Joe Tippmann Anchored by Faith, Humility

BY ERIC PEAT

Joe Tippmann came running to the car.

The high school sophomore was holding something in his hand, an envelope given to him by then-Bishop Dwenger head football coach Chris Svarczkopf.

“Mom, look what I’ve got!” he said excitedly to his mother Kim, who was picking him up after practice. He opened the envelope and revealed an invitation to a football camp at the University of Wisconsin.

“From that day, he had a change of heart,” recalled Kim. “He began to put more time and effort into working out, lifting, doing speed and agility. Even after football practice, he would spend time doing extra stuff to better himself.”

“That was a big moment for me, seeing that from Wisconsin,” agreed Joe. “They were the first to start recruiting me. I pretty much hadn’t even heard of Wisconsin; I knew nothing of it. But I got invited to take a visit, and that’s when I started falling in love with the school and Wisconsin in general.”

All the hard work paid off for Joe, who became a three-year starter on Bishop Dwenger’s offensive line and helped lead the Saints to the 2018 Class 4A State Championship. He followed that with four years in Madison, Wisconsin, where he developed into one of the premier interior linemen in college football.

Now, Joe is preparing to make the jump to the professional level, considered a can’t-miss prospect in the upcoming NFL draft. And yet, amid the ever-growing accolades and glamour of a pro football career, Joe remains the same person, anchored by his Catholic faith and an endless supply of humility.

He Was Unstopable

Few will ever question where Joe got his “Big Joe” nickname. “He was born big,” said Kim. “He was always a head taller than all of his classmates.”

However, looking up at four older brothers meant that Joe was often on the losing end of sibling battles. “I was kind of the youngest, always getting picked on,” remembered Joe. “By the time I could beat them up, they didn’t want to fight anymore.”

Instead, Joe channeled this size and strength into a variety of sports as a kid. When basketball didn’t pan out, Joe credited his parents for helping him “find a love for off-season training,” which he considered a turning point for him as an athlete. He also found joy in football, thanks in part to Sam Talarico, who coached Joe at St. Charles and Bishop Dwenger.

“Sam was a guy who was able to show me a love for football at a young age,” said Joe. “He had the demeanor, the size, the attitude, the toughness — he had it all, he really did.”

However, Joe’s promising future wasn’t what stood out the most to his middle school coaches.

“The thing I remember most about Joe is that he treated every teammate and coach with respect at all times,” said Talarico. “I never saw Joe pick on a smaller teammate or insult a teammate. Joe was the type of kid who knew he was the best, but he never acted like he knew he was the best.”

He Offered Me His Trust

As a freshman at Bishop Dwenger, Joe was reminded of a conversation he’d had two years earlier with Talarico.

“I remember vividly telling Joe in 7th grade by the drinking fountain on McKenna Field that he had the potential to be in the Big Ten someday,” recalled Talarico.

“Hearing that the first time, it was like, ‘Yeah, whatever,’” admitted Joe. “It didn’t become a reality until freshman year when Coach [John] Tone said the exact same thing. After hearing it a second time, I thought it might be possible.”

That possibility became more tangible when Joe earned a starting spot on the line as a sophomore. He also re-dedicated himself to his schoolwork as he continued growing and developing into what Fabini referred to as “a dominant football player.”

He received similar praise from Jason Fabini, who coached him on the offensive line at both St. Charles and Bishop Dwenger — and who previously played in the NFL for 11 seasons.

“I’d been around a lot of football, and I could tell he was going to be special,” said Fabini. “He had the demeanor, the size, the attitude, the toughness — he had it all, he really did.”

When Svarczkopf retired after Joe’s senior season and
Vocation as Gift of the Holy Spirit: Talking to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

BY CHARLIE CAMOSY

After leading the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for five years, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was appointed to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and installed there as bishop in January of 2010. Bishop Rhoades currently serves as a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine and the USCCB Committee on Religious Liberty, of which he is Chair-Elect, assuming the chair in November of 2023. He is presently Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and is Chair of the Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor. Ordained to the priesthood in 1983, Bishop Rhoades received his license degrees (STL) in sacred theology and in canon law (KCL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Charlie Camosy: Especially as someone who trains priests, I’ve become hyper-aware of how many of the administrative stresses that parish priests experience can infringe on their work as pastors. I imagine this is a similar problem for bishops but ratcheted up several notches. How do you deal with these competing priorities in your own day-to-day life as a bishop? Do you feel pulled away from the pastoral work you’d prefer to do, as a bishop?

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades: The administrative side of being a bishop is indeed heavy and one could get consumed in those tasks and office work if one is not careful. It’s important to hire a good administrative staff to lighten the administrative burdens and give me time to teach the faith and share in the sacraments, which is most life-giving to me and lives at the heart of my episcopal ministry.

Bishop Rhoades: I tell our teenage confirmation candidates that I first heard the call to the priesthood when I was confirmed in 7th grade, and that I believe this one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit imparted that day: the gift of counsel. It was not until my sophomore year in college though, while praying, that I experienced joy and peace at the thought of being a priest and then applied to the seminary. That joy and peace, I tell the confirmation candidates, are also fruits of the Holy Spirit, validating signs of God’s will. I was open to receive the call since I was raised in a faith-filled family, and my mother and grandmother (who lived with us) were especially devout. We were involved in the parish, and I was an altar server from a young age. I loved the education I received in Catholic grade school and high school where I was also inspired by the example of the priests and religious sisters.

I guess you could say that the ground was fertile for my hearing the call to the priesthood. I attended a good Catholic college where a lot of my questions and doubts, normal for that age, were answered. I came to appreciate the Catholic intellectual tradition and the harmony of faith and reason. While in college, I also started to go to daily Mass and to receive spiritual direction and developed a more mature prayer life.

Camosy: I imagine that the original motivation for heeding the Lord’s call to the priesthood is very close to that pastoring part of yourself. Can you tell us a bit more about the story of your calling?

Bishop Rhoades: I tell our teenage confirmation candidates that I first heard the call to the priesthood when I was confirmed in 7th grade, and that I believe this one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit imparted that day: the gift of counsel. It was not until my sophomore year in college though, while praying, that I experienced joy and peace at the thought of being a priest and then applied to the seminary. That joy and peace, I tell the confirmation candidates, are also fruits of the Holy Spirit, validating signs of God’s will. I was open to receive the call since I was raised in a faith-filled family, and my mother and grandmother (who lived with us) were especially devout. We were involved in the parish, and I was an altar server from a young age. I loved the education I received in Catholic grade school and high school where I was also inspired by the example of the priests and religious sisters.

I guess you could say that the ground was fertile for my hearing the call to the priesthood. I attended a good Catholic college where a lot of my questions and doubts, normal for that age, were answered. I came to appreciate the Catholic intellectual tradition and the harmony of faith and reason. While in college, I also started to go to daily Mass and to receive spiritual direction and developed a more mature prayer life.

Camosy: What do you do just for fun, or to express the more personal parts of who you are? Do you watch or stream mindless TV? What about music? Might you follow college or professional sports? Inquiring minds want to know.

Bishop Rhoades: It can be a struggle to find time to just have fun, but I do make the effort. I really enjoy getting together with family and friends on vacation. Since I was transferred from my home diocese in Pennsylvania, it’s really important to me to spend time with the people I love who are not in this area. I’ve always enjoyed going to the ocean, and hiking in the mountains, but I’ve learned to enjoy the lakes in Indiana and have found a hill in my diocese! I enjoy reading, especially history, and I enjoy sports — especially college football and basketball. Notre Dame was always my favorite football team, so I am very blessed to be able to attend many ND home football games each fall. Those football weekends give me an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family. I used to enjoy playing basketball and tennis, but I haven’t played for a while. Speaking of basketball, my second cousin, Mike Rhoades, was just hired as head basketball coach at Penn State!

Camosy: Many of us, I think, struggle to disengage from the seemingly endless day-to-day stresses, calendar invites, and to-do lists — we miss that younger part of ourselves that are seemingly more connected to the voice of God. Any advice for best (spiritual) practices for tapping into that part of who we are?

