The words of Psalm 40: “Here I am, Lord: I come to do your will,” shared during the Inaugural Mass on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, set the stage for a journey by Dr. Marco J. Clark, newly installed as the 6th President of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana on Saturday, March 25. He is making history as the first president of the College who is not a Holy Cross brother or priest and doing so with an altruistic, deep commitment to Holy Cross College.

“This is an historic moment for the college as I am the first non-priest or religious brother to serve in this role. While this weekend is quite special for Peggy and me, this is, more importantly, a celebration of the Holy Cross College community. After weathering some storms in recent years, this young college is poised for a bright future,” said Clark.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, the college held a Day of Service on Thursday, March 23, an academic symposium on Friday, March 24, and the official installation on Saturday.

The Day of Service was an opportunity for the college to demonstrate what it truly means to be a Saint, and participate in collaboration projects with local, non-profit partners. Visitors from the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County, the Catholic Worker/Our Lady of the Road, LOGAN Industries, Real Services, Reins of Life, and Ronald McDonald House all manned information booths for students to network and learn about ways to get involved. A school supplies drive was held for La Casa de Amistad with the community purchasing items through Amazon that were shared with the organization. A toiletries drive was also held for the St. Vincent De Paul Society and items delivered to the organization on Thursday. Lastly, a blood drive and COVID vaccine clinic were hosted on campus.

The Academic Symposium, A Showcase of Holy Cross College, was a celebration of the college’s academic programs and faculty research. The day included plenary sessions, panel discussions, and workshops led by faculty and students from across the college.

Inauguration, page 2
Dr. Marco Clark is the newly installed 6th President of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana.

Dr. Clark always tells us to ‘keep the faith,’ he said. “I’m very grateful for your commitment to the service of the Church,” said Rhoades. “I am gratified that our children and grandchildren were all in attendance. My father and brother, numerous in-laws, and friends and colleagues from all over the country attended as well. I was particularly gratified by the support of the entire tri-campus area and the entire family of Holy Cross — brothers, sisters, and priests. This zip code is a special place whose roots were established here nearly 200 years ago. It is a tremendous honor for me to continue this legacy standing on the shoulders of the Holy Cross men and women who came before me,” said Clark.

Dr. Clark often tells people that C.S.C. might not be initials after his name, but they are a very strong part of his DNA. The appointment to Holy Cross College is a vocation to him, a calling to bring hope and zeal to others during a time when people are searching for meaning in their daily life. I’m also deeply grateful for the college’s outreach to the high school youth of our diocese through the Saints and Scholars summer program, Marcin. I’m excited for Holy Cross College as you officially assumed the presidency today, and I look forward to our continuing work together in service of the Lord and His Church. May the Holy Spirit guide you and your leadership. Again, a warm welcome to you and Peggy to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, your new spiritual home.”

Dr. Clark was overwhelmed and humbled by the great support of the entire community throughout the weekend. “There are three words that resonated with me from this weekend — grateful, humbled, and hopeful. It was particularly gratifying that our children and
Belt of Truth Podcast Arms Laity to be Informed Spiritual Leaders

BY ERIC PEAT

It’s tackled topics such as the intersection of faith and politics, the impact of spiritual wounds, and the fight to defend life. It’s featured guests such as Bishop Rhoades and internationally renowned Catholic speaker Jason Evert. It’s exceeded 10,000 downloads worldwide and has been downloaded in seven different countries.

And yet, despite the rapid success of the Belt of Truth podcast, host Robert Gregory just wants it to remain what it was originally created to be: a tool to help the lay faithful sharpen themselves in order to be effective spiritual leaders. “What it’s really trying to do is bring our clergy and our bishop together and walk side by side with the laity, and really have a conversation about some of the key items in today’s world,” said Gregory, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.

“Because someone who was poorly catechized and someone who is trying to fall madly in love with my faith, these are eye-opening conversations for me.”

Belt of Truth has been opening the eyes and hearts of its listeners ever since its inception in the midst of the pandemic. The fact that Gregory and co-creator Josh Bach of Indianapolis ever connected in the first place has both men convinced of the Holy Spirit’s handiwork. Back in 2021, Bach was meeting up with his friend Dave Brown, who had just attended his first Armor of God retreat.

“He was just glowing,” Bach recalled of Brown. “My retreat had been cancelled, and I was bummed. As soon as he said there was another [Armor of God] retreat coming up, within seconds I said, ‘How do I sign up?’ I went into that retreat knowing one person there, and I was quickly welcomed with open arms. It was like nothing I’ve experienced in my life.”

One of the men Bach befriended on the retreat was Gregory, who had helped start Armor of God in Fort Wayne as a lay movement designed to arm men to be the spiritual leaders God has called them to be. Bach approached Gregory with the desire to “capture the authentic aspect of this movement and the men that are pushing it.” His media background and previous work with podcasts led him to try that very medium with Gregory behind the mic.

“I literally knew nothing about podcasts,” Gregory admitted. “I wasn’t an avid listener and certainly didn’t understand anything regarding how to produce one.”

“He has a ton of raw talent,” Bach said of Gregory’s on-air presence. “He was good from the beginning but has really improved, and since then, we have become incredibly close friends. It’s a beautiful beginning, and it’s only just getting started.”

Nearly 50 episodes in, Belt of Truth is just as impressive in its production team as it is in its success. Bach drives up from Indianapolis about once a week with all of his sound equipment and meets with Gregory — usually in the St. Vincent church library — to record as many conversations with guests as they can. Bach then takes the recordings back home for editing before sending a proof to Nate Proulx in Fort Wayne for fine-tuning of the audio. Jason Nees of Our Sunday Visitor is responsible for uploading, developing, and placing the podcast on different platforms. Finally, Father Jay Horning, who serves as spiritual advisor, vets all episodes before their weekly release.

On some occasions, their chosen topic prompts a particular guest, while other times, the guest helps determine the topic. Either way, Gregory believes their conversations are guided by the Holy Spirit and designed to introduce relevant issues facing the Church today. “I think we’ve become an on-ramp for people,” explained Gregory. “If we touch on a topic, like being docile to the Holy Spirit, it’s not a high-level theological conversation that we’re having — it’s probably more likely to be the first time that someone’s heard that conversation. It’s a way to kind of come on the ramp and learn more about a topic.”

