

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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From the Diocese to the Draft

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 glamor of a pro football career, Joe remains the same person, anchored by his Catholic faith and an endless supply of humility.

He Was Unstoppable

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



Provided by John and Kim Tippmann

Joe Tippmann poses with his mother, Kim, and father, John, on a visit to the University of Wisconsin.

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 offseason 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 Borromeo in Fort Wayne.

"Sam was a guy who was able to show me a love for football at a young age," said Joe.

"He was always one of my biggest supporters besides my parents. Nobody glorifies offensive linemen, but that's what Coach Talarico was doing. I thank him for that."

As soon as Joe stepped onto the field, Talarico knew he had a rare talent on his hands.

"In 7th grade, you could see how special Joe was from an athleticism standpoint," said Talarico. "He moved very well for his size, and he was always very smart. In 8th grade, he was unstoppable. Joe frequently took it down a notch or two in practice because he didn't want to hurt a younger or smaller kid. But in 8th grade, there was no other grade school lineman that could deal with his size and athleticism."

Joe 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."

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 in his head 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 possibility."

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 was known to routinely plant defenders firmly on their back before sticking out his hand to help them back up to their feet — a move that Joe agreed summed up his approach to the game. "Between the whistles, I'm going to do everything I can to impose my will on this person," explained Joe. "And when the whistle blows, I'll help you up."

When Svarczkopf retired after Joe's junior season and

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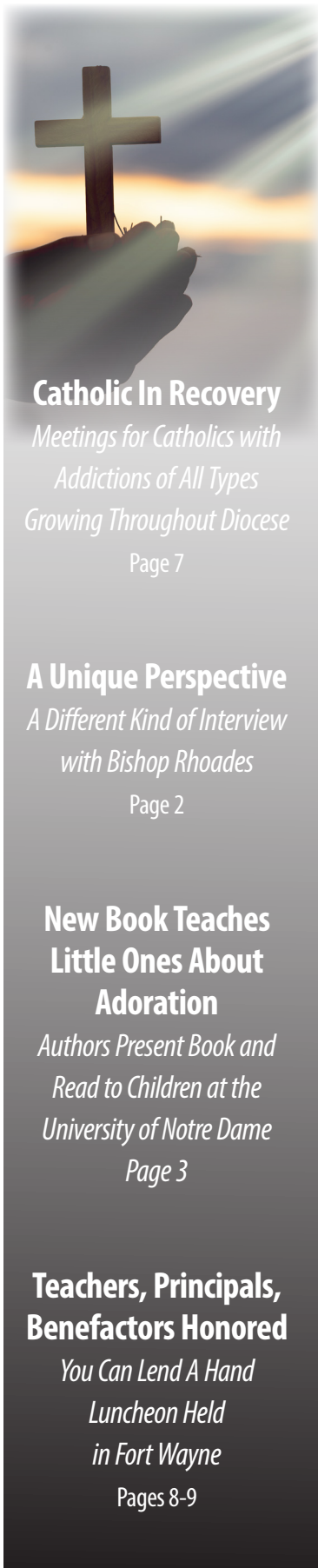
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Vocation as Gift of the Holy Spirit: Talking to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

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 (JCL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Charlie Camosy: Especially as someone who trains priests, I've become hyper-aware of how deeply the administration stressors 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 load of 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.

Visiting parishes, schools, and other communities of the diocese are a priority for me, which is reflected in my schedule and public calendar. It means a lot to the people, and to me, that I am in their midst as their bishop. At the same time, there are obviously many meetings and appointments that need my direct attention, so it's a matter of setting priorities, neither shirking my administrative responsibilities nor neglecting being among the people as their shepherd — especially in the important ministries of teaching and celebrating the sacraments.

Camosy: I imagine that the original motivation for heeding the Lord's call to the priesthood is very close to that pastoring



BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

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's one thing about being a bishop you dis-

like the most? (Bonus points if it is something that many laypeople assume you must like!)

Bishop Rhoades: The first thing that comes to mind is "the mail!" Most people probably enjoy receiving mail. For me, the huge amount of communications I receive — especially now because these include emails and texts — sometimes makes me feel inundated. I feel responsible to respond to everything, and must get over the temptation of trying to do that, because it can consume every moment. Of course, I enjoy receiving mail and messages from family and friends and the very kind messages and greetings from so many people in the diocese. I'm talking more about "work" mail. Also, the bishop's desk tends to be "the complaint desk" for so many who are upset about something in the Church or their parish. Bishops are often asked to resolve more conflicts than may be managed so, again, this shows the importance of the work of other diocesan staff who can help in these situations.