Bishop Rhoades: I’m glad you asked about that. The best spiritual practices for me, outside of daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, are quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, “Lectio Divina,” and the holy rosary. I find early in the morning is the best time for more extended prayer. When I pray with the Scriptures, I like to imagine myself as one of the Apostles with Jesus, listening to His words and seeing His actions. I find their weaknesses encouraging when I struggle, but also learn to listen to the Lord speaking to me, encouraging me, correcting me, and forgiving me. His love strengthens me for my ministry to His people. He calms the storms in my life, just like He calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

I also find comfort in the maternal love of our Blessed Mother. I find myself naturally turning to her at different times during the day. Since my diocese has two “See cities, I drive a lot, and I like praying the rosary while driving and also listening to the prayer app Hallow, which was developed by wonderful young men I’ve known since their time at Notre Dame. I recommend this app to all who are struggling to grow in their prayer life.

Charlie Camosy is Professor of Medical Humanities at the Creighton School of Medicine and Moral Theology Fellow at St. Joseph Seminary in New York.
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Host Event for Newly Written Book

BY ERIN LYNCH

On Saturday, April 15, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration hosted a book launch event at Hammes Bookstore at the University of Notre Dame to promote their new book “An Adoration Treasury for Young Catholics.” This event was co-hosted with Grace Jagla, author of “Jesus and the Miracle of the Mass.”

Sister M. Lisetta, one of the coauthors of the book, was present to speak a bit about how the book came to be and to read a portion to the children who had gathered to hear her. Three of her fellow sisters joined her for the event. When asked what inspired the book, Sister Lisetta said, “Our charism is perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which we’ve been doing since 1863. Recently, over the past several years, we’ve had the opportunity to visit schools and lead classes in adoration. These visits have been incredibly fruitful. We’ve been so touched by the hunger and receptivity of these young ones in prayer.” When Our Sunday Visitor reached out about the possibility of writing a book, the answer was an easy yes for Sister Lisetta and Sister Mary Bosco.

Sister Lisetta said she hopes that through the book, young children grow in, “relationship with Jesus Christ and learning how to spend time with Jesus Christ and learn from Him. Recognizing the peace, joy, and love that is offered to them in that silence. And hope. Life is hard. Adoration is a place to come and be safe, to recognize that we are unconditionally loved and that we are never alone. We can talk to Jesus just as we talk to our friends and we can trust Him. Hopefully, this is a friendship that the children can return to again and again as they grow up.” She continued on saying, “Oh, Jesus, I love you; help me to love you more. It’s really that simple. Sometimes Jesus can share big things with us in our thoughts or feelings. Sometimes there is nothing that we can sense, but coming into His presence we can simply say, ‘Jesus, I’m content to be in your presence.’ When we learn to be silent before our good God, something beautiful, little by little, grows within us: it’s grace. His life within us, and the reality of His great love and of His always being with us.”

Sister Lisetta also shared that “An Adoration Treasury for Young Catholics” is geared towards 2nd or 3rd graders, but that one huge blessing of the book is that it helps to give parents and teachers the confidence to teach children about adoration. She said, “For me, this has been the greatest benefit of the book — to hear parents and teachers say, ‘Oh, I can do this!’”

Grace Jagla introduced the event, talking about how she first met the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore when she was a young girl. She said that she was then invited to visit them at the convent and this is where she truly began to learn to love adoration in a way. This love has been carried with her throughout her life and she said it feels like a full circle moment that now she had the opportunity to be able to read her book about the Eucharist with Sister Lisetta at this event.

After both authors read from their books, Sister Lisetta led the group gathered in making a spiritual communion. She asked everyone present to put their hands on their hearts and prayed a spiritual communion written by St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Afterwards, the participants gathered around to enjoy homemade cookies and spent some time with both the authors and the other sisters in attendance.

One attendee of the event, Grace Anne Breckler, had traveled from Fort Wayne to attend with her daughter. She said, “It was such a great event for everyone! The Kids loved the stories and it was so nice to see the sisters out and about and interacting with the kids.” Another local mother, Emily Brumbaugh agreed, saying, “The author event was so welcoming and engaging. I appreciated how the audience and authors so graciously responded with love, to the kids most filled with the Holy Spirit. It especially warmed my heart to see so many of the sisters in attendance. I grew up with the sisters teaching in my school and was thankful my son would interact with them. We are so blessed to have these authors and events in our diocese.”

Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

MAY

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

THE BLESSING OF our faithful mothers

In honor of Mother’s Day on May 14, Today’s Catholic will feature a section that shares one of your memories of how your mother practiced her Catholic faith or made the faith meaningful to you.

If you’d like to share a memory, send an email (200 words or less) and attach a high-quality photo to editor@diocesefwsb.org or mail to P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856 no later than May 1.

Due to the volume of responses, it may not be possible for Today’s Catholic to publish all memories. Mailed photos will not be returned.
Cardinal Recalls those Killed, Injured in 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing; Urges Prayers for ‘Gift of Peace’

BY JACQUELINE TETRAULT

BRAINTREE, Massachusetts (OSV News) — On the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing, Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley reflected on the impact the event had on the victims, survivors, first responders, and what must be done to prevent such acts of violence.

“Ten years removed from that horrific day, the pain and suffering we witnessed does not easily subside,” he said. On April 15, 2013, as people participated in the marathon on Patriots Day, two bombs went off near the finish line on Boylston Street in Boston. Hundreds were injured, and three people were killed at the time: Martin Richard, 8, Krystle Campbell, 29, and Lingzi Lu, 23.

The bombers, brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, also killed MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, 27, while evading the police in the days after the attack. Additionally, a Boston police officer, Sgt. Dennis Simmonds, suffered a head injury in a firefight with the fugitives, and died a year later. He was 28.

Tamerlan, 26, died of injuries he suffered during a gun battle with police. He also sustained injuries when his younger brother hit him with a car as he fled. Dzhokhar, now 29, was convicted on April 8, 2015, on 30 charges stemming from the bombings and was sentenced to death. A federal appeals court overturned his death sentence, but the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated it in March of 2022.

In his statement, cardinal O’Malley said of the five victims, “We will never forget them. Each of their lives was a unique expression of love, concern for others, and courage. They will remain in our prayers as will their loved ones who continue to mourn their loss.”

Boston’s cardinal said that the season of Easter is a reminder “that in the midst of the darkness of this tragedy we turn to the light of Jesus Christ. We put our faith and trust in the Lord for this gift of peace and the resiliency of the human spirit.”

He also expressed gratitude to the first responders, “who selflessly charged into danger to rescue the injured and bring aid and comfort to all who were impacted. They exemplified the best of humanity.”

The cardinal noted the increasingly senseless violent acts “taking place in the world, claiming the lives of innocent people, including children. He called upon leaders to “demonstrate the courage to find consensus and enact policies” for gun safety and mental health programs, “to save lives and address the underlying causes of this violence.”

Each of us can contribute to these challenges through thoughtful consideration of how we talk to and about each other,” Cardinal O’Malley said. He closed by quoting Pope Francis, who has said that “the more we feel our hearts are agitated, the more we sense we are nervous, impatient, angry inside, the more we need to ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace.” The pope added, “Let us also ask this for those who live next to us, for those we meet each day, and for the leaders of nations.”

“Let us honor the memory of Martin, Krystle, Lingzi, Sean, and Dennis by asking the Lord for this gift of peace during these challenging days,” Cardinal O’Malley concluded.

Jacqueline Tetrault is on the staff of The Pilot, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston.

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Advocates Fear ‘Further Erosion’ of Indiana Wetlands Protection

The Indiana Catholic Conference and numerous advocates for the environment have serious concerns about a surprise maneuver late in the legislative session that could further strip the already sparse protections for the state’s wetlands.

Last-minute language weakening the definition of wetlands was recently added to an unrelated bill, blindsiding lawmakers and advocates alike and offering no opportunity for public testimony. The move came just months after the Indiana Wetlands Task Force issued a report emphasizing that Indiana could not afford to lose any more of this critical natural resource.

Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart), a legislator with strong ties to the building industry, introduced the wetlands-related amendment to Senate Bill 414, a measure dealing with sewage disposal systems. That bill had passed the Senate almost unanimously and was scheduled for a vote in the House Environmental Affairs committee when Miller presented the unrelated amendment, which despite strong opposition from several committee members narrowly passed 6-4.

“I was very disappointed,” said Indra Frank, a member of the Hoosier Environmental Council, in reaction to the unexpected move. “The bottom line is that Indiana needs its wetlands more than ever for maintaining healthy waterways, providing habitat for many species and reducing flooding. But this bill, as it stands now would further reduce the protection of wetlands and we’d see more of them disappear.”