Since its initial release in October of 2021, Belt of Truth has surged up national podcast rankings and now sits in the top 25 percent of download percentage in the country. Gregory and Bach attribute this success to the authenticity of their conversations, which

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Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

MAY
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw: May 3-5

JUNE
St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton: June 4-6
St. Patrick, Ligonier: June 11-13
St. Pius X, Granger: June 11-13
St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend: June 11-13
St. Mary, Huntington: June 11-13
Sacred Heart, Notre Dame: June 16-18
St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, South Bend: June 25-27
St. Catharine, Nix Settlement: June 26
St. Joseph, Roanoke: June 27

For the complete schedule, visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist.

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PODCAST, from page 3

touch everyone involved in the production.

“The benefit I receive from being a part of the storytelling process — at times, I’m fighting tears off because of the incredible beauty,” said Bach. “When I’m at home editing, I listen to every word and know that the Lord is a part of this, and that our Lord wants us to keep doing this. I think we’re all being called to do this to glorify His kingdom.”

That starts right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, where Bach and Gregory are committed to keeping the spotlight on Belt of Truth.

“We’re really hyper-focused on getting our house in order, and that means our diocese,” said Gregory. “We’re really trying to stay focused on the people, the ministries, the apostolates inside the diocese that we can speak to, and we’re unapologetic about that.”

“I really see the next few years really within the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese, and never running out of beautiful content,” agreed Bach. “There’s just an incredible mass of wonderful stories,” and that and means our diocese, said Gregory. “We’re really trying to stay focused on the people, the ministries, the apostolates inside the diocese that we can speak to, and we’re unapologetic about that.”

“I really see the next few years really within the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese, and never running out of beautiful content,” agreed Bach. “There’s just an incredible mass of wonderful stories.”

Still, the scheduling, recording, editing, and producing fresh content every week can certainly add up. Gregory said the positive reception he receives from listeners helps him push through the moments of fatigue. “When I bump into somebody at Mass or at an event, and they tell me how much that particular topic touched them or how they shared that with a family member and it was really something they needed to hear, it’s kind of that shot in the arm for me to keep going,” said Gregory.

“Some individual is Kathy Moran. What started as an invitation for Moran to listen to one episode quickly grew to a commitment to listen to each episode upon its weekly release.

“I love that, overall, the podcast really encourages listeners to actively pursue a deeper faith and have a personal relationship with the [Holy] Trinity,” said Moran. “They’re so much to learn and love in that relationship. It’s also great to be able to share with non-Catholics and send them things that will help dispel some of the misconceptions they have about the Catholic Church.”

In particular, Moran has been touched by a pair of episodes featuring conversations with Catholic youth. “I love hearing that our teens are on fire for God, they want to tell everyone, and they’re actively living the faith,” said Moran. “Another episode that highlights the life of a priest helps keep her boys open to God’s calling, she said. “It shows our young men that our priests are normal people — they love life, they love to watch football or shoot hoops, and they have faith. They’re holy people but still normal people.”

For Bach, the far-reaching effects of his collaboration with Gregory cannot be overstated. While some of his previous work in media had been faith-based, Bach’s experience with Belt of Truth inspired him to shift his work to exclusively Catholic content. He even partnered with fellow Armor of God member Karl Grab to found a new media company called Our Local Parish, which now produces the Belt of Truth podcast.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that it was led by the Holy Spirit,” Bach marveled. “I had a partnership with a successful media company here in Indianapolis, and it was hard for them to understand why I left. I couldn’t say no to the idea of taking my tools, talents, and treasures and just going straight to serving the Catholic Church and people in general.”

Any such people who would like to find out what Belt of Truth is all about can subscribe and listen on their favorite podcast app, or visit armingmen.com/podcast.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Two bills aimed at strengthening families and lifting people out of poverty are top priorities for the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) and numerous allies as the 2023 legislative session enters its final phase.

Senate Bill 265, a long-sought-after update to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Indiana, was scheduled for a pivotal hearing in the House Ways and Means committee at news time. Meanwhile, House Bill 1290, which could boost Indiana’s earned income tax credit for married couples and families, is awaiting further action in the Senate.

Efforts to modernize the TANF program in Indiana are more than three decades in the making. A timeline for the poorest of the poor, TANF is a federal government program that provides block grants to the states to administer temporary cash assistance payments, along with job training and other services for families in poverty. But too many Hoosier families face barriers in receiving that help because of outdated state guidelines.

In testimony before the House committee on Family, Children, and Human Affairs earlier this month, the ICC joined other supporters of Senate Bill 265 in making a strong case for finally passing this legislation.

“The expansion of the TANF program is long overdue,” said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “The small number of the poorest families who currently qualify for this program are but a fraction of the neediest families in our state. Direct cash assistance to the most vulnerably poor Hoosiers is an investment in human dignity.”

“The TANF program has the potential to protect and strengthen family life, and encourage and reward work, all while preserving a basic safety net for the most vulnerable.”

Senate Bill 265, which passed the Indiana Senate unanimously in late January, would aid the neediest Hoosier families in two ways. First, it would expand TANF eligibility guidelines so that more people could qualify and then benefit from the federal program. Second, it would increase the amount of the monthly cash payment that families receive, which has not been updated since 1988.

Indiana’s current eligibility level for TANF is the fourth-lowest in the United States, behind Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama. Indiana set its income requirements to qualify for TANF in the mid-1990s, when welfare reform was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Those eligibility guidelines have not been adjusted for inflation since then.

Today in Indiana, to be eligible for TANF a family can earn no more than 16 percent of the federal poverty rate, which stands at a little more than $23,000 for a family of three. Sen. Jon Ford (R-Terre Haute), the author of Senate Bill 265, painted a stark picture for House committee members during the March 16 hearing.

“This means that if you make $400 a month currently, you won’t qualify for this program,” said Ford, who has brought forth legislation to modernize TANF every year since 2019. The lawmaker added that only 7 percent of applications for TANF were approved in Indiana in 2022.

Ford’s bill would increase the eligibility level for TANF from 16 percent of the federal poverty rate to 50 percent, while also raising the monthly payment that eligible families receive. For a family of three, that would mean a jump from the $288 set 35 years ago to $513 a month. “It’s been 1988 since we’ve updated that amount,” Ford told House lawmakers. “Just imagine the last two years alone and the inflation that we’ve had.”

Ford emphasized that TANF money flows from the federal government, and therefore no state budget appropriation is required. Moreover, he said that because of the outdated state guidelines for implementing TANF, for the past five years more than $50 million in the block grant has been left unused.