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 stressors, calendar invites, and to-do lists — we miss that younger part of ourselves that at least seemed to be 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 Gospels, 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 I also learn to listen to the Lord speaking to me, encouraging me, correcting me, and forgiving me. His love strengthens me for my service 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 striving 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 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



Photos by Erin Lynch

Sister M. Lisetta of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration reads from a book she coauthored, titled "An Adoration Treasury for Young Catholics" to a group of children at Hammes Bookstore at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, April 15.

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 that He is always 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

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



said it feels like a full circle moment that now she had the opportunity to

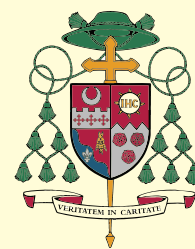
be able to read her book about the Eucharist with Sister Lisetta at this event.

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."



Sister M. Lisetta talks with one young attendee about one of the photos in the book at the book launch event at the Hammes Bookstore.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, Apr. 24: 5:45 p.m. – Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Cemeteries Association, Divine Mercy Funeral Home, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, Apr. 25: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City
 Wednesday, Apr. 26: 10:30 a.m. – Presbyterate Meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Wednesday, Apr. 26: 5:45 p.m. – Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
 Thursday, Apr. 27: Noon – Meeting of Annual Bishop's Appeal Committee, Warsaw
 Thursday, Apr. 27: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka
 Friday, Apr. 28: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Culver
 Saturday, Apr. 29: 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
 Saturday, Apr. 29: 5 p.m. – Mass for Evangelium Vitae Medal Award, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
 Sunday, Apr. 30: Noon – Confirmation Mass with Rite of Full Communion, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

MAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw: May 3-5

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 Seán 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



An honor guard stands at attention on Saturday, April 15, at the site of the first bomb blast during a dedication ceremony at the finish line on the 10th anniversary of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

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 despite the senseless violence of that day."

He said those who were injured "have inspired us with

their courage and determination to not let hate deter them from living their lives." Some of them continue to run the marathon each year. Cardinal O'Malley called this "a sign of hope 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 reduc-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

tions 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, so ecologically they're very important. They also act like a sponge on the landscape. An acre of wetland can store a million 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 two years ago, 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 2022, conveys 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 directed toward all people of good will.

"When we ask ourselves why we should care about ecological issues, or how wetlands affect us as humans, it's good to reinvestigate some of the Church's teaching," Mingus said. "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 offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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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 15, 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 the tradition, a fire is mysteriously produced 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 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 Vatican 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, "Certain 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

Pope Francis Celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pilgrims 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.

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 "slandorous 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 num-

ber 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 in 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 masterpiece 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, Washington (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. Catholics 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 — 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 Sweden, Norway, and Great Britain have greatly restricted transgender interventions in children based on long-term studies. "Transgenderism and the whole gender ideology business are inhuman, because they separate our souls from our bodies," he said. "We have to protect our children from this great evil that's been unleashed into their lives."



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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 in purgatory? 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 life-threatening physical and mental obsession for alcohol and 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.”

In recovery rooms, there is an undeniable power when one person shares their story of hope with another who feels hopeless. It's hard to fathom until you experience it firsthand.

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 programs like CIR for the empty promise that tomorrow will somehow be different. CIR also gives fellow Catholics who have found recovery an opportunity to encourage another's healing process to begin. God is so good, and Catholic in Recovery is a very applicable, life-changing byproduct of that goodness.

Through a series of blessings, Fort Wayne started its first CIR meeting in September of 2022. The hour-long meeting takes place Mondays at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope. A second meeting recently started on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Redeemer Radio. A third meeting will begin on Monday, June 5, at St. Pius X in Granger. While we have Bishop Rhoades' blessing and continue to ask God's guidance, there are no people or places in charge.

Recovery volunteers have gotten the program off the ground and gracious facilities have offered meeting rooms. Each meeting rotates a chair-

person, and a three-page reflection on the Sunday readings guides our recovery discussion. Anonymity is greatly valued and mutually respected.

