

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal presented to Robert P. George



Peter Ringenberg

Professor O. Carter Snead, Director of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, and Professor Robert P. George, recipient of the Evangelium Vitae Medal, speak with Bishop Rhoades after the Evangelium Vitae Mass on Saturday, April 29, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

BY KEN HALLENIUS

The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture presented the 2023 Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal — the nation's most important award for heroes of the pro-life movement — to acclaimed legal philosopher and constitutional and political theorist Robert P. George at a celebration attended by more than 500 guests on Saturday, April 29.

George is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Professor of Politics at Princeton University and the Founding Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions.

"In his lifetime of work, study, writing, and teaching, Professor George has insisted, valiantly and joyfully — over

Read Bishop Rhoades' homily from the *Evangelium Vitae* Mass on page 16.

and again — on the essential dignity of the human person, the role of the law in defending it, and the possibility of our reasoning together in charity to promote it," said O. Carter Snead, Director of the de Nicola Center. "Professor George's patient, persistent demonstration of the right relationship between the civil and moral law has helped to lay the groundwork for a renewed appreciation of the rights of the unborn and an understanding of the proper role of law in defending those rights, following decades of profound injustice."

"For 49 years, five months, and two days, our law taught

a gross moral untruth," said George in his remarks at the dinner. "It taught generations of our people that the choice to destroy a child in utero is a basic liberty, indeed a fundamental right; it taught that the child himself or herself is as nothing — a blob of tissue, a meaningless mass, a mere object, a piece of property rather than a person with dignity and a right to life. That is a false lesson that it is our job to help people to unlearn."

In his homily at the *Evangelium Vitae* Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Bishop Rhoades noted that George "has been an eloquent witness to the Gospel of life, teaching and defending the truth about the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, a truth that can be recognized in the natural

law written in the human heart, known by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace."

George is a renowned teacher, having taught nearly 8,000 students who have themselves gone on to distinguished careers as scholars, lawyers, judges, politicians, leaders of nonprofits, and journalists. "The public that knows about Robby George knows about his voluminous writings, they know about his advocacy, about his speaking on the lecture circuit. They don't know what an extraordinary teacher and mentor he is to thousands of students who have passed through Princeton," said Notre Dame Law School Associate Professor Sherif Girgis, himself a former student of George's. "That's something that I learned from

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The Good Shepherd Leads Us to the Pasture of Eternal Life

Bishop Rhoades delivered the following homily at Mass in which he received students into full communion in the Catholic Church and administered the sacrament of Confirmation on the Fourth Sunday of Easter at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame:

I have been on the Confirmation circuit since the final weeks of Lent and am very happy to be here at Notre Dame today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday. At this Mass, 34 of our brothers and sisters in Christ will be confirmed, seven of whom will first be received into full communion in the Catholic Church. These candidates are here today to receive the sacrament of Confirmation because they have heard the voice of the Good Shepherd and have chosen to follow Him. They know that they need the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit in their Christian discipleship.

Our candidates already entered the sheepfold of the Church when they were baptized. They entered the way of salvation through Jesus the gate. Before they are confirmed, they will renew their baptismal promises and commit themselves anew to following Jesus, the Good Shepherd who leads us to the pasture of eternal life. This is why He, the Son of God, came down from heaven and assumed our human nature: to lead us to the pasture of eternal life. Jesus reveals this purpose of His Incarnation very clearly and succinctly at the end of today's Gospel. He says: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." Jesus is referring to the new and eternal life, indeed, the very life of God. The fullness of life that Jesus came to give us far exceeds the dimensions of our earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God.

Every human being yearns for an abundant life. We thirst for it. This thirst is only satisfied by the living water Jesus promised to the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus told her: "Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst. The water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." This water from Jesus is the Holy Spirit, an interior source of blessing and refreshment. The Holy Spirit imparts a participation in the divine life, lifting our human existence to a level far beyond natural life. The living water, the Holy Spirit, flowed from the heart of Jesus on the cross. From this



Peter Ringenberg

Bishop Rhoades poses for a group photo at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on Sunday, April 30, after the Mass where he received seven students into full communion in the Catholic Church and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 34 people.