“This is why I keep bringing this bill and keep pushing it,” Ford said. “We have a lot of people suffering, and we have the money to help serve them.”

Following Ford’s testimony, along with that of the ICC and numerous allies, Senate Bill 265 unanimously passed the House Family, Children, and Human Affairs Committee. The next stop was the House Ways and Means committee, where, for reasons that continue to perplex those who care for the poor, TANF legislation has hit roadblocks in recent years.

“We are very optimistic that it will move forward this year,” said Erin Macey, Director of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, before the bill was scheduled to be heard in Ways and Means earlier this week.

In a prior role advocating for mothers and children, Macey recalled the case of a pregnant woman suffering from severe morning sickness whose employer placed her on unpaid family leave.

“She lost everything,” Macey said. “She lost her housing, she lost her cat, she lost her insurance. There just wasn’t support there. (We see with TANF) that a small, well-timed investment in the life of a family can have an outsized impact.”

Macey’s organization, along with the ICC, the United Way, and other advocates, stand in support of another key bill moving through the legislature. House Bill 1290 proposes a number of changes to Indiana’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which would offer greater tax relief for low- to moderate-income Hoosiers.

Authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) — also a director of the ICC — legislation — the bill would better align the state tax credit with the federal one, eliminate the current phase-out penalty and extend credits for larger families, including those with foster children.

Mingus, who also testified at the March 21 committee hearing, expressed the ICC’s support for the legislation on many levels.

“This is a pro-family policy,” Mingus said. “It delivers targeted assistance to help those with lower incomes, who are most impacted by high inflation. In addition, we shouldn’t have married couples receiving a smaller tax credit than those filing individually. The fact that married couples would no longer be penalized from a tax standpoint sends an important message.”

At news time, House Bill 1290 was awaiting further discussion in the Senate the final week of March. Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, said it is important for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to pass the bill before the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy committee. “By providing additional income to low- and moderate-income workers, the EITC helps ensure that these people can meet their basic needs and support their families,” Espada said.

“We encourage people to contact their legislators and ask them to support these important bills that will assist those in need,” Espada added.

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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Iowa Governor Signs Bill Banning Some Transgender Surgeries or Hormonal Interventions for Minors

DES MOINES, Iowa (OSV News) — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed two bills into law on March 22 that impact minors who identify as transgender, including a bill banning some surgeries or hormonal interventions for those minors. The other bill requires students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their biological sex rather than their self-perceived gender identities. The new laws are part of a broader effort to pass such bills across the country. Other states — Mississippi, Utah, South Dakota, and Tennessee — have also moved to restrict surgical and hormonal interventions this year. Legislators in Nebraska recently advanced a comparable effort. In guidance on health care policy and practices released on March 20, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ doctrine committee opposed “interventions which involve the use of surgical or chemical techniques that aim to exchange the sex characteristics of a patient’s body for those of the opposite sex or for simulations thereof.”

Colombian Bishops Ask Vatican to Consider Creation of Amazonian Rite

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Indigenous communities in Colombia are calling for a new liturgical rite that reflects their varied spiritualities and lifestyles. Colombia’s bishops said. About half of the country’s bishops met with Pope Francis on March 24 at the end of their “ad limina” visit to the Vatican, the first for Colombia’s bishops since 2012. Bishop Omar Mejía Giraldo of Florencia, whose diocese sits along the border of the Amazon rainforest, told journalists that the pope is encouraging Colombia’s bishops to continue presenting an Amazonian rite and remain close to the region’s Indigenous communities. In this moment the Church is asking CEAMA, the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon Region, to reflect deeply and thoroughly to see how we can make inroads toward an Amazonian rite,” he said. The bishop said Pope Francis told them the Vatican would not “shut down” the development of an Amazonian rite and that “there will arrive a moment when (the Church) will discern it thoroughly.”

At Least 25 Killed and Dozens Injured in Mississippi

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as a massive storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late on March 24. At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late on March 24.

Sport Governing Body Bars ‘Male-to-Female Transgender Athletes’ from Female Competition

ROME (OSV News) — The World Athletics Council, the international sports governing body, announced new rules that prohibit the participation of “male-to-female transgender athletes” from female competitions. In a statement published on March 23, officials with the association said they agreed “to exclude male-to-female transgender athletes who have been through male puberty from female World Rankings competition effective March 31.” Sebastian Coe, the President of World Athletics, said that while such decisions involving “conflicting needs and rights between different groups” are always difficult, the sport governing body must nevertheless “continue to take the view that we must maintain fairness for female athletes above all other considerations.” “We will be guided in this by the science around physical performance and male advantage which will inevitably develop over the coming years. As more evidence becomes available, we will review our position, but we believe the integrity of the female category in athletics is paramount,” Coe said. The decision drew mixed reactions, with some LGBT activist organizations criticizing the decision as exclusionary. Others, including Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies, thanked World Athletics for “standing up for female athletes across the world who are worthy of fair sport.”

Human Composting, Alkaline Hydrolysis Not Acceptable for Burial, Say U.S. Bishops

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Two new alternatives to burial and cremation fail to comply with the Catholic Church’s teaching on respect for the bodies of the dead, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine said. In a March 23 statement, the committee said it had evaluated human composting and alkaline hydrolysis, and concluded that both “fail to satisfy the Church’s requirements for proper respect for the bodies of the dead.” The methods, which rapidly accelerate decomposition, have gained support in recent years as “eco-friendly” forms of treating human remains. Currently, six U.S. states — California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington — permit human composting. However, both technologies — unlike flame-based cremation — do not yield remains that can be interred in a sacred place. Church teaching requires proper care of the human body in death and recognition of the human person’s unity of soul and body, and the hope of the resurrection when Jesus Christ returns in glory.

Jeremiah Stapleton, 18, climbs into the window of his grandfather’s destroyed home in Rolling Fork, Mississippi on March 26, after a tornado swept through the town. At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as a massive storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late on March 24.
Help Your Child Grow in Faith this Summer

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

When you hear the words “summer camp,” what comes to mind? Tents or cabins, s’mores over bonfires, mess halls, swimming holes, boating, archery, skits, silly songs? How about growing faith and continuing the great adventure of journeying with Jesus in the Catholic Church?