A motion to dissent was filed in the Senate on April 13 after the bill returned to that chamber carrying this and other amendments. At news time, the legislation was awaiting a conference committee hearing to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill. During the March 22 House committee hearing, Miller argued that his amendment was necessary to bring the state back in line with the original intent of environmental legislation that passed the General Assembly in 2021 but that has not been completely put into practice. That year, Senate Enrolled Act 389, which was opposed by the ICC and more than 50 environmental and conservation groups, eliminated safeguards for wetlands across the state by changing their definition and classification.

Senate Enrolled Act 389 had defined three categories of wetlands, with class III considered the most ecologically important and therefore deserving of the greatest protection from development. The amendment recently introduced to Senate Bill 414 makes it much more difficult for a wetland to be classified as a class III.

Developers have been lobbying for additional reductions to the protection of wetlands, saying that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has been upgrading Class I wetlands to class II and III.

“Testimony on Senate Bill 389 in 2021 revealed stories of farmers who were unable to address flooding issues on their properties and conflicts with IDEM agents,” said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “The ICC isn’t questioning whether any of these underlying disputes between IDEM, farmers, and developers are significant. Rather, we want to ensure that the legislature doesn’t pursue a solution to these issues that removes necessary protection for wetlands.”

Frank, a physician with expertise in environmental health, pointed to the numerous benefits of wetlands and the dangers posed by their eradication, including increased flooding. “Wetlands are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem,” Frank said. “Here in Indiana, wetlands provide habitat for 50 percent of the state’s species of small or declining populations, and ecologically they’re very important. They also act like a sponge on the landscape. An acre of wetland can store hundreds of millions of gallons of water or more. When we have big storms, they can help soak up that extra stormwater, which is critically important because it reduces flooding.”

“Since (the House committee vote), we’ve been talking one-on-one with as many legislators as we can about the importance of preserving wetlands and how this further reduction in their protection is not advisable,” she added. “It’s ironic that we’re seeing this threat of further erosion of wetland protection immediately following the work of the Indiana Wetlands Task Force.”

That task force, an outgrowth of Senate Enrolled Act 389, brought together a range of experts to produce a report on the status of Indiana’s wetlands and recommendations for protecting them. The following excerpt from the executive summary of the report, which was issued in October of 2021, sums up the overarching message for lawmakers and other audiences. Despite the diversity of views and perspectives on the task force, there is a consensus that isolated wetlands do need prioritization at the state level. The functions and values that wetlands provide are clear and significant, and Indiana is at a point where the cumulative loss of wetlands is having a measurable negative impact on residents, particularly from a water quality and flooding standpoint.

For the ICC, the long history of Catholic social teaching on proper stewardship of the environment forms the basis for engagement on these issues. In line with its opposition to Senate Enrolled Act 389, the ICC has voiced serious concerns with the amendment to Senate Bill 414.

“The Indiana Wetlands Task Force offered great suggestions, and the legislature hasn’t taken up trying to explore any of them,” Mingus said. “Instead, now we have this amendment. Everyone who watches this issue and was involved back in 2021 was very surprised to see it.

Ultimately, we don’t want the protection of our state’s few remaining wetlands to be the casualty of arguments over whether IDEM is using its authority properly.”

Instead, Mingus encourages the examination of higher principles, such as those outlined by Pope Francis in his groundbreaking 2015 encyclical on the environment, “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” which was aimed at “everything in our environment has an impact on human flourishing and the flourishing of all creation.”

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which gives 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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Orthodox Christians Celebrated Easter in the Holy Land with Another Year of Holy Fire Restrictions

JERUSALEM (OSV News) — Thousands of local and international Christian pilgrims thronged to Jerusalem’s Old City and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the ancient Eastern rite ceremony of the Holy Fire on April 13, with some scuffles reported as Israeli police restricted the number of people able to reach the church. Celebrated for more than 1,000 years on the Saturday before Orthodox Easter, as reported by Christian historian Eusebius in A.D. 328, the Orthodox Christian ceremony involves the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, in the presence of an Armenian Orthodox bishop, entering the Edicule where tradition holds Jesus’ tomb is located. There, according to tradition, a fire is mysteriously generated with which the patriarch lights two sets of candle bundles. In previous years, as many as 10,000 worshippers could celebrate the Holy Fire ceremony inside the church, while this year, police had limited attendance to 1,800 people inside and 1,200 outside, citing safety reasons. Pilgrims also gathered on the roof of the church, and in locations in the Old City where the police had placed shading and large TV screens where the ceremony was broadcast live.

Pope Francis Celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday

Filgrims holding an image of Divine Mercy and others holding a banner featuring St. John Paul II, who instituted the universal celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, join Pope Francis for the recitation of the “Regina Coeli” prayer on April 16 in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.

Pope Defends St. John Paul from ‘Offensive’ Insinuations in Vatican Case

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called insinuations that St. John Paul II played a role in the 1983 disappearance of a Roman Catholic schoolgirl Emanuela Orlandi “offensive and unfounded.” After reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer on April 16, the pope told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, “Certainly I am interpreting the feelings of the faithful around the world, I express a thought of gratitude to the memory of St. John Paul II, who in these days has been the object of offensive and unfounded insinuations.” Emanuela’s brother, Pietro Orlandi, in a television interview on April 11 alleged that St. John Paul was involved in his sister’s mysterious disappearance. Emanuela Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican usher who lived inside the walls of Vatican City, disappeared in Rome on June 22, 1983, when she was 15. The Vatican recently opened a new investigation into her disappearance, which also was the subject of a 2022 Netflix documentary. In the television interview, Pietro Orlandi played an audio recording of someone he said was close to a mafia group allegedly linked to his sister’s disappearance. The speaker said that St. John Paul was involved in bringing young girls to the Vatican to be sexually exploited. In an editorial for Vatican News, Andrea Tornielli, Editorial Director at the Dicastery for Communication, denounced the “slanderous accusations” presented by Orlandi as a “sleazy” and “absurd” defamation of the former pope.

Portland Music Minister Arrested in Undercover Child Predator Sting

PORTLAND, Oregon (OSV News) — An Oregon parish music minister has been arrested as part of an undercover child predator sting, according to officials with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office. Sean Baba, the Director of Music Ministry at St. Pius X Parish in Portland, was one of six men taken into custody on April 13 by sheriff’s officers. Investigators posed as underage boys and girls on a number of online dating platforms and social media sites. The suspects contacted the profiles and offered to meet in person for sex. Authorities arrested the men upon arrival. In an April 13 news release, sheriff’s officials stated that St. Pius X Parish and its school “were notified of his arrest and have fully cooperated with the investigation.” Baba’s LinkedIn page lists a number of music ministry assignments at various Catholic parishes, schools, and organizations in California, some of them concurrent.

Notre Dame Cathedral Was on Fire Four Years Ago; Here Is What’s Happening Now

PARIS (OSV News) — Notre Dame Cathedral will get its spire back by the end of 2023, more than four years after it was devastated by a fire. But to reopen by its deadline of Dec. 8, 2024, the cathedral, a beloved symbol of France, needs to meet three conditions, currently in the works. This includes cleaning and restoration of the interior of the building; restoration of masonry and collapsed vaults; and working to restore the missing spire and frameworks, which, according to the newest statement from the “Rebuild Notre Dame” committee, “is seeing progress, both on the Ile de la Cité and in the workshop.” More than 1,000 people, spread throughout France, are working simultaneously on the revival of the masterpieces of Gothic art that Notre Dame is, including nearly 500 workers, craftsmen, and supervisors who are currently working on the building site, inside the cathedral. Notre Dame also attracted an unprecedented surge of generosity in the history of French philanthropy, with 340,000 donors from 150 countries raising $929 million in donations.

Washington Legislature Advances State Mandatory Reporting Bill that Lacks Confession Exception

OLYMPIA, Wash. (OSV News) — A bill that would require clergy to report child abuse or neglect in Washington state was advanced 75-20 on April 11 by the state’s House, prompting concern from some Catholics who are seeking a clergy-penitent exemption to protect the seal of the confessional. Bishops in the state have expressed concern that the House’s version of the bill could force priests to violate the civil law in order to uphold Church law regarding the seal of confession. Mario Villanueva, Executive Director of the Washington State Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the state’s Catholic bishops, told OSV News he is asking lawmakers to consider “what our confession is.” “It’s one-on-one, it’s private, it’s part of our worship, it’s liturgy,” he said. The original Senate version of the bill had passed unanimously in that chamber — would make clergy mandatory reporters, but it contained an exemption for what the bill’s sponsor described as “clergy-penitent privilege, referred to as confession in some faith communities.” The Senate and the House must iron out differences in the bills before it advances to the governor’s desk for signing into law.

