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Mary Magdalene is depicted with the resurrected Christ in this icon at the Haifa Melkite Cathedral in Israel. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Easter is celebrated on Apr. 9 this year.
Christ Entered Jerusalem to Establish God’s Kingdom and to Institute the New Passover

The following homily was delivered by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during Mass on Palm Sunday, Apr. 3, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend:

I think this is the only Mass of the year when we have two Gospel readings. The first, at the beginning of Mass, was Saint Matthew’s account of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second, which we just heard, was Saint Matthew’s account of the Passion of Jesus. We call today “Palm Sunday.” The official title of today is “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord,” since today the Church not only recalls the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, but also Our Lord’s Passion. Today begins Holy Week, the weeklong commemoration of our Lord’s Paschal Mystery, culminating our observance of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

Jesus went up to Jerusalem with His disciples, like so many other pilgrims, to celebrate the Passover. Notice how intentional Jesus was, even giving two of the disciples precise instructions about finding an ass and a colt, uniting them, and bringing them to Him. Why is this noteworthy? Because Jesus had a purpose. Saint Matthew tells us that Jesus was fulfilling the prophesy from the book of the prophet Zechariah that one day the Messiah-King would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. God told Zechariah: “Say to daughter Zion: Behold your King comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.” That’s why Jesus sent the two disciples to find an ass and a colt. Jesus knew who He was and what He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

He would definitively establish God’s Kingdom through His cross. He would reign as King with these same words, “in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.” That’s why Jesus sent the two disciples to find an ass and a colt. Jesus knew who He was and what He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

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Palm Sunday Eucharistic Revival Concert Held in Fort Wayne

BY NICOLE HAHN

Hundreds of people gathered together at St. Peter Catholic Church in Fort Wayne on the afternoon of Sunday, Apr. 2, for a Palm Sunday Eucharistic Revival Concert that featured Heartland Sings and choristers from Bishop Luers High School. Bishop Rhoades scheduled the concert as a regional event during our celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival, a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The Palm Sunday Eucharistic Revival Concert was set to make Lent even more special by offering worship through classical sacred music centered on devotion to the Holy Eucharist. The program included the Pange Lingua, Ave verum Corpus, Stabat Mater, Cantique de Jean Racine, and Soul of My Savior. Though there was no cost for the concert, there was a free-will offering to benefit Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

CEO Dan Florin spoke to those present to explain that Catholic Charities serves as the charitable arm of the Church. “At Catholic Charities, we are instruments in the Lord’s hands. And just like Heartland Sings showed us today, we can do amazing things when we use our God-given talents, working together to build His kingdom here on earth.”

In asking people to prayerfully consider a donation, Florin explained how Catholic Charities has had to expand their services (financial and material assistance programs, homeless case management, Catholic school counseling, clinical liaisons to parishes, etc.) in response to the current economic crisis, and that they are on pace to support five times as many families and individuals as they did before the pandemic.

“Our faith calls us to go deeper. It calls us to provide the emergency assistance our neighbor needs in that moment and to do something beautiful in their lives — to love them as Christ loves us.”

The free-will offering at the concert brought in about $2,500 for the organization. Donations to Catholic Charities are always accepted. Learn more at ccfwsb.org.
BY GINA CHRISTIAN

O SV News — Catholics turned to prayer and action in wake of tornadoes that carved a deadly path of destruction through the United States. News that students at other schools were all too familiar.

As of Apr. 3, the National Weather Service counted 100 tornadoes in 11 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Tornadoes carved a deadly path through the center of the U.S., killing at least 33, injuring dozens, and devastating thousands of homes and businesses.

News photo/@ZHarris07/@thezaneharris via Reuters

A view from a drone shows destroyed buildings following a tornado in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Mar. 31. Multiple tornadoes carved a deadly path through the center of the U.S., killing at least 33, injuring dozens, and destroying thousands of homes and businesses.

The St. Teresa students had a concert at the Apollo Theater in New York City, which was canceled due to a house explosion.

The theater is owned by a St. Teresa Parishioner, Delores Thompson, who was killed following a house explosion.

Father Gadberry. “But a number of parishioners have completely lost their homes.”

As the storm system moved east, tornadoes touched down on Apr. 2 in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as Delaware, where one person was killed following a house collapse in Sussex County.

Sean McLaughlin, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, took refuge with his wife and two children in the basement of their Riverton, New Jersey, home, within a mile of one tornado.

“The wind was unlike anything I have ever heard,” McLaughlin told OSV News, adding that his home was not damaged, but a large number of trees were downed throughout the area.

Amid the loss of life and property, the storms have helped to reveal God’s mysterious plans, said Father Gadberry.

“Any time a natural disaster hits … it brings us to our knees, and not in a cute theological sense,” Father Gadberry said.

“It levels the playing field and shows we’re not the big and strong individuals we think we are. We really do need community. Literally, overnight, enemies are working together in the same yard, getting past their differences. … We’re a pilgrim people, and we have to journey on together.”