Begin with your own parish. Many churches offer a week of Vacation Bible School. Even better, your parish may host a Totus Tuus team for a week. During that time, four college students will live with parish families and run evening programs for middle and high school youth and daytime programs for younger children. According to the website, diocesewbs.org/totus-tuus/, “The mission of the Totus Tuus summer program is to inspire in the next generation a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion, and an openness to their vocation by constantly challenging them to give themselves to Christ through Mary’s example.” Participants this year will focus on the Lord’s Prayer and the luminous mysteries of the rosary.

There are plenty of options throughout the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend when it comes to choosing a faith-based summer camp for your child. Youth Service International, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Renewal Ministries sponsor a Leadership Camp June 25-30 at the YMCA’s Storer Camp east of Lafayette. This is an action-packed camp that “aims to help boys develop the skills and virtues necessary to be leaders.” Activities include morning classes on everything from film-making to self-defense, afternoon sports competitions, and evening activities like capture the flag, treasure hunt, and a talent show. Daily Mass, Rosary, and confession are offered. Every morning, campers attend a talk on a specific virtue. Counselors guide them in applying leadership principles and lessons from those virtue talks to concrete situations that arise during normal camp activities. They help individual boys grow in self-knowledge and make resolutions to keep growing in character after camp. For more information, go to ysl.org/leadership-camp-indiana.

Another camp for students entering grades 7-9 is Pine Hills Catholic Camp sponsored by Renewal Ministries. This is held at the YMCA’s Storer Camp in Jackson, Michigan. There is a Boys Camp from June 12-18 and a Girls Camp from Aug. 7-13, each expected to draw 200 campers and involve 100 service team members and counselors. Both camps are Jesus-centered and aim to enliven faith through talks, praise, and worship (“a nightly taste of heaven”), as well as the witness of spirit-filled counselors. They promote authentic friendships, with plenty of outdoor adventure thrown in. For the boys, leadership is built in, with squads of boys from each grade level competing in an epic week-long conquest game. Girls explore their creativity and are encouraged to Be His, Be True (as beloved daughters of God), and Be Love (equipped to live in love as disciples in the world today).

The University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne hosts Discovery Academy summer camps in 12 different areas of interest from healthcare to wilderness skills. There are day camps for younger children and overnight camps lasting from one to five nights. Of special interest to high school students wanting to deepen their faith is the July 9-13 Theology Institute with the theme “Beauty Will Save the World.” In this resident camp held on the college campus, participants will explore the Beauty of Creation, the Beauty of Art, The Beauty of the Body and Sexuality, the Beauty of Vocation, and the Beauty of Worship. The experience is co-sponsored by the theology department and the Assisi program (for leadership development among college students). In previous years, campers have completed writing an icon under the tutelage of Sister Jeanne Visel, an iconographer at Saint Meinrad Seminary. This year, she will guide them through the beginning stages of making an icon, but the program has been broadened and deepened to include the other forms of beauty listed above. There will be enriching talks, discussion, and fun activities to round out the experience, including a nature hike, a Theology of the Body workshop with John and Claire Grabowski from Catholic University of America, Mass with Bishop Rhoades, and an interactive concert with local sacred music choir Exce. For more information, visit sf.edu/about/camps-and-community-programs.

Last summer, 15-year-old Ethan Crumney of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church participated in theology institute. He calls it “a unique and enjoyable experience. “I loved the theological discussions and Liturgy of the Hours,” he said. His mom, Mollie Crumney, said, “My son had a great time! I love that he had the opportunity to be independent on campus, focus on prayer through art, and build relationships with other teens who are serious about their faith.” She added that Ethan also attended Damascus Catholic Youth Summer Camp and observed, “He loved the intensity of CYSC but also appreciated the laid-back atmosphere at USF. There was a lot of time for reflection and conversation at the USF camp, while CYSC is heavily programmed from morning to night. Both fun, but very different!”

Similar beauty-related themes infuse Embody Theology Summer Institute for high school girls, being held July 16-21 on the campus of St. Mary’s University, Notre Dame. This six-day exploration of beauty, justice, and faith in action enables girls to meet others from across the country with similar passions and questions. Other objectives are learning about oneself and healthy self-care, developing pre-college academic skills, and discovering the true meaning of beauty. Besides Mass and liturgy, opportunities for praying are explored. Outreach opportunities in the local community aim at serving, not just learning. More information can be found at stjudeparish.net.

There are plenty of options throughout the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend when it comes to choosing a faith-based summer camp for your child. More information can be found at stjudeparish.net.

Alivia Buescher of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne is seen here with her best friend enjoying ziplining at Catholic Youth Summer Camp in July of 2020.
Bishop Encourages St. Therese Students to “Go to Joseph” on His Feast Day

On a day honoring the patron saint of the Catholic Church, Bishop Rhoades spent his morning showing Catholic youth “the love of God the Father” that was so beautifully modeled by St. Joseph himself.

St. Therese Church and School in Fort Wayne welcomed His Excellency for a pastoral visit on Monday, March 20, as he celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph with a Mass and tour of the school. Traditionally observed on March 19, the solemnity was transferred to the following day this year since it fell on a Lenten Sunday. As he greeted the students, teachers, and parishioners in attendance to begin Mass, Bishop Rhoades expressed his excitement in both his presence at the parish and the feast day marking his visit.

“I am so happy to be here this morning, here at St. Therese parish and school, to celebrate Holy Mass on a great feast day of the Church — the feast of St. Joseph,” said Bishop Rhoades. “And I thought, ‘Where should I go to celebrate Mass on St. Joseph’s Day?’ And I asked Father Matthew [Coonan] if it would be okay for me to come here, and not only to celebrate Mass, but to visit the classrooms after Mass. I’m really looking forward to that; it’s a special day for me as well.”

In his homily, Bishop highlighted the special nature of the day by relaying the four dreams of St. Joseph that are detailed in the Gospels. The first dream, in which St. Joseph is informed by an angel that Mary’s child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, was featured in the Gospel reading that day. God continued revealing Himself to St. Joseph through three later dreams, in which St. Joseph is instructed to take his family and flee from King Herod to Egypt, then to return with Mary and Jesus to his homeland, and finally to avoid Herod’s son in Bethlehem and settle instead in Nazareth. Joseph’s submissive response to these dreams, Bishop said, illustrates his faith and obedience to God’s will.

“How do we learn God’s will?” Bishop asked the students. “Not usually through dreams, but through prayer. God speaks to us, to our hearts, when we pray and say, ‘Lord, help me to know what your will is. Help me to make good decisions. Help me to be a good disciple of Jesus, your son.’”