In recovery rooms, there is an undeniable power when one person shares their story of hope with another who feels hopeless. It's hard to fathom until you experience it firsthand. Catholic In Recovery meetings offer an environment for people to talk about their challenges while tying 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.

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 — 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 me, our school communities, 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. There are many occasions the last several months when I have felt Jim's absence and now again today. These occasions lead me to not only remember Deacon Jim in my thoughts, but also in my prayers. So please join me in



Joshua Schipper

Teachers and principals honored with Christ the Teacher awards and the St. Mother Théodore Guérin award pose with Bishop Rhoades and leaders with the Catholic Schools Office after the You Can Lend A Hand luncheon on Thursday, April 18, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne.

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 consciousness 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 humble public figure, or 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



superficial or exploitative, and who, in the final analysis, is neither free nor happy.”

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!



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

Photos by Joshua Schipper

Above, Mathew Tsuleff 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.



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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



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.

Photos by Alaina Ganser

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 patronal 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 anx-

iety about death, through their confidence in Christ.

One such example that Bishop Rhoades expounded upon was St. Jose Sanchez de 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 every 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 sacramental journey. He also commended the students themselves for their willingness to be receptive to God’s graces 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.

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OSV News photo/Sergio Perez, Reuters

A person holds a "Trans" banner in this illustration photo.

U.S. Bishops Call on Catholics to Support Measure in Congress About Transgender Athletes in Female Sports

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — The U.S. bishops are calling on Catholics to contact their representatives and senators 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 proposed Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, introduced in the U.S. House and Senate, "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 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in an April 14 alert.

The USCCB alert indicated at news time that a vote is expected during the week of April 17.

The bill is "consistent" with the Catholic Church's "clear teaching on the equality of men and women and the truth that we are created male and female," the USCCB said.

"Youth who experience gender identity discordance should be able to participate in sports, and any harassment against these young people is unequivocally wrong," it said. 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 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 3 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."

"Equal 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 13, 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 per-

sons 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](https://www.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](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/04/13/2023-07841).

Seven Awesome Songs to Sing this Easter Season

“Jesus is risen and we shall arise: give God the glory! Alleluia!”

It was on the final note of that refrain Easter morning that my almost 4-year-old daughter, Anne, let her voice ring through the cathedral — and keep ringing for about an extra four beats with her arm thrust outward like she was 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 rest. But she might have been most excited about finally being able to say the “A word,” which, naturally, had been taboo during the long six weeks of Lent — particularly long to a little girl who is accustomed to saying whatever she wants at whatever time she likes.

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!” Easter playlist. If 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!” This traditional hymn (mentioned above), written by Herbert Brokering and set to the tune of “Earth and All Stars,” is a mainstay during Easter at our parish, and every year I forget how much I love it. I understand 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 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 the conducting and the Hallelujahs are solid. “For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!”

“Agnus Dei” by Michael W. Smith. This gradually building version starts with Alleluias that feel like they are full of the wonder and newness of the Resurrection. “Alleluia, Alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns!” Full disclosure: The kids think this song is kind of boring, but I first heard this in college while on a retreat, and it maintains a special place in my heart.

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.” Another classic hymn that is so iconic that it practically can’t be the Easter season without it. My favorite verse is the third, bringing us



GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN CROWE

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’s king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, 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 length of time knows that I am a big fan of Maher’s music — and I have now officially succeeded in indoctrinating my children. The intro guitar riff, plus the drums, and the “We sing for joy, we shout your name, we celebrate your Resurrection Day!” lyrics make it so full of Easter joy that it’s a must-listen in our house (and a must-dance).

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)” is covered by the Daughters of St. Paul. Fine, this doesn’t technically have any Alleluias in it either, but it is such an Easter favorite

CROWE, page 13

‘Communion’: For the Life of the World, ‘Come-Unity’

Thinking about Christ’s Last Supper evokes many images. The institution of the Eucharist stands at the fore. But, of course, John’s Gospel casts a different light on the event. He doesn’t explicitly mention the institution of the Eucharist at all, in fact. His focus, instead, is on Jesus’ washing of His apostles’ feet. This act of humility and charity ties His impending sacrifice to service.

The washing of the feet and the institution of the Eucharist go together, then, forming a whole of what Christ bequeathed to the Church the night before He died. The Eucharist is the means by which we receive Christ’s love, and His foot washing gives us the model for sharing His love.