Sacred Heart, the Church was born. The water that flowed from Jesus' heart alludes also to Baptism, our new birth as sons and daughters of God, our entry into the life of the Most Holy Trinity, and into the sheepfold, the Body of Christ, the Church, where we are unfailingly nourished and led by Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

The seven candidates for reception into full communion in the Catholic Church today have come to believe that, by Christ's will, the Church is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion in him, and that through full communion in the Catholic Church the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. Then they will join 27 of our brothers and sisters in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. I wish now to address our candidates for Confirmation:

Today is not the first time you will have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You became temples of the Holy Spirit when you were baptized. In Confirmation you will receive "an increase and deepening of baptismal grace," including an increase of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within you. You will be more firmly united to Christ and His Body, the Church. And very specifically, you will receive in Confirmation the special strength of the Holy Spirit to witness to Christ through your words and deeds and the fortitude and courage to spread and defend the faith.

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we heard part of Saint Peter's sermon in the streets of Jerusalem

on Pentecost, right after the Holy Spirit had descended upon him and the other apostles. Notice how transformed he was. Fifty-three days earlier, he was cowering in fear in the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphas while Jesus was being tried by the Sanhedrin. Three times Peter denied that he was a disciple of Jesus — he told the servant girl that he didn't even know Jesus. He denied his friendship with Him, a terrible betrayal. Of course, Peter repented of this terrible sin, and after the Resurrection professed to Jesus three times his love for Him. Peter's friendship with the Lord was restored and Jesus gave him the charge to tend and feed His sheep, to lead His Church.

In the reading today, we see Peter, strengthened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, no longer afraid. He preaches with boldness and courage. Unafraid, Peter stood up and proclaimed: "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Acts tells us that when the people heard this, "they were cut to the heart." They repented, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the Church's mission began. It began powerfully. Acts tells us that 3,000 accepted Peter's message and were baptized that day, the fastest RCIA program in history!

Brothers and sisters about to be confirmed, you will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit today, the same Holy Spirit that descended upon Peter and the apostles at Pentecost. He will strengthen you to live your Catholic faith with conviction and not in a

lukewarm manner. We have enough lukewarm Catholics. The Church needs you to be bold in the profession of your faith and in your living out of that faith, like the saints whom you have chosen as your Confirmation patrons. They were men and women who lived the graces they received in Baptism and Confirmation. They lived by the Spirit. Many suffered persecution for their faith. Some even died as martyrs for Jesus and His Church. They were able to do so because they opened themselves to the gifts they received at Confirmation, especially the gift of fortitude. That's how these ordinary human beings like us became great saints. Guided by the Spirit, they faithfully followed Jesus who was "the shepherd and guardian of their souls."

As you know, I will be anointing you with sacred chrism when I confirm you. Because balsam is mixed with olive oil in making chrism, it really smells great. It reminds us of the exhortation of Saint Paul to the early Christians: "You are to be the fragrance of Christ in the world." Being confirmed with the fragrant chrism, you are to bring the beautiful aroma of Christ's goodness and love into a world where there's a lot of bad odor, the stench of hatred, violence, war, greed, selfishness, and other sins. It's our Christian vocation to bring the love and goodness of Christ into the world to dissipate that bad odor. That's what we are anointed to do. That's what the Holy Spirit strengthens us to do. That's what the early

EVANGELIUM VITAE, from page 1

him, the kind of complete generosity with time and resources to mentor people, whatever perspective they come from.”

George has authored, co-authored, or edited more than 13 books, including *Embryo: A Defense of Human Life* (2nd edition, Doubleday, 2011), *In Defense of Natural Law* (Oxford University Press, 1999), and *Making Men Moral* (Oxford University Press, 1993). His articles and essays have appeared in popular and scholarly journals, from the Harvard Law Review and the Yale Law Journal to the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, First Things, and the Times Literary Supplement. George has spoken throughout the United States and around the world on a wide range of issues in philosophy, law, and politics, including in honorific lectures at Harvard, Yale, University of St. Andrews, and Cornell University.

George has also had a long career of public service. He has served on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (2012–16), of which he was also chair (2013–16); the President's Council on Bioethics (2002–09); the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (1993–98); and as the U.S. member of UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (2008–12).