Bishop then expanded on the role of St. Joseph, not only in the Church but in the lives of its faithful, including his own as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“That’s why the Catholic Church honors St. Joseph so much — because he is a great example to us of what a father is to be, what a husband is to be,” said Bishop Rhoades. “We consider Joseph to be the protector, the guardian, of not only the Holy Family, but of the family of the Church. I often pray to St. Joseph to protect me and to guard me and our diocese and our Church, to watch over us and pray for us. If you’re ever having a hard time, we can go to Joseph and say, ‘St. Joseph, pray for me, protect me.’ And he does.”

Following Mass, Bishop spent time conversing with parishioners before walking over to the school gymnasium, where the entire student body was assembled to commemorate the feast day with donuts and a St. Joseph-themed craft project. Bishop sat at a table of junior high students and visited with them until Father Coonan led him into the school building. While Principal Rick Ruhl called the school Mass “beautiful” and referred to Bishop’s homily as “engaging and very relatable” for the students, he admitted that his favorite part of the visit was Bishop’s tour of the school, in which he spent time in each of the classrooms.

“It was amazing. He affirmed each of my teachers and thanked them for teach...
Bishop Rhoades encourages St. Therese students to “go to Joseph” on His Feast Day.

While a bishop’s appearance in a Catholic school can make quite an impression on its students, the reverse can also be true: the students, teachers, and culture of a Catholic school can leave a mark on a visiting Bishop.

Such a reciprocal effect was on display during the pastoral visit of Bishop Rhoades to St. Therese School on March 20 in celebration of the Solemnity of St. Joseph. When asked what he hopes Bishop Rhoades learned about his school during the visit, principal Rick Ruhl summed that “we are forming Christian disciples every day.”

This Christ-centered focus — which is captured in the school mission “To love, To learn, To serve” — is indeed at the nucleus of the campus on Lower Huntington Road in Fort Wayne. Students and teachers alike have been able to live out the school’s distinctly Catholic identify this year by honoring in on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Ruhl said the faculty identifies one project per month for students and teachers to participate in, such as a canned food drive for the church’s St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry or a day of service to assist with the spring cleaning of the parish grounds.

Furthermore, faith is at the forefront of the school in the form of a daily Rosary in each class. Students and teachers have the opportunity to offer special prayer intentions, which are then transformed into spiritual bouquets and displayed in the hallways. Father Matthew Coonan, Pastor of St. Therese, also lends his time to teach the junior high students religion once a week, which Ruhl called “a huge commitment on his part and a tremendous blessing.”

For Father Coonan, the blessing is mutual, as he witnesses the fruits of these labors on a regular basis.

“I really enjoy just simply having Mass with our students,” Father Coonan said of the all-school Masses, which are routinely celebrated on Wednesday and Friday mornings. “They are reverent at Mass, very prayerful, and I just think it’s beautiful how the teachers have helped to form them in that area. I have enjoyed also teaching the junior high theology and responding to their questions, and I learn from them as well as we have our discussions back and forth.”

In addition to its Catholic identity, St. Therese also provides advantageous offerings in the areas of technology and personalized attention, Ruhl said.

“The integration of laptop computers has been a big plus,” said Ruhl. “In essence, we are totally a 1:1 school — every student has a school-issued laptop that they use throughout the day. It gives them greater access to technology, to support, and to what they are doing in the classroom.”

St. Therese School currently has 104 students and a total of 14 teachers, including nine homeroom teachers, three special teachers, and one resource teacher. According to Ruhl, this breakdown helps foster an individualized approach to education. “Our small class size is another benefit,” explained Ruhl. “Our student-to-teacher ratio is 12:1, which allows for more personal attention from the teachers.”

At the end of the day, Ruhl’s favorite part of St. Therese School is simple: the children. “They fill me with so much joy each and every day,” said Ruhl. “I love going to work every day, and it’s because of them.”

Address: 2222 Lower Huntington Rd
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
Students: 104
Teachers: 13 (9 homeroom)

How to enroll: Visit stthereseschoolfw.org or contact the office at 260-747-2343.
CRS Rice Bowl 2023 — A Journey to Three Countries

BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

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

Lent can feel like a long time. Sometimes we’d like to skip right to Easter! But just like studying for a test, practicing a sport, or saving money, we often must do difficult tasks, make sacrifices, and overcome obstacles to reach a worthy goal.

The 40 days we spend praying and doing penance help us prepare to celebrate the Church’s greatest feast day. Jesus had to go through His passion and death before He could rise. Our sacrifices enable us to experience — in a small way — Christ’s suffering, and they lead us to the joy and wonder of His resurrection.

This year, the CRS Rice Bowl Stories of Hope took us to Honduras, Kenya, and the Philippines.

Over the last few weeks, we’ve learned how people made sacrifices so their families and communities can thrive.

In Honduras, Rony fixed his reservoir and installed a low-cost system to water his fields. Although this work took time and effort, Rony’s hard work allowed him to provide food for his family and is helping his son achieve his soccer dream!

In the Philippines, Raul and Rhodora changed their jobs to ensure their granddaughters can be healthy and finish school. It was challenging for them to learn a new and different type of work — raising fish — but it was worth it to help support their granddaughters.

In Kenya, Rebecca learned how to use a new water system and different ways to farm. She also taught others in her community to use these new techniques. Rebecca spent time learning and teaching, but her sacrifice is now benefiting her family and entire community.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, one of the most significant moments of the Church year. During this week, we journey with Christ from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem to His final meal with His closest friends and ultimately to His death on the cross.

As we walk with Jesus through Holy Week, we call to mind the countless men, women, and children who even today carry heavy crosses: crosses of hunger, of homelessness, of a lack of resources or security. In these brothers and sisters, we encounter Christ, as He walks that long road to Calvary. In these encounters, it’s important not to forget an essential pillar of Lenten spirituality — almsgiving — which allows us to help those who are most in need.

This final week of Lent is also a time to reflect on those words of St. Paul to the Philippians. Jesus emptied Himself for us; how might we empty ourselves for others? Our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving have prepared us to wrestle with this question.

We must always remember that Holy Week gives way to Easter — the fast turns into a feast. God wins the day. As we prepare to celebrate Easter with joy, it is our responsibility as members of God’s one human family to share that joy with everyone, near and far.

For more information about the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program and to donate, visit crsricebowl.org.