Dunn agreed, saying that her school community members have been “texting wildly” asking how they can help.

“The Lord is so good … and there is so much good in humanity,” she said. “Praise God I’m able to see it up close and personal now.”

In the wake of the disaster, clergy are called to “offer the embrace of the Father,” said Father Patrick Friend, Chaplain and Spiritual Guidance Counselor at Catholic High School in Little Rock, who visited the ruined home of two students on Apr. 1.

“There’s nothing you can say, but when a priest shows up in a moment of crisis, it creates a space where people can be vulnerable and grieve,” he said. “You don’t have to have the right words. You’re bringing the physical presence of the Lord. And that’s something I’ll be thinking about on Holy Thursday.”

Gina Christian is a National Reporter for OSV News.

 Donate by texting “give” to 260-436-9598. Or go online at RedeemerRadio.com/give
As Pope Leaves Hospital, He Comforts Couple, Jokes with Reporters

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — “I’m still alive,” Pope Francis joked to reporters who asked how he was doing as he left Rome’s Gemelli hospital on Apr. 1.

The 86-year-old pope, who had been hospitalized since Mar. 29 for treatment of bronchitis, stopped his car and got out to greet well-wishers and reporters waiting outside the hospital.

He embraced a sobbing mother, whose daughter had died the night before. He reached out to the father, too, and holding their hands, he prayed with them. The pope then traced a cross on the forehead of each of them and gave them both a kiss on the cheek.

Reporters present said he also signed the cast of a boy who said he broke his arm playing soccer.

Before returning to the Vatican, he stopped to pray at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, a stop he makes before and after every trip abroad and a stop he also made in July of 2021 after undergoing colon surgery at the Gemelli.

“Pausing before the icon of Mary, ‘Salus Populi Romani,’ he prayerfully entrusted to her the children he met yesterday in the hospital’s pediatric oncology and children’s neurosurgery wards, all the sick, and those suffering from illness and the loss of their loved ones,” Vatican press officials said.

When greeting the reporters outside the hospital, Pope Francis told them, “I know some of you spent the night here — that’s too much. But thank you, thank you for your work of keeping people informed.”

A reporter for CNN asked the pope if he was frightened on Mar. 29 when he experienced difficulty breathing, which was the explanation Vatican officials gave for why he went to the hospital.

The pope shook his head and said the question reminded him of something “an old man, older than me, told me in a similar situation: ‘Father, I have not seen death, but I’ve seen it coming and it’s ugly.’”

The CNN correspondent also noted that the pope did not spend his whole time in the hospital resting, but visited children in the cancer ward and even baptized an infant who was at the hospital for tests.

“But that’s the most beautiful thing, you know,” he responded. “I’m a priest. The most beautiful thing is being a priest.”

While in the hospital, the pope was treated with intravenous antibiotics for his bronchitis; Vatican officials said he tested negative for COVID-19.

Confirming what Matteo Bruni, Head of the Vatican Press Office, had said, Pope Francis told reporters he would be at Palm Sunday Mass on Apr. 2 in St. Peter’s Square.

He also told the reporters to get some sleep before the Holy Week liturgies begin.

Alleluia! Happy Easter!

BY CINDY WOODEN

CNS PHOTO/HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE

Pope Francis prays before the icon of Mary, “Salus Populi Romani,” in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome on Apr. 1, after being released from Rome’s Gemelli hospital for treatment of bronchitis. Vatican officials said he entrusted to Mary the children he met in the hospital, all the sick, and those mourning the loss of loved ones.
Holy Land Patriarchs in Easter Message Place ‘Ultimate Hope Only in God’ Amid Increasing Attacks on Christian Sites

JERUSALEM (OSV News) — Just as early Christians were sustained by the words of St. Peter describing Jesus’ resurrection as offering a “new birth into a living hope,” so too should the Christians of the Holy Land today be encouraged and empowered by this knowledge as they face tumultuous times, when their own faith continues to be tested, said the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in their Mar. 31 Easter message. The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches noted in their statement that throughout the past year some churches, funeral processions, and other Christian places of public gathering have become targets of attacks, and some holy sites and cemeteries have been desecrated. “We place our ultimate hope only in God. For through Christ’s resurrection, we have the blessed assurance of the Almighty’s gracious providence through the Holy Spirit, a source of divine power that is able to sustain us today, just as it sustained Jerusalem’s first Christians those many centuries ago,” they said in the statement.

Pope Adjusts Canon Law Appeal Period for Members of Religious Orders

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying he wanted to protect the rights of members of religious orders facing expulsion, Pope Francis made small changes to canon law, giving them more time to appeal their dismissals. The changes, announced by the Vatican on Apr. 3, apply to both the Code of Canon Law for Latin-rite Catholics and to the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. Even when a serious reason motivates the dismissal of a member of a religious order, canon law gives that person a right to know the reasons, to offer a defense, and to appeal a decision. The current Latin-rite code said that for a decree of dismissal to be valid, it “must indicate the right which the dismissed possesses to make recourse to the competent authority within 10 days from receiving notification.” A similar paragraph in the code for Eastern-rite Catholics gave a period of 15 days for the person to appeal. Pope Francis ordered the change of both codes to give a person 30 days to appeal. The change goes into effect May 7.