A graduate of Swarthmore College, Harvard Law School, and the University of Oxford, George has received honors and awards that include the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Honorific Medal for the Defense of Human Rights of the Republic of Poland, the Canterbury Medal of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the



Photos by Peter Ringenberg

Professor Robert P. George, recipient of the Evangelium Vitae Medal, and Professor O. Carter Snead, Director of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, pose for a photo with Bishop Rhoades after the Evangelium Vitae Mass on Saturday, April 29, in front of the altar at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

Bradley Prize for Intellectual and Civic Achievement, the Irving Kristol Award of the American Enterprise Institute, and Princeton University's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

He holds honorary doctorates of law, ethics, science, letters, divinity, humanities, law and moral values, civil law, humane letters, and juridical science.

The Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal, named after Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical,

is the nation's most important lifetime achievement award for heroes of the pro-life movement, honoring individuals whose efforts have advanced the Gospel of Life by steadfastly affirming and defending the sanctity of human life from its earliest stages.

Previous recipients of the medal include Dr. John Bruchalski, Founder of Tepeyac OB/GYN and Divine Mercy Care; Vicki Thorn, Founder of Project Rachel post-abortion healing min-



Professor Robert P. George, recipient of the Evangelium Vitae Medal, kneels to pray during the Evangelium Vitae Mass on Saturday, April 29, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, May 9: 8 a.m. – Meeting of Indiana Bishops and Major Religious Superiors, Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis
 Tuesday, May 9: 3:30 p.m. – Meeting of Bishops of Indiana, Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis
 Wednesday, May 10: 10 a.m. – Meeting of the Board of Directors of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis
 Thursday, May 11: 5 p.m. – Mass with Blessing and Sending of Graduates of Notre Dame's Masters of Divinity Program, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame
 Friday, May 12: 7 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart
 Saturday, May 13: 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart
 Saturday, May 13: 4:30 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart
 Sunday, May 14: 3 p.m. – Commencement Address at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary and School of Theology Graduation, Cincinnati, Ohio



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

MAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw: May 3-5

JUNE

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

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

istry; the Women's Care Center Foundation; Mother Agnes Mary Donovan and the Sisters of Life; Congressman Chris Smith, Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and his wife, Marie Smith, Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues; Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus; the Little Sisters of the Poor; the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation; and Mary Ann Glendon, Harvard Law School Professor Emerita.

Announced annually on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday of October, the Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* award consists of a specially com-

missioned medal and \$10,000 prize presented at a banquet following a celebratory Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. For more information about the *Evangelium Vitae* Medal, visit ethicscenter.nd.edu/programs/culture-of-life/evangelium-vitae-medal.

The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture is the leading center for scholarly reflection within the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition. The center is committed to sharing the richness of this tradition through teaching, research, and dialogue at the highest level and across a range of disciplines.

CONFIRMATION, from page 2

Christians did and that's why the Church grew so rapidly.

The pagans admired the Christians for their amazing care of the poor and needy and their tender care for the sick and suffering. They saw that the Christians refused to take part in their disregard for human dignity on display in the violent entertainment taking place in the Roman arenas and amphitheaters and that they refused to kill their unborn babies in a culture in which abortion was common. And they saw that the Christians refused to worship the Roman gods and would only worship one God, the God the apostles preached, the God of Jesus Christ. Thousands converted to Christianity because, as they testified to each other: "see how the Christians love one another."

At this Mass, several of our candidates will receive the Eucharist for the first time. The very act of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laying down His life for us, becomes present on the altar at every Mass. That is why we call the Mass "the Eucharistic sacrifice." The altar of sacrifice is also the table of the Eucharistic banquet. The Eucharist is inseparably the holy sacrifice of Jesus and the sacred banquet of communion with the body and blood of the Lord. It's the greatest of all the sacraments, the sacrament of Christ's love unto the end.

The Gospel today is a pro-

found interpretation of what the Eucharist is. Jesus said: "I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly." Saint Ignatius of Antioch called the Eucharist "the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ." Jesus Himself had said: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day." To grow in the Christian life, we need the nourishment of the Holy Eucharist, the bread of life, the bread for our pilgrimage until the moment of death. In Holy Communion, we receive the grace we need to love one another as Christ has loved us. Without love, there is no holiness, no life in abundance, no holiness.

The Eucharist is what nourished all the saints of the Church to live in Christ, to grow in holiness, through communion with Him who is true life and infinite love. When we live the Eucharist we receive, we are truly alive. We have life in abundance. And we have a taste of the glory of the saints in heaven, a foretaste of our ultimate end, eternal joy and peace at the banquet feast of heaven, communion of life and love with the Most Holy Trinity!