With Joyful and Generous Hearts

God of all comfort,
all our delight is in you.
As a deer yearns for streams of water
so our hearts long for you.
Your blessing restores us.
Your love sustains us.
Your word guides us.
Even as we fast, you fill us.
Even as we pray, you answer.
Even as we cry, you comfort.
When we seek, we find.
When we knock, you open.
When we ask, you bless.
Lord, help us to give as you give,
with open hands and hearts.
Teach us to live as you live,
with joyful and generous hearts.
Amen

Provided by Catholic Relief Services
South Bend Neighborhood Hosts Annual Stations of the Cross

BY ERIN LYNCH

When everything was shut down for Covid in 2020, many Catholics were left wondering how best to celebrate their faith during Holy Week. One South Bend neighborhood, Sunnymede, decided to create a neighborhood outdoor walking Stations of the Cross so that families could honor the week while taking precautions. Lori Divita, a St. Anthony of South Bend parishioner, spearheaded this endeavor and has continued to organize the Sunnymede Stations of the Cross since then, and will continue to do so this year.

Divita said, "I was inspired by an idea posted on Facebook for neighborhood Stations of the Cross as a way for people to make a pilgrimage during Holy Week at a time when churches were dosed. Since our Sunnymede neighborhood had some window scavenger hunts that seemed popular during the shutdown, I thought this idea might work well. I contacted a few neighbors from our parish, St. Anthony’s, as well as others who might be interested."

She continued, "Through a long exchange of emails, Facebook messages, and word of mouth, we ended up with 14 hosting families, from at least 3 local Catholic parishes as well as a Methodist parish. I rounded up yard signs, poster board, and stakes and then printed out the colored images for each station. My husband, Michael, helped make a route map and my children, Mary and Juliana, assisted with covering the signs and adding coloring pages. It was so inspiring that first year to see more than 100 people participating and praying. We had lots of foot and even bicycle and car traffic on the nearby streets for two days. Even when I was ready to take the signs down in the late afternoon on Holy Saturday, pilgrims were still coming."

Because there was such a positive outpouring of support, Lori and her neighbors decided to continue on with the walking Stations of the Cross yearly. One of the Sunnymede families even donated financially last year in order to be able to professionally print yard signs for each of the stations.

Divita said she has continued to be inspired by the pilgrims who come to the Sunnymede neighborhood to pray. "My favorite part of seeing the Stations of the Cross come to life in my neighborhood is that this is a wonderful way to involve families and children to walk with Jesus on a pilgrimage. It has been so moving to see people of all ages come with prayerful reverence in rain or shine or even snow during Holy Week."

Divita said that historically, the origins of stations go back to Early Christians in Jerusalem who walked as pilgrims the path that Jesus took before He died. She said, "By having Stations of the Cross in our neighborhood, everyone is invited to journey with Jesus, meditate on His suffering, and to pray for those who carry crosses and are suffering today."

Anyone is welcome to make the pilgrimage to the Sunnymede neighborhood this coming Holy Week. The Stations of the Cross will go up at the beginning of Holy Week and remain up through Holy Saturday. The route will begin in the 1400 block of Sunnymede and route maps will be posted at each station.
‘Sacrifice’: A Word Wholly Connected to the Holy Eucharist

Michael Heinlein

Guest Column

Good Enough, Here and Now: Love the House You’re In

Christina Capechi

Twenty Something

Look for the Deeper Meaning in the Passion Narrative

Msgr. Owen F. Campon

The Sunday Gospel

Sunday of the Lord’s Passion (Palm Sunday)

Matthew 26:14-27:66

This weekend observes Palm Sunday, recalling with great reverence the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the beginning of the Holy Week. The liturgy includes two readings from the Gospel. The first, occurring at the blessing of the palms, and as the procession of the faithful bearing the palms begins, reveals how the Lord’s divine power, seen through knowing that an ass and colt are in the village ahead, and the Lord’s mission, heralded. He was approaching Jerusalem, more than just a city in pious Jewish minds, but the holy place in which God’s temple stands, where David once reigned as king, and where the prophets spoke in the name of God. It was, and is, the center of Jewish faith and worship. It would be the site of the culmination of the Lord’s mission. The crowd proclaimed the Lord as “son of David.” They greeted the Messiah as their own legitimate king. David’s heir, not the deposed Roman emperor. For its next reading, the Church gives us a passage from the third part of Isaiah, one of those eloquent and expressive sections of Isaiah biblical scholars call the “Songs of the Suffering Servants.” Poetic and descriptive, these four songs laud an unflinchingly faithful servant of God, who despite abuse and rejection remained steadfastly loyal. Christians always have seen Jesus prefigured in these beautiful poems. In the next reading, from the Epistle to the Philippians, highlighted again is Jesus, again in the literary genre of poetry. Experts now believe, in fact, that this passage was an early Christian liturgical hymn. Its deep understanding of the person and place of Christ is clear and compelling.

Finally, the Passion Narrative of St. Matthew gives a presentation of Jesus, in the horrifying circumstances of the Passion, and conveys powerful lessons. Even at this fearful time, Jesus was the Christ. Far from being overwhelmed and helpless, the Lord was majestic and totally in control. He is the victim but a victim completely complying, in free will, committed to the Father’s mission. While the Apostles do not come across as heroic in their loyalty, to say the least, Jesus never repudiated them. He called them. Despite their fear and cowardice, especially in Peter’s case, their call endures. Thus, it is all for called disciples. Believers sin and fall, but they can return. Sin cancels no vocation. The Lord’s call is forever. In the next reading, from the Gospel of Matthew, the plague of the faithful, of which the Lord ensured the harvest and the love for God and His Christ, the church builds itself.

Reflection

Matthew’s Passion Narrative is the centerpiece of this week’s Liturgy of the Word. It is easy to lose it’s meaning by being overwhelmed by the awfulness of all that was brought to bear upon Jesus. Certainly, the treachery and cruelty cannot be dismissed or underestimated. These elements recall the evil in the world, then and now.

Jesus entered Jerusalem through a gate that some traditions said would receive the Messiah into the Holy City. Jesus died, rose, and promised to come again. One pagan overlord of the Holy Land ordered that the gate be eliminated, to prevent this predicted Second Coming. The gate today is still a solid wall.

Over the centuries, no blocked gates, no walls, no powerful ruler, have kept the Lord from entering human hearts yearning for hope and peace.

In twenty centuries, no one, or no philosophy, has equalled the Lord Jesus in bringing goodness to the world and hope to untold billions of people.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate the Lord’s love for us, the salvation won in Jerusalem, and the gifts that Jesus so abundantly gives us.