Hate Crimes Targeting Religions on Rise in Canada; Crimes Against Catholics Increase 260 Percent

MONTREAL (OSV News) — In 2021, Canadian police services received 3,560 statements related to hate crimes, a 27 percent increase compared to 2020 statistics, with a 260 percent growth in such crimes against Catholics, according to a new study by Statistics Canada. In 2020, 2,646 hate crimes had been reported to police. According to the federal agency, this spike in hate crimes is largely due to more incidents “targeting religion, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity.” The number of hate crimes aimed at religion or the faithful of a given religious group reached an all-time high in 2021, after decreasing for a few years. Statistics Canada’s report doesn’t specify what 2021 events were considered to be motivated by hate aimed at religion. However, the report recalls that following the discovery of the remains of 215 children in Kamloops in May of 2021, on the site of a former Indian residential school once run by the Catholic Church media reported churches being vandalized and even burned down. If complaints were filed with police services following these events, they would have been considered hate crimes.

Bishops, Indigenous Catholics Welcome Vatican Condemnation of ‘Doctrine of Discovery,’ but Say ‘More Work to Be Done’

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (OSV News) — Indigenous Catholics, along with U.S. and Canadian bishops, are welcoming the Vatican’s Mar. 30 repudiation of the “Doctrine of Discovery,” a legal and political doctrine by which European colonial powers and North American governments historically seized lands from Indigenous peoples. With some scholars pointing to several 15th-century papal bulls as a basis for the doctrine, the Vatican’s Dicasteries for Culture and Education and for Promoting Integral Human Development issued a joint statement saying the doctrine is “not part of the teaching of the Catholic Church.” In addition, the statement declared the papal bulls in question, which were “written in a historical period and linked to political questions, have never been considered expressions of the Catholic faith.” Both the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops issued Mar. 30 responses in support of the Vatican’s statement. “It’s a step in the right direction,” one that “shows the Church wants to continue to work with Native American people toward truth and healing.” Deacon Don Blackbird, a member of the Omaha Tribe and Principal of St. Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Nebraska, told OSV News. At the same time, more work needs to be done, said Mitch Case, Regional Councilor for Region 4 of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, who urged the Church to “sit down and listen to Indigenous people, to build concrete steps together” in tackling the enduring impact of colonialism, which has resulted in disproportionate poverty and reduced life expectancy among many Indigenous communities, Case said.

Cardinal Disappointed, Disagrees with Departing Abuse Expert’s Concerns

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, expressed his surprise, disappointment, and disagreement with statements challenging the commission’s effectiveness made by a prominent safeguarding expert who resigned from the advisory body. However “the commission has a plenary meeting scheduled in the next few weeks during which we can address these and other matters more fully as a group,” the cardinal said in an updated statement on Mar. 30. Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, S.J., has asked to be relieved of his duties as a member, the cardinal wrote on Mar. 29, saying it was due to urgent “structural and practical issues that led me to disassociate myself” from the papal commission. Father Zollner’s criticisms came just a few hours after his resignation was made public in a written statement by Cardinal O’Malley. “The commission has been informed that Father Hans Zollner, S.J., has asked to be relieved of his duties as a member,” the cardinal wrote on Mar. 29, saying the priest “told me that he came to this decision after reflecting on his record as a consultant for safeguarding to the Diocese of Rome.”

Kentucky Legislature Overrides Governor’s Veto of Bill Restricting Transgender Procedures for Minors

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (OSV News) — On Mar. 29, Republican state lawmakers in Kentucky overrode the Democratic governor’s veto of a bill impacting minors who identify as transgender. Gov. Andy Beshear had vetoed the measure, but the GOP holds a supermajority in both chambers of the Kentucky Legislature, allowing lawmakers to override that veto. The state law bans gender reassignment surgery for anyone younger than 18, as well as the use of puberty blockers or hormones, among other interventions, for minors. It also requires students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their biological sex regardless of their self-identified gender identities. The Kentucky law is part of a broader effort to pass such bills across the country. States, including Idaho, Mississippi, Utah, South Dakota, and Tennessee, have also moved to restrict surgical and hormonal interventions for minors this year. Legislators in Indiana and Nebraska recently advanced comparable efforts. According to reports, a so-called teaching bill from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ doctrine committee, surgical, chemical, or other interventions “to ensure a person’s ‘sex characteristics’ for those of the opposite sex are not morally justified.”
Theology Students Visit Bishop, Tour Noll Center

Bishop Rhoades poses for a photo with Bishop Dwenger High School Theology students as part of a tour and luncheon on Monday, Mar. 27, at the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne began Holy Week on Sunday, Apr. 2, Palm Sunday, with the Living Stations of the Cross performed by approximately 50 members of the Fidelis and Fraternus group at the church. The group has put this performance on for the last three years. Father Terry Coonan held adoration and benediction following the service.