Let us pray that our brothers and sisters about to complete their Christian initiation will grow in holiness through the graces of these sacraments and always be faithful disciples of the Good Shepherd who leads us to the pasture of eternal life!

Catholics Must Live with Eucharistic Coherence Says Holy Cross Speaker Bishop Thomas Paprocki

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

The National Eucharistic Revival aims to ensure Catholics are properly formed in the Church's authentic teachings on Holy Communion and open to allowing this divine mystery to transcend their lives and relationships with others.

On Thursday, April 27, Bishop Thomas Paprocki, of the diocese of Springfield, Illinois, spoke at Holy Cross College on this necessity of the Church's catechesis being lived out practically. With an address entitled, "Eucharistic Coherence in the Context of our National Eucharistic Revival", Bishop Paprocki emphasized the importance of understanding this sacrament, and the entire Christian life, in terms of relationship.

Paprocki, whose episcopal motto is "The law of the heart is love" (Lex cordis caritas), stated, "This is what the Eucharist is all about. Our Lord comes to us and wants to have a loving relationship with us." He emphasized that human relationships usually reveal feelings of affection through physical demonstrations of love, and that a Catholic's relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist should be similar. He exclaimed, "We used to do processions with the Blessed Sacrament as visible public displays of our devotion and love. That tradition fell away for a while, as people began to perceive of religion as purely a private matter that remains hidden. We Catholics are meant to be public about our faith, and there are legal implications to this reality. That is why we have Catholic schools, hospitals, and charities. Our faith demands that we put it into action. It isn't meant to be purely private, but also expressed publicly. Thankfully, Corpus Christi processions and other public signs of faith have begun to return."

Throughout history, the saints have shown that union with Jesus in the Eucharist leads to a deeper love and awareness of the fundamental dignity of each person. Expanding on this notion, Bishop Paprocki drew attention to the "Aparecida Document" issued by the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM), including then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis. Given that those in attendance are Catholic students of various disciplines, including not only theology, but also science, law, and leadership, Bishop Paprocki drew attention to a particular paragraph showing the necessity



BISHOP
THOMAS
PAPROCKI

ty of living with Eucharistic coherence:

"We hope that legislators, heads of government, and health professionals, conscious of the dignity of human life and

of the rootedness of the family in our peoples, will defend and protect it from the abominable crimes of abortion and euthanasia; that is their responsibility. Hence, in response to government laws and provisions that are unjust in the light of faith and reason, conscientious objection should be encouraged. We must adhere to "eucharistic coherence," that is, be conscious that they cannot receive Holy Communion and at the same time act with deeds or words against the commandments, particularly when abortion, euthanasia, and other grave crimes against life and family are encouraged. This responsibility weighs particularly over legislators, heads of governments, and health professionals."

Bishop Paprocki reiterated that every Catholic is required to take a sincere look at their own heart and actions, ensuring that the faith they profess with their lips also is lived out in concrete expressions of charity towards those who are in need, especially the poor and the most vulnerable. Drawing on the covenantal relationship between God and His people throughout history, he stressed that coming forward to receive Holy Communion in a state of grave sin and infidelity to God further wounds one's relationship with Him, because it is an action not based in truth, similar to an unfaithful spouse who conceals acts of adultery while still also seeking to be intimate with their husband or wife. Both instances are incongruent, deceitful, and harmful to the true relationship. He emphasized that authentic repentance is a key component of the Christian life and is necessary for a Christian's ongoing conversion. While the public focus is often drawn toward Catholic figures in political life, he stressed that this is also essential for the moral consider of every Catholic.

Following his talk, Bishop Paprocki answered questions from the audience, most of which focused on additional aspects of bringing Eucharistic devotion into one's personal lived experience of the Mass or how to approach family members or friends living incongruently with the Church's teach-

ings. The event also drew interest from attendees beyond Holy Cross, including Father Wilson Miscamble, C.S.C., Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. Father Miscamble posed a similar question to the bishop, asking how to reconcile the dilemma of various Church leaders giving seemingly contradictory directives or statements on Eucharistic practice. Bishop Paprocki shared this troubling concern and emphasized the necessity to pray for unity, as Jesus did with His own Church leaders at the Eucharistic banquet of the Last Supper.