Readings


Tuesday: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17, 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27 Ps 15:1-8b, 14:6-21


Saturday: Genesis 1:1-2; 2:22

Genesis 2:21-18

Exodus 14:15-15:1

Isaiah 54:5-5-14

Isaiah 55:1-11

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4: 4

Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

Romans 6:3-11

Galatians 3:28-10

Matthew 28:1-10
How to Successfully Accompany Young Hispanic Catholics

A
fter many years of doing research on Hispanic Catholics, one question emerges almost invariably in conversations and speaking engagements: What can our Church do to accompany young Hispanic Catholics better?

Not a new question. Church documents and reflections dating back to the 1970s asked the same question. Yet, we ask it today with a renewed sense of urgency. About 60 percent of all Catholics younger than 18 are Hispanic. So is the case of nearly half of all young adult Catholics (roughly ages 18 to 39).

Let’s say it: Our outreach to young Hispanic Catholics could be much, much better and more dynamic. Only 2 percent to 3 percent of school-age Hispanic Catholic children are enrolled in Catholic schools. Few dioceses and parishes have strong ministerial programs serving this important population.

Some pastoral leaders ask the above question with frustration. “We have tried it,” they say, “We translate materials into Spanish” or “We adjust programs that have worked well for other young Catholics but young Hispanics do not respond,” say some others. I hear many versions of these statements.

Often, the questions are asked in despair. About four in 10 Hispanic adults — more than 20 million — have stopped self-identifying as Catholic. A 2014 study by the Pew Research Center suggested most Hispanics made that decision prior to age 24.

A problem I see among pastoral leaders, educators, and others asking how to better serve young Hispanic Catholics while standing in a stasis of frustration or despair is that often they fail to understand this population.

When someone says that they cannot serve young Hispanic Catholics well because they do not speak Spanish, or have come to realize that a translated program does not yield the same results with a Hispanic population as it did with another group — or feel paralyzed by the exodus of young Hispanics from Catholicism — I get the feeling that we need to change gears. Instead of starting from a position of frustration or despair, asking why we worked in the past is not working today, we must change the question: What is working successfully in the process of accompanying young Hispanic Catholics? The answer is actually very hopeful.

Many great initiatives, most of them unsurprisingly led by creative Hispanic Catholic pastoral leaders who are themselves young adults, are proving effective. Boston College just released the preliminary results of a national study “Ministry with Young Hispanic Catholics: Towards a Recipe for Growth and Success” (February 2023). I had the privilege of serving as the principal investigator for this study.

This report follows a line of reports emerging from research studies conducted by Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry looking closely at Hispanic Catholics. There is a treasure of insights in the report, which I recommend studying and discussing with the young Hispanic Catholic pastoral leadership throughout the country who are identifying as doing creative and effective work in accompanying young Hispanic Catholics.

The initiatives highlighted in the study are led primarily by Hispanic young people and their ministry is sustained by what is presented as pillars of success in ministry with young Hispanic Catholics. These organizations are a true example of joyful ministry that brings much hope.

The Holy Spirit is at work in our Church as tens of thousands of young Hispanic Catholics rekindle their faith in Jesus Christ thanks to creative ministry. Let no frustration and despair win the day as we accompany young Hispanic Catholics.

Hosffman Osipnio is a Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College.
National Eucharistic Revival aims to form disciples on mission with new Easter series

WASHINGTON D.C. (OSV News) — The National Eucharistic Revival announced it will release what it called the “first-of-its-kind” mystagogy series of weekly catechetical reflections throughout the Easter season to “invite all Catholics deeper into the mysteries of Christ by reflecting on the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Mass,” a news release on the series said.

“The Mystagogy” is an intentional deepening of a disciple of Jesus Christ’s understanding of the faith following the reception of the sacraments. The term also refers to the period between Easter and Pentecost, following a new Catholic’s reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil, where he or she reflects more deeply on the sacraments and this new life of following Christ.

The new series, titled “Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy,” is being offered through the Heart of the Revival Newsletter, a weekly publication of the National Eucharistic Revival, which was established in June of 2022 to provide resources to reaffirm and deepen the Eucharistic faith of Catholics across the country.

It begins on April 13, the Thursday before Divine Mercy Sunday, and runs through May 25, which is the Thursday before Pentecost.

Seven prominent Catholics are writing articles for the series: Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis; Sister Maria Miguel Wright of the Dominican Sisters of Mary; Mother of the Eucharist; Biblical Scholar and Author Jeff Cavins; Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle; Katelyn Javier, Coordinator for Adult Formation and Hispanic Catechesis for the Washington Archdiocese; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio Torres, a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago.

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“Whether you are just joining the Church at Easter Vigil this year or have been Catholic your entire life, this series is for you,” said Sister Alicia Torres, a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago, who is a National Eucharistic Revival executive team member.

“At every age and stage of life, Jesus invites us to discover the joy of friendship with Him. For Catholics, this happens in a most special way during Mass — the source and summit of the Christian life,” Sister Alicia said. “Many of us haven’t had the chance to really explore the beauty and mystery God invites us into at Mass. That is the goal of Beautiful Light: to give every Catholic a chance to go deeper this Easter season.”

Often associated with the Order (formerly Rite) of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA, “mystagogy” comes from the Greek word meaning “to lead through the mysteries.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes mystagogy as a “liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ” (CCC 1075).

The National Eucharistic Revival involves an intentional effort to both evangelize and catechize, predicated on the long-standing Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ — His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Eucharist.

Archbishop Thompson, who is the author of the first reflection in the “Beautiful Light” series, said in a statement.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is the host of the upcoming 2024 National Eucharistic Congress, the culmination of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival.
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.

Annual Original Jonah Fish Fry
SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony de Padua Parish, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., will have a Jonah Fish Fry on Friday, March 31, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym. Dine in includes all-you-can-eat fish, mac and cheese, coleslaw, tossed salad, fish taco fixings; including pineapple salsa, and desserts. Carry-out also available. A silent auction for Potawatomi Zoo Passes, Kroco Center Membership, and Breakfast at Peggy's will also be offered. All proceeds will benefit Parish and school organizations. Tickets are $15 (adults), $12 senior, $8 children. Those age 5 and younger free. Contact Susan Gatanziate at 574-282-2308 for information.