But there’s yet another aspect of John’s narrative of the Last Supper that I think completes and bonds the ties between instituting the Eucharist and the washing of the Apostles’ feet. Here, I’m thinking of Christ’s lengthy prayer to His Father — His prayer for unity.

Fully aware of our fallen nature, Jesus anticipated the struggles and strife, divisions and discord that would plague His followers down the road. In the context of the first Eucharist, Jesus offers a prayer



GUEST COLUMN

MICHAEL HEINLEIN

in which He pleads for unity among His followers. He indicates that the very credibility of His message hinges upon that unity. The very mission of the Church depends upon it.

“I pray not only for them, 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

HEINLEIN, page 13

Scriptures Teach as Jesus Did



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Easter Luke 24:13-35

Again, as is usual for weekends of the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading for the Liturgy of the Word.

This reading recalls an event like several others in Acts. Peter preached, 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 message was kerygmatic, drawing from 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 that 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.

Note also, here, as 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 to Jesus 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 lovely 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, 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.

Secondly, Jesus meets this need. He teaches them. Thirdly, Jesus is with them. Finally, as

they celebrate the meal, with its Eucharistic overtones, Jesus is the central figure presiding as they “break the bread.” After hearing the Lord’s explanation of events, and encountering Jesus, they join in a holy meal. The connection with the Eucharist is too strong to overlook.

Reflection

Beginning with the Scripture readings for Easter itself, and continuing this weekend, the Church expresses to us forcefully and clearly its unflinching 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 with the Apostles, showing to Thomas the wounds and blessing those who believe. He was alive, present, and still teaching during the trip to Emmaus. The Eucharist at Emmaus was the culmination on 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 if we know Jesus.

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

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

Monday: Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17 20 Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1-2 Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17 Jn 6:60-69

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 that 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 served as 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 their brain to become irreversibly non-functional. One type of brain function that is not routinely assessed by doctors when carrying out brain death testing involves the hypothalamus. This important region of the brain coordinates with 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.

Regrettably, some are now proposing that a person in this situation should still be considered brain dead, and they are seeking to revise the wording of the UDDA to reflect this, substantially lowering the standard for a declaration of brain death. They declare, without compelling support, that the persistence of neurosecretory function by the hypothalamus is consistent with brain death.

In cases of genuine brain death, when all functions of the entire brain have ceased, the bodies of these individuals can typically continue to function on a ventilator only for a matter of hours or perhaps a few days before their various subsystems, like blood pressure, electrolytes, and fluid balance become erratic and dysregulated, leading to cardiac arrest.

Meanwhile, some brain-



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

injured individuals who have retained 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 language 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 lower the standards for declaring brain death, the battery of routine reflex and apnea tests used for ascertaining brain death needs 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.

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

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 that it’s hard 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 for-

ever; 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 filled with triumph — and a boatload of Alleluias — that make it a delight to sing. “Power, riches, and wisdom and strength, 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!

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 23, 2023
Luke 24: 13-35

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	EMMAUS	JESUS
THEIR EYES	CLEOPAS	PROPHET
PEOPLE	ISRAEL	MORNING
A VISION	ANGELS	ALIVE
FOOLISH	ENTER	MOSES
STAY WITH US	TABLE	BROKE IT
HEARTS	ELEVEN	SIMON

EMMAUS VISIT

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 E D W
M N A N E D E 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, recommending 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.

Pope Francis Confirms Trip to Mongolia in Fall



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis thanks executives and employees 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.

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 airline that has taken the pope on his international trips since 2021, he said that he will visit Mongolia, a country sandwiched between Russia and China, after traveling to Hungary in late April and Marseille, France, in September. During an airborne news conference on his return flight from South Sudan in

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 April 28-30 “and then there will be Marseille and Mongolia, and all the others that are on the waiting list.” In August of 2022, Pope Francis named Italian Bishop Giorgio Marengo, Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to be the first cardinal based in Mongolia. The cardinal, 48, is the youngest member of the College of Cardinals.



OSV News photo/Jay Soldner, The Leaven

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.

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 archdiocesan Office for Protection and Care.

The office planted the pinwheels on the chancery lawn in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is observed each April.

The archdiocese wanted passersby to know how seriously it takes its mission to protect God's children.