The event was arranged by Andrew Ouellette, Director of Foundation and Church Relations at Holy Cross College, with the assistance of Teresa Tompkins. Newly inaugurated Holy Cross College President Marco Clark was also in attendance, as were various members of the college faculty. Ouellette shared, "Bishop Paprocki spoke with clarity and charity. His words are a reminder to all of us of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the need to properly examine our conscience before approaching the altar."

Spencer Forslund, a junior at Holy Cross, said, "I thought that Bishop Paprocki's talk on the Eucharist was very insightful. His comments about coherency and incoherency I found to be extremely helpful in understanding the correct terminology that should be used when discussing the topic of the Eucharist. He also answered questions in a way that didn't show a particular bias, but gave exceptional answers to people on both sides, traditional and progressive. Overall, I thought his talk was very well put together."

An Adjunct Professor of Law, Business, and Bioethics at the Quincy University Oakley School of Business, Bishop Paprocki has also taught at the University of Notre Dame Law School. An avid hockey player and coach as well as distance runner — he has completed 24 marathons — he has written two books on how to integrate sports and faith, both published by Ave Maria Press.

Related to Bishop Paprocki's comments, Bishop Rhoades gave an interview on the Belt of Truth Podcast to discuss the Eucharistic Revival in response to similar questions. To listen to this conversation, search for Belt of Truth on Spotify or Apple Podcasts. You can find the episode with Bishop Rhoades at open.spotify.com/episode/5qYdAx6DW1Y52KLHuLmQhA.



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OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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School Choice Caps 'Generational' Legislative Session

Almost all Hoosier families will have access to school choice after a dramatic conclusion to the 2023 legislative session and the passage of Indiana's next two-year budget, which also saw significant funding for a major mental health initiative.

Following intense negotiations at the Statehouse lasting well past midnight on Friday, April 28, the Indiana General Assembly passed a biennial \$44.5 billion budget that Governor Eric Holcomb hailed as one with "generational impact." Approximately half of the budget supports K-12 education statewide, with \$2.3 billion in new funding that includes expanding school choice eligibility to 97 percent of Indiana families.

"This is about as close as you can get to universal school choice," said John Elcesser, Executive Director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA), which represents the state's more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana's 175 Catholic schools. "Thanks to this historic legislation, virtually all families in Indiana will have the ability to choose the school that is the right fit for their son or daughter."

Elcesser described the journey to this outcome as a rollercoaster ride to the end. While the Indiana House of Representatives had included a robust plan for school choice in its proposed budget earlier in the legislative session, the Indiana Senate later stripped all

school choice-related measures in its version.

The final debate on the House floor in the early-morning hours of April 28 included impassioned arguments for school choice from House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers).

"As was the case in 2021, when we had another significant expansion to school choice in Indiana, I have to take my hat off to Speaker Huston for doing everything possible to ensure that Indiana continues to be a national leader in school choice," Elcesser said. "The belief between both Speaker Huston and (House Ways and Means Committee) Chairman Jeff Thompson that the state should be committed to funding students — not necessarily systems or schools — really rang true in their fight to get this budget passed."

Along with longtime allies including the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the INPEA emphasizes that school choice should not and does not come at the expense of public schools, which are vital to society.

"We need strong public schools in the state of Indiana," Elcesser said. "The majority of kids go to public schools. But I have no problem with a small portion of my tax dollars going to support private school choice."

"Changing the paradigm is important right now," he continued. "In the state of Indiana, which has been a longtime supporter of school choice — both public school and private

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

school choice — it's about all families being able to access that without sacrifice."

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, any child from a family of four that earns up to \$222,000 annually will be able to receive a voucher to attend a school of their family's choosing.

"Every family is unique, and even the highest quality public school may not be the best choice for a particular family and their individual situation," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "My daughter thrived both at public and private schools. Families are always best at making those decisions."

In addition to expanding the financial eligibility component of participating in school choice, the new legislation eliminates the so-called "tracks" or "pathways" to qualifying, which kept many families from participating even if they met financial eligibility guidelines.

These pathways included requiring a student to have spent two semesters in a public school or to live in a school

district with a grade of "F" as determined by the state. In addition to removing those and other conditions, the newly passed budget extends school choice access to all kindergarteners. Up until now, a kindergartener had to meet certain guidelines to qualify, such as an older sibling participating in a choice program.

Another key priority for the ICC in the 2023 legislative session met with more measured success.