St. Joseph Fish Fry in Bluffton
BLUFFTON — Knights of Columbus Council #7555 is hosting a drive-thru Lenten fish fry at St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., on Friday, March 31, from 4-7 p.m. Fish provided by Dan's Fish Fry; sides and desserts provided by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets are $12 for adults; $6 for children (6-12 years old). Tickets available for pre-sale. Proceeds will benefit Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library and FOODFIGHT! Contact 574-320-3777 for information.

St. Vincent Boy Scout Fish Fry
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scouts will have a fish fry on Friday, March 31, at St. Vincent School, 1502 E Wallen Rd. 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.

Sacred Heart Cemetery Spring Cleanup
SOUTH BEND — The Sacred Heart Cemetery (corner of Western Ave. and Pine Rd.) will conduct the spring cleanup from Monday, April 3 through Saturday, April 8. Please have all fall and Christmas decorations removed from the graves by this time. Contact Patrick Nowak at 574-287-7125 or narohmz@aol.com.

Seder Meal at St. Mary, Mother of God
FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Parish, 1101 S Lafayette St., will host a Seder Meal on Monday, April 3, at 6 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are $10 per person or $25 per family and will be sold before and after Mass through March 26. Seder means order in Hebrew. The seder meal is a traditional religious meal served in Jewish homes to begin Passover. We include this meal during Holy Week to recall the customs Jesus and His Disciples followed in the days leading up to the Crucifixion.

St. Adalbert Sisters’ Auxiliary Bake Sale
SOUTH BEND — St. Adalbert Sisters’ Auxiliary Annual Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Heritage Center, 519 S Olive St.

McElhaney-Hart FUNERAL HOME
715 North Jefferson Huntington
(260) 356-3320
www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com

First Saturday Devotion
Our Lady, Patroness of America Center
2100 E. Northport Rd., Rome City, IN 46784 260-404-4990
PatronessOfAmerica.org

St. John the Baptist
BLUFFTON — Knights of Columbus will conduct the spring cleanup in the Heritage Center, 519 S Main St., on Friday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon. Sale will be held on Saturday, April 2, at 6 p.m. in the Heritage Center. 519 S Main St. For information, contact Susan Gatanziate at 574-282-2308.

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SOUTH BEND — The Sacred Heart Sisters’ Auxiliary will have a bake sale on Friday, April 1, at the Sacred Heart School, 1502 E Wallen Rd.

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Weekly Catholic Events

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Notre Dame Vision and Holy Cross College Saints Scholars are stand-alone programs, but are also scheduled so they can be experienced in tandem. They are designed for students entering through having just graduated from high school, who are ready to ask big questions like: How is God calling me to use my talents to serve the Church and the world? Participants will develop relationships with college mentors from Notre Dame, St. Mary’s, and Holy Cross as well as peers from all over the country, giving a more personal sense of the wider Church.

Vision, sponsored by the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, offers “theological depth, accompaniment, prayer and reflection — and lots of fun,” according to the website. True to its name, it is designed to “harpen your spiritual vision better to recognize God’s grace at work in your life.” There is also a track for young leaders who bring groups of high school students. Although many local young people have visited the Notre Dame campus, living in a dorm for a week is a different experience and a foundation of college life. Participants pray together daily and get to listen to nationally-known speakers then reflect in small groups. This year’s program definitely has a Eucharistic focus and will include a musical based on the Gospel of Luke which is being written for the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in the summer of 2024. The theme from Luke is, “My disciples hear the Word of God and act on it.” (Luke 8:21). You can find more information by visiting mcgrath.nd.edu/about/centers-initiatives-and-programs/notre-dame-vision/

Holy Cross College Saints and Scholars, “one week that will change the way you see the world,” enables high school students to “pray with saints, learn with scholars, and heal the world.” Participants address the question, “What kind of saint is God calling me to be?” through prayer, community-building, and seminars discussions rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and guided by Notre Dame/ Holy Cross faculty. Specific tracks, with relevant community service, include public health, media, ecology, education, and the visual arts. Go to hcc.nd.edu/saints-and-scholars/ for more information.

Damascus hosts Catholic Youth Summer Camps on its main campus in Centerburg, Ohio, as well as the Great Lakes campus in Brighton, Michigan. Information can be found at damascuscatholic.org/programs/catholic-youth-summer-camp.

Damascus Catholic Mission Campus

Damascus Catholic Summer Camps on its main campus in Centerburg, Ohio, as well as the Great Lakes campus in Brighton, Michigan. Information can be found at damascuscatholic.org/programs/catholic-youth-summer-camp.

Alivia Buescher of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne is seen here with other campers enjoying the worship and praise activities at Catholic Youth Summer Camp in July of 2020.

Alivia Buescher
CYSC Camp Participant

“Unlike other retreats where I got a ‘retreat high’ then went back to normal life, going to CYSC completely changed my ‘normal’ life.”

Alivia Buescher
CYSC Camp Participant

Will Gray, another St. Vincent de Paul parishioner, says his parents and Father Jay Horning encouraged him to go to CYSC in 2021. “I didn’t know what I needed to receive, so I just came with an open heart. I loved the high adventure activities, my small group, and getting hyped every night before the main event, but my favorite part was the night we had Adoration, Praise, and Worship. Singing to Jesus in the Monstrance, I was filled with the love of the Holy Spirit in a new way. That night changed my life forever. I didn’t want to lose this fire in my heart, so I invested more and more in my relationship with Jesus after I went home.” More information is available at cysc.com.

A five-day liturgical leadership conference for groups from a particular high school or youth program and their leaders is “One Bread, One Cup” at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. The program includes community-building, leadership development, catechesis, theological reflection, liturgical, and spiritual formation. Participants leave ready to sustain their faith community and take active roles in their parish liturgies. However, both sessions scheduled for this summer were already full long before the March 1 deadline. No group from our diocese participated last summer. Next fall would be a good time for Catholic schools or youth groups to explore this opportunity to “honor one’s inner monk” and “listen with the ear of one’s heart,” as two alumni expressed it. There is more information available at saintmeinrad.edu/youth/

Finally, a year-round opportunity for youth in grades 10-12 is provided by Diocesan Youth Leadership. Pastors and youth ministers in parishes and high schools can nominate students through May 31 who are already joyful advocates and ambassadors of the Church. Those selected will have opportunities to deepen their own faith, be formed as leaders, and work as teams to serve at diocesan events like confirmation retreats, and be a liaison between their peers/parishes and the diocese. Skills in evangelism, art and music, a life of prayer, and audio-visual technology are nurtured and utilized. Again, begin with the diocesan website at diocesefwsb.org/youth-ministry.