“We are called through Scripture and teaching to protect the life and dignity of the human person,” said Vielhauer.

“Throughout the year, and especially in April, all are asked to increase awareness and to educate ourselves and the community,” she told The Leaven, the archdiocesan newspaper.

Pinwheels represent the innocence of children and the healthy, safe childhood they deserve.

“We believe that people

respond positively to pinwheels, which represent child-like whimsy and lightheartedness and our vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities,” said Jenifer Valenti, Director of the Office for Protection and Care.

Vielhauer said the archdiocese's pinwheel “garden” serves as a visual reminder of how important it is to protect

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 incident 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.”

“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

all children.

“We want to ‘cultivate’ cultures of protection and healing in our church,” she said. “Everyone can make a difference simply by being aware and being a part of the efforts

Tearful Joe Biden Visits Major Irish Marian Shrine in Knock, Ireland

KNOCK, Ireland (OSV News) — President Joe Biden was moved to tears at Ireland's National Marian Shrine in Knock, County Mayo, April 14 on learning that the priest who gave his terminally ill son, Beau Biden, the last rites in 2015 was now serving at the popular Irish shrine. The president of the United States learned of Father Frank O'Grady's role in his son's final hours while visiting the basilica in Knock accompanied by the shrine's rector, Father Richard Gibbons. Father Gibbons had only learned of the coincidence a couple of hours before Biden's arrival in the small village in western Ireland. Father Gibbons told OSV News that the President was “very emotional” and broke down. He then insisted on meeting Father O'Grady, even though the elderly priest hadn't been cleared by the security services. Before his departure, Father

Gibbons gifted Biden with a piece of the original stone gable wall where the apparition took place. “He laughed; he told stories; I told stories; and he cried. There was the wonderful connection between family and faith and then at the end, I presented him with the gift, which was the little piece of stone — and he loved that.” After Knock, Biden had a number of other engagements in County Mayo, including visiting the Mayo-Roscommon Hospice of which he is a patron. The president unveiled a plaque to Beau Biden at the hospice. Joe Biden delivered a major public address in Ballina town, County Mayo, on the evening of April 14 in front of St. Muredach's Cathedral after viewing his family's ancestry records with parish priest, Father Kieran Holmes.



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 mandmtill81@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.

Sacred Music Concert
GRANGER — As part of the Eucharistic Revival, St. Pius X Parish, 52553 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. Due to ill-

ness in the Cathedral Choir, the Sacred Music Concert scheduled for Thursday, April 27, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne has been cancelled.

Bach Collegium Offers Season Finale
FORT WAYNE — The Bach Collegium will offer a beautiful choral and instrumental meditation on the injuries of Christ on the Cross on Monday, April 24, from 4-5:30 p.m., featuring the soloists, choir, and period instrument ensemble of the Bach Collegium in the amazing acoustics of the USF Chapel, 2701 Spring St. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for students with ID, younger than 10 free. Visit bachcollegium.org. Contact Thomas Remenschneider at 888-857-2224 or tremenschneider@bachcollegium.org for information.

Christ Child Society Plans Diaper Drop
MISHAWAKA — The Christ Child Society will have a diaper drop on Wednesday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off diapers in front of the Clothing Center, 2366 Miracle Lane, in the Town and Country Shopping Center to help moms keep their babies dry, healthy, and happy. Diapers will be distributed through local family-serving organizations. Visit christchildsb.org 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/#good-news 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.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne Jeanette M. Klingenberger, 92, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel	Theodore Kotyuk, 83, St. Pius X	South Bend Sophie Gaddey, 101, St. Adalbert
Daniel Kranjc, 98, St. Vincent de Paul	Teresa Lamirand, 77, St. Pius X	Tomas Gonzalez, 49, St. Adalbert
Granger Ronnie Armour, 74, St. Pius X	Huntington JoAnn E. Hammel, 78, SS. Peter and Paul	Luisa Mones, 43, St. Adalbert
Frank Criniti, Jr, 76, St. Pius X	New Haven Mary Marks, 91, St. John the Baptist	
Daniel Dickerson, 60, St. Pius X	Gloria Vowles, 87, St. John the Baptist	

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.



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Registration & Lunch Noon
Shotgun Start 1 p.m.

Hope to see you on the links!