Senate Bill 1, designed to transform emergency response procedures for people experiencing a mental health crisis, had enjoyed enthusiastic support from the General Assembly to the governor's office. Although it easily passed both legislative chambers, ultimately it fell short of the full funding called for by the bill's sponsor and numerous allies including the ICC.

Studies had shown that Indiana would require \$130 million per year to effectively implement Senate Bill 1, which aims to increase local usage of the 988 national suicide and crisis hotline launched last year and continue building an infrastructure to provide for the mental health needs of people in the most urgent situations. The legislation also calls for establishing mobile crisis intervention teams that are trained to respond to mental health emergencies across Indiana's 92 counties and fund additional community-based mental health clinics statewide.

The newly passed budget provides \$50 million per year for the initiative — better than the \$35 million that had been allocated prior to the final budget negotiations, but far below what advocates had hoped to see.

"These funds will go a long way, but ultimately we will need more to create and maintain an adequate infrastructure for dealing with mental health crises," Espada said. "People in these situations are deserving of dignity and the right kind of care. That means having appropriate people who are trained to respond to these situations — and having appropriate places to take those who are in severe distress and in need of help."

Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield), a longtime champion of mental health legislation, had sponsored the bill and fought for adequate funding to the end. Lawmakers had looked at various options that were ultimately rejected, including a cigarette tax surcharge.

"I am pleased that we got substantial funding for Senate Bill 1, but we need a long-term sustainable funding source that doesn't rely on general fund dollars," Crider said. "I intend

to keep working toward that goal. A cell phone fee, a cigarette tax increase, or an alcohol tax increase are all viable options."

One major win for the ICC and advocates for the poor was the first meaningful update in decades for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Indiana. The budget also saw increases in funding for food banks statewide.

In addition, the ICC hailed the passage of changes to Indiana's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), including better aligning the state tax credit with the federal one, eliminating the current marriage penalty, and extending credits for larger families, including those with foster children.

"This is a big step in recognizing that married couples, foster parents, and parents with more than two children shouldn't have to face penalties," said Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC.

Mingus also pointed to new budget allocations of \$10 million for land conservation and \$30 million for trail usage in Indiana's state parks. Although those figures fell short of what the governor called for in his State of the State address, Mingus said the ICC was pleased "to see some investment in those areas."

At the conclusion of this long legislative session, which saw the ICC's steady presence at the Statehouse, Espada reflected on the past four months.

"After every legislative session, people like to count wins and losses," she said. "The ICC is obviously happy with the expansion of school choice, the eventual increases to TANF, and the success of many of our other priorities. However, we are more pleased that legislators are willing to listen to the ICC and their constituents. We are also pleased that people are willing to get engaged and reach out to their lawmakers."

"It takes all of us."

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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Most Victims of Mass Cult Starvation in Kenya Are Children

NAIROBI, Kenya (OSV News) — As the death toll in what is becoming known as the “Shakahola starvation massacre” in Kenya hit 110, religious leaders in the region suspect that the forest ranch may have been turned into a secret burial site. All victims were followers of the Good News International Church Pastor Paul Mackenzie, who had told his followers to pray and fast to meet Jesus, and that the world would end on April 15. Children account for most of the 109 bodies so far recovered in the 800-acre ranch in Kilifi County in eastern Kenya, Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki said on April 27. The bodies were found in more than 50 graves. “The preliminary reports we are getting is that some of the victims may not have died of starvation. There were other methods used, including hurting them, just by physical and preliminary observations,” Kindiki told reporters. “Religious leaders call for investigations whether the bodies being retrieved from the graves in Shakahola are of people who died of starvation or they were brought there,” Bishop Wilybard Kitogho Lagho of Malindi told OSV News in an interview on April 28. According to the bishop, the leaders want to know to what extent the pastor had followers beyond Kilifi County.