Transgender Interventions Pose Serious Medical Consequences for Minors, says Surgeon

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (OSV News) — A former Navy surgeon with experience in reconstructive surgeries for combat-wounded troops, Deacon Patrick Lappert of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, shared with OSV News his insights on transgender interventions for children. Deacon Lappert, who researches and speaks nationally on this topic, warns that gender reassignment poses grave risks to both body and soul. Insufficient evidence and politicized, rather than scientific, discourse prevent medical professionals from effectively treating children and youth who are “growing up in a very anxious, very disconnected world” in which they are encouraged to believe “their happiness lies in their sexed self, in what they call their gender identity,” said Deacon Lappert. He noted that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have expressed concern that transgender interventions in children based on long-term studies, “Transgenderism and the whole gender ideology business are inhumane, because they separate our souls from our bodies,” he said. “We need to protect our children from this great evil that’s been unleashed into their lives.”
What Is Catholic in Recovery, and What Might a Catholic “In Recovery” Look Like?

BY CATHY M.

As a Catholic, have you ever wondered what it might be like to be a Catholic in the recovery community? I might envision it as a period where time stands still and God asks me to look at what could have been. It’s not an intentionally brutal punishment. The process of cleansing and purifying my soul could begin with a movie reel featuring my unhealthy, free-will choices and the effect they have had on my life and others.

It would then be followed by a binge watching of what God and I might have accomplished together. A life where I hadn’t been so proud, so secretive, so determined to fix everything myself. I would watch episode after episode of a life where I stopped blaming the people in my past or present and intentionally walked with God to become all I was created to be.

My human pride, manifested in all of the unhealthy choices I make outside of God’s will, could be the measure of my sins. But do I have to wait to experience the fullness of life God has designed for me? Catholic in Recovery (CIR) offers us new direction and promises we need never be alone on our journey. In fact, this new journey is exactly what a Catholic “in recovery” looks like.

Addiction can be a puzzling term. Most commonly, it is connected with the perjury of drugs. It is important to note that many other addictions are far more common than we may want to acknowledge. They are often masked by denial, secrecy, or even vincible ignorance. By broader definition, addiction is “an inability to stop using a substance or engaging in a behavior even though it is causing psychological and physical harm.”

Catholic In Recovery is a nonprofit organization less than 10 years old. It seeks to serve those suffering from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Who is welcome? Anyone dealing with alcoholism, drug addiction, codependency and the impact on family, general fear, control, anxiety, pornography addiction, technology addiction, sex and relationship addiction, compulsive overeating and food addictions, gambling addiction, shopping addiction, and more.

If the broader definition of addiction and the above list stir up any awareness or conviction, it is a good thing. In recovery, the 12-step solution always takes us to a far better place. Addiction of any kind will separate us from God in our isolation or strengthen our faith when we ask for help.

John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Catholic In Recovery has found its way to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and we are humbled to witness God’s tender and intentional guidance as it takes root. CIR’s founder, Scott Weeman, started a personal blog entitled Catholic In Recovery in his early years of sobriety. He used it as a means to voice the importance of his 12-step recovery and how he saw it weaving together beautifully with his Catholic faith.

Scott felt the first 3 steps correlated with the Sacrament of Baptism, steps 4-9 with our Sacrament of Reconciliation. Steps 10-12 mirrored the Sacrament of Confirmation and our lifetime call to evangelize and carry the message of Good News. Years later he wrote the book, “The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments, A Catholic Journey Through Recovery.”

Early on, one invitation to speak led Scott to other avenues for spreading the word and as a result, Catholic In Recovery meetings began to spring up across the states. First starting in January of 2017 in San Diego, these meetings now span 25 states and several countries. Virtual meetings of all types are available daily at catholicinrecovery.com.

Perhaps God’s plan is to lovingly reach the many in our Catholic communities who are wounded and scarred by addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Those who have not found a working solution. Good people trading the connection and hope found in the solutions offered by God’s love, the sacraments, and our Catholic faith.

Meetings are a warm and welcoming environment where the strength of our Catholic faith is joined with 12-step principles to enhance the healing process. Fort Wayne has started CIR with General Recovery meetings. They welcome all who may be affected by the struggles mentioned. If anything you’ve read resonates with you, know that you are not alone. CIR offers a place to feel connected without judgment or expectation, connected to a new and indescribable hope.

We would love to meet you and share in your journey of hope. God willing, CIR will continue to expand in our diocese as we share both our struggles and victories with each other. Please keep this ministry in your daily prayers and share this article as the Holy Spirit may prompt.

For further information and endless resources, visit catholicinrecovery.com. For specific questions about CIR in our area, email cirfortwayne@gmail.com.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you in the spirit of>X Joshua Schipper

Happy and Blessed Easter to everyone. As Catholics, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, the crowning truth of our faith, not only for one day, Easter Sunday, but for eight days in the form of the Octave of Easter. It’s a joyful time for us to celebrate this luncheon in which we honor our teachers, principals, and benefactors—today, Easter Thursday. Congratulations to all our award recipients! My personal thanks to all of you for your commitment to the noble and holy task of Catholic education.

This occasion is also an opportunity to express our gratitude to Dr. Joe Brettnacher on his upcoming retirement. Dr. Joe—we thank you for being such a great leader of our Catholic schools, for your untiring work to promote the Catholic mission of our schools, and for your faithful and devoted service to our diocese as superintendent of schools. Your educational expertise, your positive spirit of servant leadership, your assistance to our principals, and your faithful witness to Christ, have been a blessing to us, our community, and our diocese. We will miss you. Our deepest thanks and our prayers as you prepare for retirement! (And if you get bored in retirement, you'll be first on the list when we have a principal opening!).

I am also very grateful to David Maugel for accepting the offer to become our new superintendent of schools, and to Jeff Kiefer and the staff of our Catholic Schools Office for their excellent service to our 43 Catholic schools. We are truly blessed to have such a competent, hard-working, and committed team serving our diocese and our mission of Catholic education.

Many thanks also to Dan Fitzpatrick, the Fitzpatrick family, and Quality Dining for providing this luncheon for us every year. Your generosity to our Catholic schools in this and many other ways is greatly appreciated. We all miss Deacon Jim and pray that he is with the Lord in the eternal glory of heaven. He was always such a wonderful presence at these luncheons. These occasions led me to not only remember Deacon Jim in my thoughts, but also in my prayers. So please join me in a brief prayer for Deacon Jim: “Eternal rest...”.

You may have read or heard about the wonderful book by Msgr. James Shea entitled “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission.” The Preface begins with a brief quote from Pope Francis to the Roman Curia some years ago: “Brothers and sisters, Christendom no longer exists.” Back in 1974, Archbishop Fulton Sheen said at a conference: “We are at the end of Christendom. Not of Christianity, not of the Church, but of Christendom. Now what is meant by Christendom? Christendom is economic, political, and social life inspired by Christian principles. That is ending — we’ve seen it die.” But Archbishop Sheen was not a pessimist. He went on to say: “These are great and wonderful days in which to be alive... It is not a gloomy picture — it is a picture of the Church in the midst of increasing opposition from the world. And therefore, live your lives in the full consciousnesst of this hour of testing, and rally close to the heart of Christ.” Archbishop Sheen said these words 39 years ago and they are certainly even more relevant today. In the book “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission,” Msgr. Shea describes the shift from a culture that was largely defined by Christianity to a new Apostolic Age, in which we must go forth like the original Apostles and make our case to a broader community of nonbelievers. What does this mean for our Catholic institutions to move from Christendom to Apostolic Mission? It means we need to have an evangelizing focus in our institutions, including our schools. Our schools should be engines of evangelization. This is happening in many of the schools of our diocese, evident in the number of Catholic school students and families who entered into full communion in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil last Saturday night. And next Tuesday, I will be baptizing six students at Saint Joseph High School and receiving one student into full communion in the Catholic Church.

Evangelization is at the heart of the mission of our schools — transmitting a living and vibrant Catholic faith to our students. As you may know, one of my priorities as bishop regarding our schools is working to ensure that a Catholic worldview informs academic instruction in every subject area. Our mission cannot and must not be reduced to a daily religion or theology class or even just a Catholic ethos in the school. We need Catholic Academic Integration, what some involved in the renewal of Catholic education in our country call “curriculum permeation.” In the midst of today’s cultural challenges, we need to cultivate a consistent and coherent Catholic worldview in ourselves and in our students. This includes education in Christian anthropology. This is fundamental to our mission in the face of our culture’s drift into serious errors about the nature of the human person, marriage, gender, and sexuality.