St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne took tradition to the streets on Sunday, Mar. 26. Remembering the Savior’s Passion through the Stations of the Cross, attendees took the practice outside, walking nine-tenths of a mile through the State and Pemberton neighborhood, the same distance Christ walked to Calvary. As part of the acapella singing and prayers, participants stopped at 14 locations, one for each station. Signage in the yards of willing parties marked each point. Volunteers of all ages in the group carried a large wooden cross from station to station.

### Priesthood Ordinations


Saturday, April 15, 2023 @ 1:30pm EDT
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Join us at the Basilica or by livestream at livestream.holycrossusa.org
At a 20-minute outdoor ecumenical Palm Sunday Service on Sunday, Apr. 2, 80 people, half from St. Patrick Catholic Church in South Bend and half from St. James Episcopal Church, gathered together for the Blessing of the Palms. The group met halfway between the two churches for the blessing and then each group took part in singing processions back to their respective churches. A crowd of parishioners greeted those at St. Patrick from the procession upon return for another Blessing of the Palms, followed by Mass and the reading of the Passion.
Doormaker of Notre Dame Gained Appreciation for Catholic Faith

By Denise Fedorow

The University of Notre Dame has dubbed Verlin Miller, the now retired Bristol woodworker ‘The Doormaker of Notre Dame’ and created a YouTube video with that title featuring Miller.

It's understandable that they gave him that title since Miller has made approximately 300 doors for 40 buildings at Notre Dame. In addition to Notre Dame, the Mennonite woodworker has also crafted doors for St. Mary's College, St. Monica's in Mishawaka, and St. Pius X in Granger.

Verlin and his wife Elaine live in a house that he built on a wooded lot. They have three grown sons living in three different states and six grandchildren.

Miller said he thinks his passion for woodworking grew out of growing up in the 1960s and 1970s when getting back to nature and craftsmanship was revived. He began woodworking around 1972-1973 and is self-taught by reading books and magazines on woodworking. In the late 1980s, Miller began working on his own. He started making furniture and cabinets but said “I took whatever jobs I could get.”

He frequented Homan Lumber, where an employee there who was a trustee at his church, St. Paul's Methodist, asked Miller if he could make doors for the church. He'd already built a couple of doors for a log home so he took the job. He got connected with a commercial door distributor, which led to him building a couple of doors for St. Vincent de Paul School in Elkhart. The door distributor was also an approved hardware vendor for Notre Dame.

“He got me involved with a couple of small door replacements at Notre Dame,” Miller said.

He was then asked if he wanted to bid on the job of replacing the doors of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The job took him all summer but said it was fun and established his reputation. Those main doors are walnut with ash panels.

Changing Views on Prayer and Catholicism

It was while working on the doors at Notre Dame that he began to reflect on how his work could be like a prayer.

“My Christian faith has always been important to me,” he said.

He admitted to prior to doing this work on campus that when he thought of Notre Dame, he thought of football but began to realize how much spirituality there is on campus. “All the dorms have chapels; almost every building has a chapel.”

He said he asked a resident hall leader if the chapels were used and was told they were; that the students led their own worship services or just stopped in to pray.

“I began to realize these buildings are all filled with holy spaces. I began to see Notre Dame more in the spirituality evident in the buildings — in the architecture, the artwork, the grotto — people noticing have to be affected by that,” he said.

He said he began to think, “My work is participating in the holy work here. Often, we think of prayer as verbal, but that’s inadequate. If the physical work is done with reverence — for the wood, the people you work with, the people going in and out of the doors into those amazing spaces — it affects you.”

Miller also made doors for other churches including St. Pius X Church in Granger. While waiting at St. Pius for his doors to be installed, he was wandering around the church admiring the beauty.

“Being Mennonite there’s not too much artwork. I was impressed by the liveliness of the art.”

He said the priest at St. Pius told him it was Romanesque architecture, not Gothic and that it’s a teaching church in that the art all taught some-thing. The etched glass leading into the courtyard for example showed all the prophets.

“I tended to think of the Catholic Church as somber and gothic. You go in and repent and confess, but I thought of St. Pius ... if I was going here to church, I’d think of resurrection. It tied in with my understanding of my work as prayer.”

Miller said when he agreed to do the video for Notre Dame, he wanted to give credit to the others, saying he was just a small part of the process.

Other workers he met had spent most of their lives at Notre Dame and knew a lot of the history. On one of the last buildings he worked on, he was talking to a construction crew and told the foreman “It’s an honor doing this kind of work.”