Scan the code for more details
and to register for this event.

Sponsorship opportunities available.



TIPPMANN, from page 1

Jason Garrett's hiring was questioned by some, Joe stepped up with his fellow team captains to support his new coach, which Garrett said smoothed his transition and fortified their relationship.

"Those guys embraced me," said Garrett. "They rallied around me, and the front person of that was Joe. Joe 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's father 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 sits with me at the lunch table — and now everybody's sitting with me at lunch!'" Garrett recounted with a laugh. "When your best player is also your best leader and one of your nicest guys, then you've got something special."

Garrett also pointed to a couple key moments during the Saints' state title run in 2018 that illustrated the depth of Joe's character. Trailing at 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 semi-state championship, Garrett tasked Joe with playing both ways on the line in order to stop Mishawaka's potent rushing attack. He played "down in the mud, diving at ankles all night," and helped hold the Cavemen to six points — nearly four touchdowns below their season average. The following week, with the state championship on the line, Garrett knew exactly what to do.

"On the last play of the season, I said on the headset, '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 onto campus at the University of Wisconsin, he immediately 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 schools my entire life to a public university — from where everything is intertwined, to where everything is separated," said Joe. "I had opportunities at Wisconsin, we had a team chaplain, and we were able to follow our faith. But that was 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."

Fortunately, one of Joe's roommates was also Catholic, so they would often go to Mass together. He also benefitted from constant spiritual reminders from Garrett, mostly via text messaging.

"He will just randomly text Joe or call him and say, 'Hope you're having a great day, I'm praying for you, hope you're going to church, have you been to confession?'" said Kim. "I love that he sends him those notes reminding him how important his faith is."

"Coach Garrett as a person, as a man, has always been one of my biggest supporters, even after I stepped out of Dwenger," said Joe. "I got a text from him before every game [at Wisconsin], and I tried to text him before [Bishop Dwenger] played. He always incorporates faith into everything, and I love him for that."

Meanwhile, Joe continued to work his way towards taking the field for the Badgers. He knew coming in that Wisconsin doesn't play or travel its freshmen linemen, so Joe spent his first year of college on the scout team, practicing his technique and trying to perfect it. He soon discovered that the area most in need of development was in his head.

"When I came to Wisconsin, physically, the changes weren't that dramatic," said



Provided by John and Kim Tippmann

John and Kim Tippmann, along with their children and grandchildren, are Joe's biggest fans and primary support system.

Joe. "Mentally is what really changed for me: being able to slow down the game, understanding defenses, learning football schemes and how I want to attack it so the whole offensive line can be on the same page."

John said he recognized this maturation in his son throughout his four years in Madison.

"You get about halfway in, and all of a sudden, you turn from a high school boy to a man," said John. "He's a very mature kid, and I think some of that is being the fifth boy in the family. He's very independent; you can tell that he's grown to be able to manage his own life, and he knows what he wants to do. This was his goal, and he's put a lot of effort into it."

That effort helped Joe see the field in two games as a

redshirt freshman in 2020.

The following fall, coaches asked Joe to switch from guard

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."

This humility is just what Joe's family, friends, teammates, and coaches have come to expect from him. It's what they all know and love about him. It's what makes Big Joe Big Joe.

"The kid won every award known to man, but at the end of the day, Joe is Joe. It never has changed him. If you talk to him today or back in high school, it's the same kid — just in a body that just repped 225 pounds thirty times," Garrett said with a chuckle.

"He's such an easy kid to root for. He's never let this all go to his head," agreed Talarico. "The Big Joe we all

knew at Bishop Dwenger is still the same Big Joe."

The same Big Joe isn't too proud to ask for help and advice. While he is poised to become the third Bishop Dwenger graduate to be selected in the NFL draft — alongside Fabini in 1998 and Tyler Eifert in 2013 — Joe has leaned on Fabini's experience throughout his journey.

"If he wants my advice, he asks for it," said Fabini, who said he has counseled Joe to work hard, avoid complacency, earn everything, and stay healthy. "We talk about the process and different connections we both have. I'm really proud of him. He just does everything right, and I think the world of him."

"Coach Fabini has always been a great mentor," said Joe. "He really helped me make the transition from high school to college and got me mentally prepared for it. 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 he loves most.

"I didn't do this on my own," said Joe. "The level of support I got 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."

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