Goal-setting is an important part of strategic planning. Our goals in Catholic education are not merely temporal, but eternal. We aim to cultivate our students’ relationship with God. We seek to form them as disciples of Jesus Christ who put loving God and one another first in their lives. We prepare them to be successful in the world, but not always in the ways that the world measures success. We teach them to worship God, not the idols of this world. How do we measure success in accomplishing these goals? In the areas of academic performance, of course, there are various means — exams, standardized tests, etc. We can measure success in athletics and other activities by performance. But ultimately, I measure the success of our schools in another way. The question I ask is: are we graduating young men and women of virtue and good character? There’s a new book just published by OSV entitled “Educating for Eternity” by Dr. Brett Salkeld, a Catholic educational leader in Canada. He describes Catholic school success according to what our graduates become. He writes: “A Catholic education has succeeded in the patient and gentle parent, the faithful spouse, the generous neighbor, the just employer, the honest politician, the person who can be free in difficult relationships because they know their own value and dignity. A Catholic education has failed in the case of the person with all the trappings of worldly success whose inner life is a desert, whose relationships are...”

Thank you for being part of this wonderful event. We will miss Deacon Jim, and we will continue to honor and remember his service and his sacrifice. We pray that he will rest in peace. May God bless you all, and may the Lord give you a joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ,

[Signature]

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Catholic Educators Gather to Honor Excellence

The following message was delivered by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the You Can Lend A Hand Luncheon on Thursday, Apr. 13, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne:

Happy and Blessed Easter to everyone. As Catholics, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, the crowning truth of our faith, not only for one day, Easter Sunday, but for eight days in the form of the Octave of Easter. It’s a joyful time for us to celebrate this luncheon in which we honor our teachers, principals, and benefactors—today, Easter Thursday. Congratulations to all our award recipients! My personal thanks to all of you for your commitment to the noble and holy task of Catholic education.

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Goal-setting is an important part of strategic planning. Our goals in Catholic education are not merely temporal, but eternal. We aim to cultivate our students’ relationship with God. We seek to form them as disciples of Jesus Christ who put loving God and one another first in their lives. We prepare them to be successful in the world, but not always in the ways that the world measures success. We teach them to worship God, not the idols of this world. How do we measure success in accomplishing these goals? In the areas of academic performance, of course, there are various means — exams, standardized tests, etc. We can measure success in athletics and other activities by performance. But ultimately, I measure the success of our schools in another way. The question I ask is: are we graduating young men and women of virtue and good character? There’s a new book just published by OSV entitled “Educating for Eternity” by Dr. Brett Salkeld, a Catholic educational leader in Canada. He describes Catholic school success according to what our graduates become. He writes: “A Catholic education has succeeded in the patient and gentle parent, the faithful spouse, the generous neighbor, the just employer, the honest politician, the person who can be free in difficult relationships because they know their own value and dignity. A Catholic education has failed in the case of the person with all the trappings of worldly success whose inner life is a desert, whose relationships are...”

Thank you for being part of this wonderful event. We will miss Deacon Jim, and we will continue to honor and remember his service and his sacrifice. We pray that he will rest in peace. May God bless you all, and may the Lord give you a joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ,

[Signature]
April 23, 2023

Catholic education is fundamentally an education for truth and freedom. The Church teaches that in Catholic schools, students should encounter Jesus and His love. They should encounter the faith in all its beauty and intellectual richness and also learn and embrace the radical demands of the Gospel. It gives me much joy when I see this happening in our schools. It gives me even greater joy when I see our graduates living the truths and values of our faith, living good and happy lives, bearing witness to Christ in our post-Christian culture, and attracting others to the faith. They live as apostles on a mission, the mission they absorbed and experienced in our schools. Of course, this only happens when we have teachers and administrators in our schools who have embraced that mission, like those we have honored today.

Thank you all for your attention and thank you for all you do to support our Catholic schools!

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

Students from St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, provided choral accompaniment during the You Can Lend a Hand Luncheon.

Above, Matthew Tsuieff received the Monsignor J. Lester Award which honors commendable individuals who serve Catholic schools and the diocese. Below, Vanessa Diller, principal at St. Louis Academy, received the Saint Mother Théodore Guérin Award given to an administrator of one of the Catholic schools of the diocese at the You Can Lend A Hand Luncheon.
Bishop Confirms 52 at Cathedral in Fort Wayne

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

“You are called to be saints!” With great enthusiasm, Bishop Rhoades implored a message of authentic Christian discipleship to 52 Confirmation candidates from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Queen of Angels, St. Peter, and St. Joseph, in Fort Wayne on Thursday, April 13.

In his homily at this Confirmation Mass, Bishop Rhoades recounted the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, who encountered the risen Jesus but did not recognize Him until the “breaking of the bread.” He also highlighted Jesus’ subsequent appearance to the disciples, appearing to them when they were hiding in the Upper Room and saying with compassion, “Peace be with you.”

Bishop Rhoades explained that Jesus longs to give us gifts, most fundamentally the gift of Himself in the Eucharist, which He gives to the disciples at the Last Supper as a way of remaining with Him. When He comes to them after the Resurrection, He gives them the gift of His peace, seeking to free them from anxiety and fear, especially about the fear of death.

Speaking about the day’s Gospel, Bishop Rhoades said, “When Jesus came into the Upper Room, the apostles were afraid. Jesus beckoned them to touch Him, to see that He was not a ghost, that He was truly alive, even asking for a piece of fish to eat before them. He encourages them not to be afraid or to live in fear, because He has overcome even death.”

He continued, “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the most amazing event in human history. From the perspective of physics, it is the elevation of matter to a way of existing beyond what is possible in the normal state of the universe. It doesn’t go against physics. It just goes beyond it. Similarly, from a biological perspective, Pope Benedict XVI said that ‘the Resurrection of Jesus was an evolutionary leap.’ We are talking about a new way of existing that goes beyond even death. On Easter Sunday morning, it was the death of death, the power of life and love over sin. We are able to share in this life that goes beyond death through the Sacraments. Jesus told His apostles, ‘I send the promise of My Father upon you, to clothe you with power from on high,’ to go forth and preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins in His Name to all nations.”

Bishop Rhoades emphasized that the disciples’ trust and openness to God prepared them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He stressed, “You are united to Christ already by your baptism, now you are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Christ by the way you live, by living your faith with conviction like the saints!”

Conversing with the students and asking them questions, Bishop Rhoades saw that many of those before him would soon be taking paternal names of saints who had died as Christian martyrs. He shared that the courage to lay down one’s life for the faith would only be possible with a deep trust in the goodness of God. Such trust allowed these saints to overcome anxiety, even anxiety about death, through their confidence in Christ.

One such example that Bishop Rhoades expounded upon was St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old boy who was threatened for his Christian faith but remained firm in his conviction that “Jesus Christ is King!” This led to brutal persecution, suffering, and death. The example and witness of the saints, especially those who revealed tremendous love for God at a similar age as these young students, shows that such love for God is possible with openness to faith.

He concluded, “You might not become martyrs, but you may have to face serious criticism and opposition as disciples of Christ. You will be tempted to do things that you know are wrong, but you can call upon the Holy Spirit for strength, to endure being ridiculed or even rejected for not doing things that you know are contrary to God’s will. All the saints were human, like us. What made them so great was that they opened themselves to the power of the Holy Spirit. They prayed and had a close relationship with God, they received the Eucharist — many of them every day! They loved and served others. That’s why I am confirming you tonight, so that you will have the gift of the Holy Spirit within you. My prayer for everyone one of you is that you will become saints.”

Following Mass, Bishop Rhoades expressed his gratitude to all the parents, sponsors, teachers, and religious educators who helped prepare and walk with these students on their spiritual journey. He also commended the students themselves for their willingness to be receptive to God’s grace and their commitment to following Him in love.

With hands extended, Bishop Rhoades invites the Holy Spirit upon those about to be confirmed, asking that the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence (piety), and wonder and awe be bestowed upon them.

Manuel Hernandez receives the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on April 13. Hernandez, an 8th-grade student, chose the Confirmation name St. Jose Sanchez del Rio and spoke with Bishop about the saint’s life and martyrdom during the homily.
WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — The U.S. bishops are calling on Catholics to contact their representatives in Congress and urge them to vote for a bill that would protect women and girls’ opportunities in sports by requiring federally funded female sports programs “to be reserved for biological females.”