Pope Decides Women Will Be Voting Members of Synod of Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At least three dozen women will be voting members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October, Pope Francis has decided. In a decision formalized on April 17, “the Holy Father approved the extension of participation in the synodal assembly to ‘non-bishops’ — priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, lay men and women,” officials with the synod office said in a statement on April 26. Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, Relator General of the synod, told reporters that about 21 percent of the synod’s 370 members would not be bishops and at least half of that group would be women. Adding women and young people to the membership will make sure “the Church is well represented” in the prayer and discussions scheduled for Oct. 4-29 at the Vatican, the cardinal said. “It will be a joy to have the whole Church represented in Rome for the synod.” “As you can see, the space in the tent is being enlarged,” Cardinal Mario Grech, Synod Secretary-General, told reporters. “The Synod of Bishops will

Swiss Guard Recruits Prepare for Ceremony



CNS photo/Chris Warde-Jones

Swiss Guard recruits stand at attention in the courtyard outside their barracks at the Vatican on April 28. The recruits are preparing for a swearing-in ceremony held on May 6 every year to mark the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss Guards lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the Sack of Rome.

remain a synod of bishops,” Cardinal Grech said, but it will be “enriched” by representatives of the whole Church.

Biden Administration Outlines New Plan to Reduce Migrant Arrivals When Title 42 Ends

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — The Biden administration announced on April 27 new steps it would take in an effort to reduce migrant arrivals at the U.S.-Mexico border when Title 42 expires on May 11. In remarks at the State Department, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said the administration would set up migrant processing centers in Latin America to screen those seeking entry as to whether they have a legal pathway to the U.S. The administration will also expand legal pathways for entry, while increasing deportations of those

who enter the U.S. unlawfully. Blinken said the centers would “improve qualified individuals’ access” to refugee resettlement, family reunification, and lawful settlement in the United States or other countries. Title 42 is a part of federal U.S. public health law granting the federal government some authority to implement emergency action to prevent the spread of contagious diseases by barring some individuals from entry. Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, the U.S. bishops’ Migration Chairman, praised the administration on April 28 for efforts to accommodate the increased need for refugee resettlement from Latin America and the Caribbean but he expressed concern that the most vulnerable, including families, will face rushed proceedings without proper due process. He also said the complex challenges of migration facing the U.S. cannot be resolved without overhauling the nation’s immigration system and making a long-term commitment to address root causes.

Federal Bill Reintroduced to Put Lab Animals Up for Adoption; Move Hailed by Catholic Ethicists

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — In a bipartisan effort showing shared concern for animal welfare, Reps. Tony Cardenas, D-Calif., and Ken Calvert, R-Calif., reintroduced the Companion Animal Release from Experiments (CARE) Act of 2023 in the U.S. House on April 26. The legislation requires facilities that both use research animals — dogs, cats, and rabbits — and receive funds from the National Institutes of Health to plan for the animals’ future once they are no longer used in research. Under the CARE Act, the labs would need to design and implement adoption policies, and maintain public records of the animals. Fifteen states have enacted laws for post-research cat and dog

placement from publicly funded research institutions, but no national requirement exists. The CARE Act drew praise from Catholic ethicists who noted how it reflects the Church’s teaching to care for creation. “The bill appropriately reflects the respect due to such animals, both because God has blessed them with awareness and subjectivity, and as a gesture of gratitude for the medical service they have provided us,” said Jesuit Father Christopher Steck, Professor of Theology at Georgetown University and Author of “All God’s Animals: A Catholic Theological Framework for Animal Ethics.” Catholic Moral Theologian Charles Camosy, Author of “For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action,” agreed, pointing to the catechism. He said, “Animals belong to God and we have a responsibility to show them kindness in ways which reflect God’s will for these creatures.”

Staten Island Ferry Named for Dorothy Day Makes Maiden Voyage

STATEN ISLAND, New York (OSV News) — A floating monument to Dorothy Day, Co-Founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, made its maiden voyage to Manhattan on April 28, sailing forth from Day’s adopted home of Staten Island that afternoon. Day had deep roots on Staten Island, one of New York’s five boroughs. She was received into the Catholic Church there and lived part of her life there. As an adult, she was baptized at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Tottenville in 1927. Retired New York Auxiliary Bishop John J. O’Hara, Auxiliary Bishop Peter J. Byrne, and Monsignor Kevin O’Sullivan of Catholic Charities represented the Archdiocese of New York. “Our saint. Our Dorothy Day, whom the Lord called over the years, and then in an encounter on the South Shore on the beach with a Sister of Charity, He began drawing her closer and closer and closer. As He formed those prophets of old, so too did He form this great woman,” said Bishop O’Hara in remarks at the ferry’s launch. The bishop was referring to Sister Aloysia Mary Mulhern, whom Day had approached in 1926 to ask where she could have her newborn daughter, Tamar, baptized. The conversation led to Sister Mulhern instructing Day in the Catholic faith and she was baptized on Dec. 28, 1927. Day is a candidate for sainthood and was given the title “Servant of God” when her cause was officially opened in 2000.

