKSTORE.ORG
God for their example of faith, courage, and love.

Jesus teaches us in the gospel today that his disciples must take up their cross and follow after Him. The most radical form of discipleship is martyrdom. Saints Perpetua and Felicity took up their cross, like we are all called to do, through lives of loving sacrifice. Their sacrifice led to humiliating and painful death. With great bravery, these young women walked into the gladiatorial arena where three Christian men were being attacked and devoured by wild animals while the crowd cheered. Perpetua and Felicity were followed by the animals and killed by the swords of gladiators in the arena. Before her execution, St. Perpetua cried out to her brother and other Christians: “Stand fast in the faith, and love one another. Do not let our sufferings be a stumbling block for you.”

This all happened in Carthage in North Africa in the year 203. Because of their courageous witness, many pagans in Carthage and North Africa converted to Christianity. The Church grew and flourished there. Two centuries later, the great Bishop, St. Augustine, preached eloquently about Saints Perpetua and Felicity in that region of North Africa, which was also his homeland. And here we are in the United States 1600 years later, still singing the praises of these two young women. Their names are mentioned, along with other early Christian martyrs, in the First Eucharistic Prayer, the Roman canon. They now live in glory with the Risen and glorified Christ in the perfect joy of heaven.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity believed in the promise of Jesus that we heard in today’s Gospel: “Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” The martyrs lost their lives for Jesus; but in so doing, they were called to “lose our lives for the sake of Jesus” by giving of ourselves to God and others through our self-giving love, our service, and our sacrifices. The sacrifices we do in Lent are a way to die to ourselves, to take up our cross, especially by living our faith courageously and by sacrificing for others through generous service and almsgiving.

In Saints Perpetua and Felicity weren’t even Christians yet when they were arrested for their Christian faith. They were catechumens preparing for baptism. It was a time of severe persecution of the Church, but they pursued baptism even though they knew how dangerous it would be. They were both baptized while in prison.

They went forward with the conviction of St. Paul expressed in chapter eight of his letter to the Romans that we heard in the first reading today: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” He wrote that nothing in this world has the power to separate us from the love of Christ: not anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword. Saints Perpetua and Felicity died by the sword, but that did not separate them from the love of Christ. Jesus raised them up to the glory of heaven. With Him, by His power, they conquered death: This is important for us to remember when we feel hardship and sufferings in our lives — that nothing and no one can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Perpetua and Felicity are patron saints of mothers and expectant mothers. St. Perpetua was from a wealthy family. Not long before she was arrested, she gave birth to a baby boy. She was devastated when arrested and taken to prison because she was separated from her infant son. She was overjoyed when they allowed her family to bring her baby into the prison where she could nurse him and hold him and kiss him. Yet she knew she would not live to raise her child.

St. Felicity was not from a wealthy family. In fact, she was a slave. She was pregnant when she was arrested and gave birth to a baby girl just two days before her martyrdom. It was a consolation to her that her fellow Christian woman in Carthage would raise her beautiful little daughter.

I think the hardest and most painful sacrifice these two young mothers experienced was that they would not be able to raise their beloved children. They could have it if they would have worshipped the Roman gods, but they refused to commit the sin of idolatry because of their love for Jesus.

May Saints Perpetua and Felicity pray for us and for the Church today that we may be steadfast and courageous in our Christian lives! We will be, by God’s grace, if we have St. Paul’s strong conviction that Saints Perpetua and Felicity already had, that nothing and no one “can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Then, a metal sign manufacturer that Ganser encountered offered to laser cut a custom design for his project. After that, the pieces began coming together.

Ganser said, “Then I found another guy — a second guy who could weld it all together, including the armature, and then a third person who could powder coat every so it would be weatherproof. Now, there is a fourth guy who will be putting in lighting to light it up.”

Ganser admitted that perhaps his pride made him think that he would find one person to “just take care of it all,” adding that God is “developing another part of my character.”

As for what the future holds, Ganser said that he would like to continue exploring similar sculptures, maybe with archangels Raphael and Gabriel, or perhaps the addition of Mary and other statements of faith.

“I really do try to be open to the Holy Spirit, and I want to promote others. I want to work with others and help them shine and [I can] take a backseat. I want to be putting in lighting to light it up.”

As for what the future holds, Ganser said that he would like to continue exploring similar sculptures, maybe with archangels Raphael and Gabriel, or perhaps the addition of Mary and other statements of faith.