The USCCB said that by passing the measure (S. 613/HR 734), “Congress would not deny such youth the ability to play sports, but would simply be protecting women and girls and preserving their hard-won opportunities.”

The proposed Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, “would promote fairness and safety for women and girls by ensuring female athletes can compete on a safe and level playing field with other females.”

The measure sponsored by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., and Rep. Greg Steube, R-Fla., would make it a federal crime under Title IX for anyone who receives federal funds and operates, sponsors, or facilitates athletic programs to allow biological males to compete in athletic programs that are designated for women or girls.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex-based discrimination in any educational program — including college athletics — that is federally funded, either directly or indirectly.

In a March 5 letter to Tuberville and Steube, the chairmen of the USCCB family life and youth and education committees wrote in support of the bill.

Citing church teaching on the equality of men and women, Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, Chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, and Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Washington, Chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education, said, “We reaffirm that, in education and in sports, we must seek to avoid anything that undermines human dignity, including denial of a person’s body which is genetically and biologically female or male, or unequal treatment between women and men.”

The USCCB chairmen called Title IX “a needed landmark to establish equal educational opportunities for women and girls. H.R. 734 and S. 613 would help ensure the continued viability of Title IX.”

“Equality treatment between women and men has particular relevance in athletics, where male competition in activities designated for women and girls can be both unfair and, especially in high-contact sports, unsafe,” the bishops wrote. “In general, males possess distinct physical advantages in a number of sports, and this is already playing out in athletic events worldwide.”

At least 20 states have passed laws banning athletes who identify as transgender from competing on teams that are the opposite of their biological sex. In response, the Biden administration on April 6 proposed a new federal rule change that would allow for schools to enforce some restrictions on student athletes who identify as transgender, but states that policies violate Title IX “when they categorically ban transgender students from participating on sports teams consistent with their gender identity just because of who they are,” according to a public notice from the U.S. Department of Education.

The rule was published in the Federal Register on April 15, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

The bishops noted that challenges to sports based on gender “are increasingly common as, sadly, the number of persons experiencing gender identity discordance rises steeply, especially among adolescents.”

Young people “who experience gender identity discordance should be assured of ‘their right to participate in, or try-out for, student athletics on the same terms as their peers … in coeducational activities, or where the sexes are separated, in accord with their biological sex.”

Bishops Barron and Daly said that harassment or unjust discrimination of these young people “is unequivocally wrong.” They said “a loving response which affirms the value of all persons as fellow human beings helps those who experience gender identity discordance to attain peace with their mind and body, rather than facilitating drastic ‘transitions’ in pursuit of an identity fully independent of their physical body.”

NOTES: The full text of the USCCB committee chairmen’s letter can be found online at usccb.org/resources/USCCB_Letter_Protection_of_Women_and_Girls_in_Sports_2023.pdf. The U.S. Department of Education’s proposed rule can be found on the Federal Register website at bit.ly/3KYqAaA.
Seven Awesome Songs to Sing this Easter Season

“A leve! Jesus is Risen!”

This traditional hymn (mentioned above), written by Herbert Brokering and set to the tune of “Easter Stars,” is a mainstay during Easter at our parish, and every year I forget how much I love it. And I wonder why my daughter wants to sing out the chorus and proclaim Christ risen!

“Hallelujah” chorus from Handel’s “Messiah.” We can’t do without this classic that is so iconic that it practically cannot be the Easter season without it. My favorite verse is the third, bringing us directly from the passion of Good Friday into the joy of Easter: “But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia! Now above the sky He reigns, Alleluia! He is Risen! Alleluia!”

“Resurrection Day” by Matt Maher. OK, so this song doesn’t actually have an “Alleluia” in it, but anyone who’s read my column for any Alleluias in it either, but it is such an Easter favorite.

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)” is covered by the Daughters of St. Paul. Fine, I love it. I understand why my daughter wants to sing out the refrain Easter morning with the kids in the room. The kids think this song was written for them. It’s magical and makes me feel like I’m a kid again. Elsa singing “Let It Go.”

“Lett it Go” by the Frozen soundtrack. I love it. I love it. I love it. I love it. Elsa singing “Let It Go.”

It was adorable and panic-inducing at the same time. We were on Verse 1, I thought. How enthusiastic will she be by the time we get to Verse 4? To say Anne was pumped for Easter would be an understatement. Of course, she was excited for the day, the Easter basket, the egg hunts, and the height in which she wants at whatever time she wants.

So, to celebrate Easter, and our renewed ability to be able to shout our praise to God at the top of our lungs, we put together an “Alleluia! He is Risen!” playlist. It includes songs you are also rejoicing in your Alleluias this Easter season, some of these tracks that have a special place in our Easter season might be of interest to you.

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

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“Hallelujah” chorus from Handel’s “Messiah.” We can’t do without this classic that is sometimes more associated with Christmas than Easter, and which is chock full of the A-word (or technically the H-word in this case). There is a lot of mumbling during the majority of the song, but conducting the Hallelujahs are sold. “For the Lord omnipotent reigneth!”

“As one of the beloved Michael W. Smith. This gradually building version starts with Alleluias that feel like they are full of the very essence of the Resurrection. “Alleluia, Alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns!” Full disclosure: you can’t hear your name, we shout your name, we celebrate your Resurrection Day!” lyrics make it so full of Easter joy that it’s a must-listen version every year.

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Sciences Teach as Jesus Did

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Easter

A gain, as is usual for weekends of the Easter season, the readings for the service provide the first reading for the Liturgy of the Word. This reading recalls an event like several others in Acts. Peter, preaching, in the name of all the eleven surviving Apostles, his remarks, or at least those recorded in this passage, were brief and crisp.

The term used by biblical scholars is that Peter’s statement of kerygma, the Greek word for “message.” It means that Peter’s words contained the basic information about Jesus and about God’s plan of salvation. Despite the small number of Christians at the time, and despite the facts that the Jewish culture and the effects of Roman domination were overwhelming, the Apostles still were determined to speak aloud about Jesus.

Their determination revealed their trust and faith in Jesus, as Savior and as Son of God. The world desperately needed Jesus. Only Jesus could fill what the world, still today, needs. Remembering last weekend’s first reading, we described both the early Christian community’s love for the Lord and its outreach to the troubled and needy, this reading shows that the first followers of Christ saw informing others about the Redeemer as a loving service. For Peter, whether here or elsewhere in Acts, even though the other Apostles were present, Peter, and Peter alone, spoke on their behalf.

The First Epistle of Peter supplies the next reading. Scholars debate the authorship of this epistle. Was Peter the author, or was someone writing in Peter’s name the author, or was the author presenting ideas that had come from Peter? In any case, the reading shows how totally committed Jesus to the Savior the early Christians were, and how aware they were that salvation had come through the Lord’s death and resurrection.

The last reading, from Luke’s Gospel is the powerful and loving story of the risen Lord’s walk to Emmaus with two disciples. The Emmaus narrative appears only in Luke. It is one of the most renowned, beloved, and beloved, pieces in the New Testament.

Important in its message is the fact that, regardless of their devotion to Jesus, the disciples still do not understand everything. They are limited human beings, bewildered by the events of the Lord’s death and resurrection. They need Jesus to understand the deep meaning and purpose of all that they had seen.

The Emmaus narrative shows that Christ’s resurrection is not only for those who see it directly from the passion of Jesus, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me” (Jn 17:20-23). Jesus prayed that His disciples would be united. But are we?

Very little is new in Church.

Revelation

Beginning with the Scripture readings for Easter itself, and continuing this weekend, the Church expresses to us forcefully and clearly its unshakable belief that after crucifixion and death, the Lord Jesus rose to new life.

With equal vigor, and equally strong faith, it also insists to us that Jesus did not rise and then disappear. Instead, the Lord was alive and active, showing to Thomas the wounds and blessing those who believe. He was alive, present, and still teaching during the trip to Emmaus. The Lord at Emmaus was the culmination of the two disciples’ time with Jesus.

The use of the technique of kerygma gives us the basic facts of the Lord’s identity and mission. The experience of the Apostles shows us that they literally knew the Risen Christ. We turn to them to know Jesus ourselves.

Knowing Jesus is more than possessing data. It confronts us with the obligation to follow Jesus as we know Jesus.

By our discipleship, extend Christ to those whom we meet.