The foreman said he’d had to remind his crew of that as they were grumbling because things weren’t going well. The Golden Dome could be seen from the chapel they were working in and he told his men, “See that Golden Dome? People come from all over the world to see this and we’re a part of it. This is something immensely important and we need to do our very best work.”

“I thought, ‘This guy is a kindred spirit,’” he said.

Miller said all the buildings are a massive team effort and those guys are unknown craftsmen. Aside from the 300 doors he’s made for Notre Dame, he’s probably made another 150-200 not just at Notre Dame but in manufacturing, but a lot for a craftsman making them one at a time.

“I begin to realize woodworking is satisfying at any level and it’s lifelong learning because there’s always new things to learn. “It takes patience,” he says.

He added that he’d really like for people to be more aware of the craftsmanship in the buildings they are in.

Upon his retirement, he was sent a gift from Notre Dame’s Facility, Design, and Operations. It was a brick from Corby Hall on a piece of wood from the old bleachers with an engraving thanking him for what he had done. It stated in part, “While the bricks are important like this one from the historical Corby Hall, it is the countless doors you have built for us that all who come to campus experience each and every day. In effect, you have built the ‘front doors’ of Notre Dame title since.

While retired, he said that he will happily work as a consultant to the new doormakers.
Bishop Blesses Motels4Now which Houses the Chronically Homeless in the South Bend Area

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

SOUTH BEND — Motels4Now is a housing-first program in South Bend that was created in August of 2020 that houses the chronically homeless in dignity and helps people move into more long-term, month-to-month housing.

On Thursday, Mar. 30, Bishop Rhoades led a brief prayer service to bless the residents, staff, volunteers, and benefactors of Motels4Now, which he called “the Anchor of the Lord, a work of mercy and love.” Representatives from Catholic Charities were also present, intending to further strengthen their partnership with the undertaking.

After the singing of “Amazing Grace,” the bishop read the familiar passage from Matthew 25:31-40 about finding Jesus in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger. He also cited Matthew 8:20, where Jesus says He has nowhere to rest His head. Guests wandered around wearing everything from torn pajamas to top hats, some accompanied by pets.

McCarthy explained that those rules are necessary for safety and security and help guests establish a rhythm to their days and nights. Guests at Motels4Now are not allowed to shelter those not enrolled in the program, and they are asked not to entertain other guests in their rooms during quiet hours.

McCarthy offered a blessing for the Motels4Now housing center, its residents, staff, volunteers, and benefactors on South Bend on Thursday, Mar. 30.

Bishop Rhoades offers a blessing for the Motels4Now homeless center, its residents, staff, volunteers, and benefactors in South Bend on Thursday, Mar. 30.

Jennifer Wiertel

we can put down our things, lock the door, take a shower, and settle down to sleep. She’s always believed in the housing-first model, but it’s been far more successful than she dared to hope. An amazing 76 percent of Motels4Now’s guests, more than 400 people, are now stably housed, many in apartments in the community.

The program, which opened its doors in August of 2020, has served nearly 600 unique individuals. Of those, 33 percent had been unhoused for more than a year, and 10 percent for ten years or longer.

Melissa said, “I just needed a breakthrough, and this is my start.”

Steve declared, “I felt like I was drowning and I couldn’t find a way to get up on shore. Motels4Now has been the hand that reached out.”

Mistine remarked, “They are good people. They help with everything.”

Finally, Kevin added, “Outside of housing, it’s restored my faith and hope in humanity. Despite whatever your darkness may be, tomorrow is a new day.”

About 115 people sleep at the former Knights Inn on Lincolnway West on any given night, and the average stay is four months. There are currently around 50 people on the waiting list and it takes three to five months to get to the top. Some are newly unsheltered due to illness, eviction, or release from incarceration and no family with the financial means to assist them; about one-third have already spent time at Motels4Now.

They were asked to leave because they didn’t keep the rules they agreed to, but they are welcome to try again. McCarthy explained that those rules are necessary for safety and security and help guests establish a rhythm to their days and nights. Guests at Motels4Now are not allowed to shelter those not enrolled in the program, and they are asked not to entertain other guests in their rooms during quiet hours.

Motels4Now is a low-barrier or housing-first approach, so it can accommodate residents dealing with addiction and mental illness. It includes 24/7 support staff and a security team. Besides housing, Beacon Health runs a bi-monthly on-site medical clinic and the community mental health provider, Oaklawn, has a dedicated presence since November of 2020, providing wrap-around mental health and addiction recovery services.

As in other American cities, four years ago it was hard to avoid seeing homeless people on benches, in tents, and under bridges in downtown South Bend. Catholic Workers and volunteers from many parishes got to know these individuals by serving them breakfast at Our Lady of the Rodeo on the weekends and providing a daytime place where they could hang out and do laundry.

Housing was an obvious need, but there was no funding. When overnight Weather Amnesty ended and then Covid-19 shut everything down in 2020, the problem became acute. More than 100 people were consigned to live in tents, with no sanitation facilities and no potable water access, on the edge of a shuttered downtown South Bend near the Catholic Worker houses. Where could unsheltered people with Covid symptoms safely quarantine?