READINGS


Monday: Acts 7:1-7 Ps 67:1-2, 4-7 1 Th 5:18-22

Tuesday: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 41:2-6, 13-15 1 Th 5:18-22

Wednesday: Acts 8:14-17 Ps 66:5-6, 13-14, 19-20 2 Th 1:11-20

Thursday: Acts 9:1-19 Ps 70:1-2, 4-5 2 Th 1:11-20


Holding the Line on Brain Death

How do we determine that someone has died? The Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA), which has been an important part of the medical and legal landscape in the U.S. for more than 40 years, states:

“An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards.”

The UDDA, originally drafted in 1981 by a special Presidential Commission, was designed to serve as a legal standard and a uniform framework for determining when someone has died, as well as to provide a clear legal foundation for declaring someone dead by means of “neurological criteria,” also known as “brain death.”

Since that time, the UDDA has had an important benchmark for the medical profession, and a point of reference for legislative standards adopted throughout the United States, with all 50 states relying on language borrowed from the UDDA in their legal definitions of death.

Clearly defining and ascertaining when someone has died is important for a number of reasons: grieving can begin; burial arrangements can be made; and organ procurement can take place if the person had indicated a desire to become a donor. Most importantly, establishing that someone has not yet passed on helps us provide appropriate care and medical treatments until the time of death.

Recently, a group of physicians, ethicists, and lawyers recommended revising the wording of the UDDA. Their proposal adjusts the definition of brain death from whole-brain death to less-than-whole-brain death.

Whenever brain death assessments are done today, physicians carry out a series of bedside clinical tests. They check whether the patient can gasp or initiate a breath when taken off the ventilator (known as an “apnea test”).

Any attempt at taking a breath would indicate that the person’s brainstem is still functioning, and that he or she is still alive. Physicians also check for other reflexes and responses mediated by the brain. Do pupils of the eye respond to light? Is there any reaction to, or withdrawal from painful stimuli? Is there any gag reflex when an object is placed in the back of the throat? If such reflexes are present, the individual is still alive.

For somebody to be deceased, then, there needs to be evidence of a catastrophic neurological event that has caused chiefly, some become irreversibly non-functional. One type of brain function that is not routinely assessed by doctors for determining brain death testing involves the hypothalamus. This important region of the brain coordinates the pituitary gland to enable the secretion of hormones and small molecules that regulate the function of the kidneys and other organs, and helps control salt and water balance in the body. Sometimes a person can pass all the tests for being brain dead, but still have hypothalamic function.

If a patient has continuing hypothalamic function in this way, it seems clear that he or she does not manifest “irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain” as delineated in the UDDA. Repetitively, individuals who are continued hypothalamic functioning have survived for months or years on a ventilator after losing both their brain-mediated reflexes and their ability to breathe. Even though these patients suffer an extremely severe central nervous system injury, they are clearly still alive.

Even to be “slightly alive” is still to be alive. If the wording of the UDDA ends up being changed to allow for a declaration of brain death even with continued hypothalamic functioning, individuals who are not quite-dead will be treated as if they were already dead.

Rather than revising the language of the UDDA and seeking to lose the standards for declaring brain death, the battery of routine reflex and apnea tests used for ascertaining brain death needs to be expanded to include tests that can verify the loss of hypothalamic function.

Such improvements in testing will help ensure that people are not declared deceased prematurely. It will also help strengthen public confidence in the life-saving work of organ transplantation.

Moreover, some brain-injured individuals who have retained hypothalamic functioning have survived for many years, states:

“If a patient has continuing hypothalamic function in this way, it seems clear that he or she does not manifest “irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain” as delineated in the UDDA. Repetitively, individuals who are continued hypothalamic functioning have survived for months or years on a ventilator after losing both their brain-mediated reflexes and their ability to breathe. Even though these patients suffer an extremely severe central nervous system injury, they are clearly still alive.

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CROWE, from page 12

in our home that I can’t leave it off the list. The lyrics take the listener on a journey from the incarnation through the passion and resurrection, and finally to the promise of the Second Coming. Coming through not to be filled with joy while listening. “Living, He loved me; Dying. He saved me; Buried, He carried my sins far away. Rising, He justified freely forever; One day He’s coming; Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.”

“This Is the Feast of Victory.” Finally, this Lutheran hymn is based on Revelation 5 and is framed with triumph and a boatload of Alleluias — that make it a delight to sing. “Power, riches, and wisdom and strong, and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Indeed, it is. May your Easter season continue to be filled with enthusiastic praise to God. Alleluia!

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

Gretchen R. Crowe is Editor-In-Chief of OSV News.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 23, 2023


Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A: The road to Emmaus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SEVEN MILES
T HEIR EYES
P EOPLE
A VISION
F OOLISH
S TAY W ITH U S
H EARTS
E LEVEN
B ROKE IT
S IMON
E M M A U S V I S I T
N N K W L B R O K E I T
E O J T H E I R E Y E S
V M I F O O L I S H F S
E I E S J O S B P E L T
L S V U I R T O A N P A
E D I J H V R E K T J Y
M C L E O P A S G D W
M N A N E D N S R K I
A A D O I S H U G T O T
U I P V O I S R A E L H
S L D M O R N I N G L U
E R S E V E N M I L E S

HEINLEIN, from page 12

history, but there are some features to ecclesial life today that haven’t been experienced for some time. Church teaching is openly questioned. Bishops publicly argue with bishops. Catholics enter into uncharitable disputes (to put it mildly) on social media. We can’t even agree on Eucharistic practice. Most days, the Church can look more like a debating society than the living Body of Christ. How can we convince the world to believe in Christ when we can’t get our act together and show the world a better way?

The task before us in reviving our Eucharistic faith is multifaceted. Yes, we need greater reverence and wider worship of our Lord in the Eucharist, but — as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in “Deus Caritas Est” — “A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented.”

“The Body of Christ” the minister says as we receive the Eucharist. This means we receive the whole Body of Christ. We are one body in Christ, right?

“Amen,” we respond, agreeing to treasure all those who receive the Lord’s body, recommitting ourselves to Christ’s last hope at His last supper.

Perhaps a fruit of our Eucharistic revival will be a reinvigoration of our desire to foster ecclesial communion. It’s the Eucharist itself that establishes and reinforces the communion of believers. The Eucharist is the tie that binds. The Eucharist is also our model and blueprint for achieving it. Christ prayed for unity among us, and He showed us how to achieve it through sacrifice and charity.

Our reception of the Eucharist should mean we do not impose upon Christ an image of who we want Him to be; we accept Him for who He really is. And that means we accept each other, help each other and love each other — and truly work toward the advancement of the kingdom of God through lives of sacrifice and charity. The life of the world depends upon this Eucharistic living.

Michael R. Heinlein is Author of “Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.” and currently in formation for the Association of Pauline Cooperators.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis confirmed he will travel to Mongolia in September, becoming the first pope to visit the Asian nation, which is home to a cardinal and some 1,300 Catholics. In an audience on April 14 with executives and staff of ITA Airways, the Italian government-owned airline that flies him on his trips abroad, during an audience at the Vatican on Friday, April 14.

February, the pope told journalists there was a “possibility that from Marseille I will fly to Mongolia.” To the airline workers, Pope Francis said that “God willing” he will leave for his 41st apostolic trip, traveling to Hungary in late April and Marseille, France, in September. During an airborne news conference on his return flight from South Sudan in

**Pinwheels on Display Represent Children’s Innocence, Safe Childhood They Deserve**

BY MOIRA CULLINGS

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (OSV News) — It’s a simple child’s toy—a wheel of plastic curls connected to a small blue stick. But each blue pinwheel that lined the lawn outside the Catholic Church offices in Kansas City on April 3 held a mighty meaning.

“The blue pinwheel is a national symbol for child abuse prevention, which represents childhood hope and happiness,” said Sandy Vielhauer, Protection Compliance Administrator for the archdiocese’s Office for Protection and Care. The office planted the pinwheels on the chancery lawn in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed every April. The pinwheels, which are the national symbol for child abuse prevention, were set up by the Archdiocese of Kansas City’s Office for Protection and Care.

This month reminds us how important it is to keep our resolve to prevent abuse and to respond to abuse with care, dedication, and respect.”

JENIFER VALENTI

An April 3, 2023, display of blue pinwheels on the Catholic Church offices lawn in Kansas City, Kansas, honors National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed every April. The pinwheels, which are the national symbol for child abuse prevention, were set up by the Archdiocese of Kansas City’s Office for Protection and Care.