The solution was to put them in hotels and motels that suddenly had no traditional guests. A quarantine isolation center opened at Motel 6 on Highway 933. That experiment worked, prompting two advocates, Araquid Blass and Tracy Leliart, to envision a program to address homelessness as a public health issue more pervasive than a short-term virus. They kept calling until they found the one motel owner willing to take a chance on providing space for a more long-term program. Initially only a small number of the units at Knights Inn were in good enough repair to house guests.

Today, that facility has three buildings and 74 renovated double-occupancy rooms.

After St. Joseph County agreed to help fund the program using money from the CARES Act, McCarthy became Director of Motels4Now in September of 2020. She had been teaching an interdisciplinary class at the University of Notre Dame, but had decided to move to Westville Correctional Facility, which pivoted to remote work with the Covid lockdown. She said it wasn’t what she envisioned doing when she earned a Ph.D. in Theology from Notre Dame, writing a dissertation on trajectories and trajectory. But God hasn’t wasted any of her education, gifts, or experiences she brought to her new role.

By January of 2023, Motels4Now had 150 residents, including 41 children. Since schools were still closed, a school on the road ended up helping them to do their work, but it wasn’t the best environment for children, so all the families have transitioned into rental housing.

St. Joseph County officials elected in November of 2020 decided not to use any federal American Rescue Plan funding to support Motels4Now. “We are working on building relationships with these folks,” said McCarthy. “In the meantime, the City of South Bend and many individuals and organizations have stepped up to help. On the Feast of St. Joseph, a grant was confirmed which will enable the program to continue operating for another five or six months. A number of other grants and conversations are in the works.

As for the future, Board President Margie Pfeil wrote, “Our first goal is to transition Motels4Now into a permanent low-barrier intake center, building specificity designed for this purpose and offering dignified accommodations.” Kil Architecture has developed a preliminary design with 38 double-occupancy rooms and four single ADA-compliant rooms. A $2.5 million budget will fund the Department of Mental Health and Addiction will help with capital costs.

In addition to a grant toward capital costs, the City of South Bend has committed $500,000 in annual operating costs.

Because of the lack of affordable housing in the area, there is a growing need for permanent supportive housing units. Therefore, Phase 2 is to collaborate with South Bend Heritage and Oaklawn to build an integrated housing community adjacent to the intake center, accessible to Oaklawn and emergency day staff.

Those wanting to learn more about Motels4Now can check the website at olrsb.org/motel and current residents have Section 8 housing vouchers but nowhere to use them, there is no need for landlords working with them, as well as furniture for those apartments. Financial contributions are essential. Tax-deductible donations can be made via PayPal.

Our Lady of the Rodeo, P.O. Box 4373, South Bend, IN 46634, with “M4N” on the memo line of the check or via PayPal.
Seven Teachings on Hell from St. Thomas Aquinas

The teachings of the Lord on Hell are difficult, especially in today's climate. The most difficult questions arise related to its eternal nature and how to square its existence with a God who is loving and rich in mercy.

1. Does God love the souls in Hell? Yes. If God did not love them, there would be no reason for their existence. Thus, an unrepentant adulterer might not experience the same suffering that they would if they repented of their sin(s) that caused exclusion from Heaven.

2. Is there any good at all in Hell? Yes. All the damned punished equally? No. The severity of punishment in Hell is based on the degree of unrepentance.

3. Do the souls in Hell repent of what they have done? No, not directly. After death, repentance in the formal sense is not possible.

4. Is eternal punishment just? Yes. Many who might otherwise accept God’s punishment of sinners are still dismayed that Hell is eternal. St. Thomas teaches, “The eternity of the damned is not an eternity of pain, but an eternity of rest.”

The Gospel is remarkably powerful in its message. Central, of course, is the Gospel passage highlighting the experiences of Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple as they find the Lord’s tomb empty.

The Gospel is remarkably detailed. The reactions of the principal figures are understandable.

In an age so dismissive of religion, how authentic is the Church’s, and the Gospel’s message that Jesus rose? Was the Lord’s body stolen? It is hard to believe. Other readings say that soldiers sealed the tomb specifically to safeguard the body from being taken. A heavy stone sealed the entrance. Furthermore, in John 20, the burial cloths were neatly folded. No thief would have taken the time for such care.

Verily convincing is the fact that all four Gospels, while written at different times, in different places, and by different authors, all agree that Jesus rose from the dead. Furthermore, it was the fervent view of the first Christians.

In this reading, the Beloved Disciple alone understands what the empty tomb reveals. His devotion to Christ illuminated his mind. It reminds us that faith can open our eyes. Essential in our own coming to believe that the Lord lives, therefore, is faith. It is more than accepting an intellectual proposition, however verified. It is the acknowledgement that Jesus is the Lord of life, the source of life, and the Savior of the world.

Realizing the identity of Jesus, and that the Lord lives forever, is the ultimate wisdom.
COMMENTARY

Dissolving the Dead

In recent years, a number of U.S. states have legalized a new way to process human remains that some have called "dissolving the dead." Its technical name is "alkaline hydrolysis," but it is also known as biocremation, aquamation, green cremation, and resomation.

The basic process involves placing a body in an open, pressurized metal chamber and hastening its decomposition by adding lye (water mixed with a small quantity of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide) to break down proteins, fats, DNA, etc. This rapidly digests the tissues of the body, leaving ash. This ash is released and reduces it to skeletal fragments. The procedure, which some claim is merely an accelerated version of what happens if you're buried, requires three to four hours.

Afterwards, the dissolved tissue, a brown soup comprised of simple organic materials like salts, sugars, and lipids is released from the machine into a drain, then into a city's water treatment system before it makes its way to water treatment facilities. The leftover bone fragments inside the machine are collected, ground up and, in an open stainless steel container, pulverized to a powder (colloquially and imprecisely termed "ashes").

Making Sense of Bioethics

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYG

official teaching that addresses the practice. Instead, the Church stresses the importance of showing careful regard for human remains and honoring the memory of the deceased. These cemeteries should influence our decisions as Catholics when we are offered options like cremation or alkaline hydrolysis. Whether the procedure is intrinsically evil, but each can lead to abuses and provoke misunderstandings about our human nature. In an age in which many people view the human person as only corresponding to the soul, without recognizing the sacredness of the human body, we need to emphasize the importance of full-body burial as the best way to assure loving homages. We must not allow the destruction of the body, which has been given to us for the benefit of others.

On the other hand, when the whole body is buried in the ground, there is a greater sense of connection to those whose mortal remains, which speak to us of the full embodiment of the person who once lived and breathed as we, body and soul.

These notable differences in terms of according respect towards the deceased means that we should generally prefer whole body disposition of human remains, as the Church recommends, even though extenuating circumstances can allow for cremation and, until the Church formally teaches otherwise, alkaline hydrolysis. I believe it is unlikely the Church will ultimately counsel or encourage the use of this latter method for laying our loved ones to rest after death.

When alkaline hydrolysis is carried out, the same basic principles that are at work in cremation with respect to protecting human dignity should be applied. Bone fragments, powder, and ashes left over from the process should be placed in a suitable container like an urn, and not scattered or divided among family members. The urn should be interred in the family plot, a mausoleum, or a columbarium. This establishes a specific point of reference in time, space, and geography, where we can commemorate our deceased family members.

In this way, we are not only invited to respect their mortal remains, but also to pray for the repose of their souls as we mourn their passing in the hope of Resurrection and beatitude.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

SCRIPTYRE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 9, 2023
Matthew 28:1-10

Gospel for the Easter Vigil: The women arrive at the tomb. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST ANGEL LIGHTNING AS SNOW JESUS RAISED GALILEE
TO SEE ROLLED BACK CLOTHING AS JESUS CRUCIFIED HE LAY FEET
EARTHQUAKE THE STONE WHITE AFRAID NOT HERE TELL SEE ME

AN ANGEL COMES


April 9, 2023

13
Are you a dynamic, visionary, and experienced educational leader?

Leading with integrity, serving with compassion, learning with humility all are qualities that Marian graduates strive to achieve. As the leader of our Catholic community, the new Principal of Marian High School should exemplify these tenets and seek to live the example of Jesus Christ as a teacher and servant.

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Poland Remembers Death of Pope JP II on Anniversary

ARCHDIOCESE OF LODZ, POLAND

Archbishop Grzegorz Rys of Lodz, Poland, blesses worshippers on Palm Sunday, Apr. 2, in front of the Cathedral of St. Stanislaw Kostka, where a statue of St. John Paul II was vandalized the night before. Marches and vigils remembering St. John Paul II were organized across the country for the 18th anniversary of the Polish pope’s death on Apr. 2.
Tenebrae at St. Monica

MISHAWAKA — Experience Tenebrae, a most solemn service of candlelight, choral music, and prayer, with musical works by Tallis, Victoria, and including the famous Allegri “Miserere Mei, Deus” on Good Friday, April 7, at 8:30 p.m., at St. Monica Catholic Church, 222 W Mishawaka Ave. Contact Jessica Roberts at 574-255-2247 or jroberts@stmonicamish.org for information.

Spring Garage Sale and Pork Burger Sale

AVILLA — A spring garage sale and pork burger sale will be held on Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Mary gym, 232 N Main St. Many items are available, large and small. Proceeds go to a scholarship fund. Contact Henretta Harris at 260-693-3454 for information.

Eucharist Book Reading for Children

NOTRE DAME — Join local authors Gracie Jagla and the Sisters of St. Francis of Solitude after prayer, in the bookstore lot. Contact Gracie Jagla at graciejagla@gmail.com for information.