“Everyone can make a difference simply by being aware and being a part of the efforts throughout the year. "The more people are aware of warning signs and steps to be taken when someone poses a threat to children, the stronger our safety net becomes. Both Valenti and Vielhauer emphasized how vital it is to raise awareness about abuse. "Statistics show that in communities where they talk about and are aware of sexual abuse prevention, there is a lower incidence rate," said Vielhauer. Valenti also stressed the essential role survivors who have stepped forward to share their stories have played in the archdiocese’s efforts to prevent future abuse.

“Survivors often advocate for strengthening our prevention efforts because they don’t want anyone else to suffer as they have,” she said. “We have learned so much about prevention from the brave survivors who have shared their experience with us. "This month reminds us how important it is to keep our resolve to prevent abuse and to respond to abuse with care, dedication, and respect.”

Moira Cullings is on the staff of The Leaven, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City.
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.

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 Fish Fry on Friday, April 21, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Huntington Catholic gymnasium, 903 N. Jefferson St. Dine in or carry out. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children age 6-12, and children 5 and younger, free. A bake sale, homemade desserts, and 50/50 raffle will also be offered. Contact Mary Till at 260-385-4571 or mandmt818@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, visit christchildsb.org for information.

Sacred Music Concert
GRANGER — As part of the Eucharistic Revival, St. Pius X Parish, 525 S Fir Rd., will host a Sacred Music Concert on Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m. Classical sacred music centered on devotion to the Holy Eucharist, with polyphony and harmony, will be performed. No cost, but registration is required to reserve a seat. Visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist for information.

Good News! Nights: Sharing Jesus
FORT WAYNE — Good News! Nights will be hosted at parishes around the diocese. Each event includes an explanation of what evangelization is and what it means to be a Eucharistic Missionary. Visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-events for more information.

World Apostolate of Fatima/Blue Army Quarterly Mass
CHURUBUSCO — The World Apostolate of Fatima will have a quarterly Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, at St. John Bosco Church, 220 N Main St. Attend for the Mass, rosary, and benediction with a reception following. Contact Seth Ball at 260-494-6444 or seth@fatimafwsb.org for information.

Beloved Daughters: A Retreat for Young Women
NOTRE DAME — Beloved Daughters: A Retreat for Young Women. Young women ages 16-22 are invited to a day retreat at the University of Notre Dame’s Sacred Heart Parish Center on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come experience the joy of searching for holiness with other young women and discover God’s invitation for your life. Visit diocesefwsb.org/beloved for information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Deadline for Applications - May 1, 2023

Necessary qualifications include:

Strong and Proven Commitment to Catholic Identity
Indiana School Administrator’s License
Five Years Catholic School Administrative Experience - Principal or Assistant
Ability to Organize Effectively
Ability and Desire to Assist Principals and Administrators
Ability to Plan, Implement, and Evaluate Curriculum and Instruction
Ability to Analyze and Interpret Assessment Data

Apply online at diocesefwsb.org/careers.

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kderose@diocesefwsb.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Jason Garrett’s hiring was questioned by some, who stepped up with his new team captains to support his new coach, which Garrett said smoothed his transition and firmed their relationship.

“Those guys embraced me,” said Garrett. “They rallied around me, and the front person of that was Joe Fabini, who was a thousand percent behind my staff, and everyone else followed that. He offered me his trust, whether I had earned it or not, he freely gave it.”

“Being a private Catholic school, I think that makes a difference,” said Joe John, who believed Dwenger’s Catholic identity helped Joe live out his faith. “I’ve always been a big supporter of Catholic schools, because they add all that extra stuff to support your faith and family life. I think that’s important with young kids growing up.

Tabbed as a four-star recruit and described by Garrett as “the primary piece of that team,” Joe didn’t let his stature affect the way he treated those around him. Garrett loves telling the story of a freshman team manager who was new to the school and always sat by himself at lunch. One day, while Garrett was meeting with the managers, this young man spoke up.

“All of a sudden, he stands up and says, ‘Coach, you know who the nicest guy on the team is? Joe Tippmann. Coach, I don’t know anybody here, and I get made fun of all the time. The other day, Joe eats with me at the lunch table — and now everybody’s sitting with me at lunch!’” Garrett recounted with a laugh. “When you’re that kind of player, you’re also your best leader and one of your nicest guys, then you’ve got something special.”

Garrett also pointed to couple key moments during the Saints’ state title run in 2018 that illustrated the depth of Joe’s character. Traditionally, halftime of a rainy sectional championship at Wayne, Joe approached Garrett to ask if he and the other captains could address the team. Garrett relinquished this duty to Joe, who helped rally the Saints to victory. Two weeks later in the state championship game, Garrett tasked Joe with playing both ways on the line in order to stop Mishawaka’s potent rushing attack. He had been “down in the mud, diving at ankles all night,” and helped hold the Cavemen to six points below their season average. The following week, with the state championship on the line, Garrett knew exactly what to do.

“The last play of the season, 01 on the header, ‘Run the ball behind Joe. Put the ball in T.J. [Tippmann]’s hands and run behind Joe.’ All year, when we needed a yard, we knew where we were going. If you’re going to beat us, you’re going to have to beat our best player.”

Joe capped off his senior season by receiving the Indiana Mr. Football honor among offensive linemen. Several years after his graduation, Garrett and Fabini still point to Joe’s example when addressing current players about doing things the right way.

“We definitely use him,” said Fabini. “It makes kids realize, ‘He went from St. Charles to Bishop Dwenger, to Wisconsin, and now to the NFL — why can’t I?’”

From a High School Boy to a Man

When Joe stepped into campus at the University of Wisconsin, he realized the role that Catholic schooling had played on his spiritual formation, as well as the responsibility that now fell on him.

“I couldn’t really see that impact until I got to college, going from Catholic schooling my entire life to a public university — from where everything is intertwined, to where everything is separated. But this is kind of when all the stuff from high school and grade school that I learned and that had been instilled, now I had to do that on my own changes.

Fortunately, one of Joe’s roommates was also Catholic, so they would often go Mass together. He also benefited from constant spiritual reminders from Garrett, mostly via text messaging. “He would randomly text Joe or call him and say, ‘Hope you’re having a great day. I’m praying for you, hope you’re going well.’ He was that kind of person to come to me and say, ‘I want to know how you’re doing. I want to hear from you to keep me informed.’”

That effort helped Joe see the field in two games as a redshirt freshman in 2012. The following fall, coaches asked Joe to switch from tackle to starting center, a position he held for 23 games through his sophomore and junior seasons. Joe was named All-Big Ten Honorable Mention both years, only allowing a single sack as a junior. The constant for Joe through coaching changes and roster turnover was his Catholic faith and, in particular, his devotion to the patron saint of athletes, St. Sebastian.

“We learned the St. Sebastian prayer and prayed it every Friday before games in high school,” said Joe. “It’s just someone I’ve always held close to my heart. My grandma, as I graduated high school, gave me a St. Sebastian medal that I’ve worn every day since. Before every game, I’m able to sit there, put my head down, and pray the prayer to St. Sebastian. It’s something that’s always been able to calm me down. I probably pray it 15 times before each game.”

Still the Same Big Joe

At 6-foot-6 and 313 pounds, Joe is a tantalizing prospect to NFL scouts. His combination of size, mobility, and explosiveness — as well as the versatility to play either center or guard — is uncommon, even at the professional level. Projected as a second-to-third round selection, Joe has spent the last few weeks flying all across the country to meet with NFL coaches. Although he’s received glowing reviews on his physical traits, football knowledge, and personality, Joe isn’t one to sing his own praises.

“I definitely do not enjoy it,” Joe said of promoting himself. “Especially with my parents, they raised me to be humble, so to go sit down and tell teams why they should draft me — it’s definitely an uncomfortable situation.”

“Coach Fabini has always been a great mentor,” said Joe. “He’s someone I always look to for advice, and having his support has really helped me along the way.”

Of course, Joe is the first to tell you that no one has supported him more than his own family. Regardless of what NFL team selects Joe, his parents and six siblings will travel to see him play as much as possible. Joe will be home to watch the draft unfold April 27-29 surrounded by those who loves most.

“I didn’t do this on my own,” said Joe. “The level of support I get from my parents, from my siblings — I didn’t have a single game at Wisconsin where a member of my family wasn’t there. Being able to sit down on draft night and enjoy time with them will be a magical moment for me.”