A Parent’s Guide to Gender Identity Theory

MISHAWAKA — Join Notre Dame professor Abigail Favale, author of The Genesis of Gender, for a special presentation for parents on gender identity theory and the issues it raises for children and teens today. The webinar will take place on Thursday, April 20, from 7:30-9 p.m. and will include the opportunity to ask questions. To register to receive the Zoom link and passcode for this event, please visit www.diocesefwsb.org/gender-identity-theory. Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

St. Mary’s Fish and Tenderloin Dinner

HUNTINGTON — The St. Mary Rosary Sodality is hosting an all-you-can-eat fish and tenderloin dinner by Dan’s BBQ. Deacon Jim Tighe will offer a brief explanation of the Divine Mercy devotion by Deacon Jim Tighe followed by adoration. Admission: $15, family of five $60, youths age 6-12, $20, and children 5 and younger, free. A bake sale, homemade desserts, and 50/50 raffle will also be offered. Contact Vickie Lortie at 260-385-4571 or maindmtl81@gmail.com for information.

Most Precious Blood’s Spring Musical ‘Peter Pan Jr.’

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School will present “Peter Pan Jr.” on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, in the school gymnasium, 1529 Barthold St. Performances are at 7 p.m. Tickets prices are $5 for adults and $3 for students. Contact Angela Gernhardt at 260-246-3899 or office2@preciousblood.org for information.

Divine Mercy Sunday Eucharistic Adoration

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton, will offer a brief explanation of the Divine Mercy devotion by Deacon Jim Tighe followed by veneration of the Divine Mercy image. Eucharistic Adoration, music, silence, and Benediction on Sunday, April 16, in the church from 3-4 p.m. Private veneration will continue after. Following that, there will be a reception and celebration in the parish Thad Hall provided by the middle school youth group from 4-5 p.m. where light refreshments and Divine Mercy festivities will bring joy. Contact Vickie Lortie at 260-484-6609 or vortie@stjudefw.org for information.

Submit Events

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.
You Can Join the Fun at A Catholic Summer Camp
Designed for the Whole Family

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Instead of sending your children off to camp, how about making camp an experience for the entire family?

Catholic Familyland in Bloomingdale, Ohio, is a ministry of the Apostolate for Family Consecration. This Apostolate exists to convey a message of hope, the Fatima message: Our Lady wins, because the Holy Family has ultimate dominion in this world of growing darkness. One of the simple principles the Blessed Mother revealed is that grandiose sacrifices aren’t the usual path to holiness: faith can sanctify even the most mundane aspect of daily living when it’s offered in love. Besides that, “You’re not alone! There are 100 other families as dedicated as your own.”

During each of seven week-long “Family Fests,” families stay on the grounds in every-thing from a primitive campsite to a well-equipped cottage, with ample opportunities to play and pray together. This summer’s theme is “Set Apart,” an opportunity for families to pursue holiness together. There is daily Mass, rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, reconciliation every afternoon, and adoration chapels open continuously. Catechism is folded in with fun activities for every age group from 4 through teenagers of the Destiny Generation. For parents and young adults, there are top-notch keynote speakers and celebrants scheduled. Swimming and pickleball are available during the afternoon free time. Organized competitions range from chess to ultimate frisbee. Bonfires in the evening feature skits, songs, and testimonies. In 2022, Catholic Familyland hosted almost 5,000 people in more than 800 family groups. High schoolers can spend the whole summer earning a chance at college scholarships by serving in the Service Corps, while there are also college and young adult Alumni Corps members whose main responsibility is to promote good conversation.

This will be the 7th consecutive summer that Paul and Brenda Harold bring their seven children, ages 5 to 18, to Catholic Familyland, but Brenda’s history is much longer. She first went in 1990 with her family. Living in northwest Ohio, “that was the only family vacation we ever took,” said Brenda.

In Steubenville, Ohio, where Paul grew up, people regarded the nearby Catholic Familyland as weird, so Brenda had a hard time persuading him to take their family for the first time in 2017. However, by the end of the week he was fully committed. “He’s been the driving force making sure we go back every year,” said Brenda. Going in 2020 was especially meaningful when the camp was able to continue despite Covid lockdowns due to the outdoor setting and being family-centered. Brenda exclaimed, “It was so good to be able to do something normal that summer, to take a break from all the negative messaging that was bombarding us!”

Every year, the Harolds have invited friends and fellow parishioners from St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka, with usually one or two coming along. This year however, ten other families plan to join them for the last week of camp. One of their children was reluctant to go one year but left so eager to return that she joined Service Corps the following summer. Brenda finds it very affirming especially for teenagers to be surrounded by families and other youth for whom living their Catholic faith is normal. “Every year, when our time for going to Family Fest rolls around, we’re ready for that rejuvenating reset,” attests Brenda.

For more information about Catholic Familyland and all of the camps, visit their website at afc.org/catholic-family-vacation/.

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