Finding Peace During a Difficult Time

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Mother's Day can be an incredibly difficult day for women with the inability to conceive a child. The day can be isolating with a roller coaster of emotions. While being happy for all the loving mothers in their circle of friends and family, feelings of despair and sadness can veil a day dedicated to the miracle of life.

Hope for the Journey, a ministry within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, offers spiritual, emotional, and practical support that is rooted in the Catholic faith for anyone experiencing infertility or secondary infertility. In an effort to ease the suffering of families on Mother's Day, a special vigil Mass is happening on Saturday, May 13, at 4 p.m. with Father Julius Okojie at St. Therese, Little Flower Church in South Bend. A social gathering will immediately follow Mass.

"I was asked by the women in our diocesan support group for those suffering from infertility, Hope for the Journey, if I would be able to arrange a vigil Mass on Mother's Day weekend for their group and anyone else, whether individuals or couples, in a season of infertility, followed by a simple gathering with some light refreshments," said Lisa Everett, Director for Marriage and Family Ministry. "As you can imagine, Mother's Day is very difficult for women who have not been able to conceive a child, and to have a special Mass for them and their intentions on this weekend so that they do not have to attend a regular parish Mass and be present for the blessing of mothers is very meaningful."

"Last year on Mother's Day weekend, we hosted a retreat for couples/women in a season of infertility at the Sacred Heart Parish Center at Notre Dame, and it included a vigil Mass for those in attendance which was very beautiful, so the idea was to do something similar on a smaller scale this year at one of our parishes," said Everett.

For questions or more information, please contact Lisa Everett at leverett@diocesefwsb.org or visit diocesefwsb.org/marriage-and-family-ministry/.



Erika Barron

More than 30 former students of Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, which closed its doors in 1972, gathered for an alumni event at Saint Anne Communities on Wednesday, April 26.

Memories of Central Catholic High School Live On with Residents of Saint Anne Communities

BY ERIKA BARRON

More than 50 years since closing its doors, Central Catholic High School lives on in the hearts and minds of the alumni. On Wednesday, April 26, at Saint Anne Communities in Fort Wayne, the Central Catholic Alumni Association held a dessert social for the alumni in residence. The Central Catholic "Fighting Irish" were well represented with more than 30 former students in attendance sharing fond memories of their high school days while enjoying shamrock shaped cookies.

Mark Linker, President of the Alumni Association, addressed the crowd saying, "As an association, we take the time to really keep the spirit of our school alive. It was a good one, as far back as we can remember."

A wide range of yearbooks were available for people to look through, reminiscing about old classmates and even recalling the fashion of the day. Several residents even wore their vintage Central Catholic spirit wear, still in perfect condition.

Some student celebrities of the school were even present, such as Harry Rowe, Class of 1958, who was the first to score



100 points in a basketball game in the City of Fort Wayne.

"The band was really the place to be," shared Doris Bass, who played the trumpet for the band at Central Catholic.

The oldest alumnus in attendance was Jim Griffith, Class of 1939, who just turned 102.

"It was amazing to see the residents of memory care lighting up as they remembered," said Victoria Linker, Class of 1969.

Mary Lou Morris gave a short talk on the memorial at the former site of Central Catholic, located on the corner of Clinton and Lewis Streets next to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Afterwards, she led the crowd in a singalong of their school song, which the alumni sang proudly.

The Central Catholic Alumni Association is open to any former student of Central Catholic. In addition to the memorial, a museum is located in Bishop Dwenger High School. The Alumni Association is host to many events throughout the year, and works to keep the memory and spirit of Central Catholic thriving with members spread throughout the country.

For more information, contact Victoria Linker at 260-341-6209.

Bishop Dwenger Grad Joe Tippmann Selected by New York Jets in Second Round of the NFL Draft

BY ERIC PEAT

After months of preparation and speculation, Joe Tippmann's football future is finally clear.

Big Joe is headed to the Big Apple.

The Bishop Dwenger High School graduate and two-year starter for the Wisconsin Badgers heard his name called in the second round of the 2023 NFL Draft on Friday, April 28. The New York Jets selected Joe with the 43rd overall pick, making him the first center taken off the board. However, Joe first had to endure some "super intense" moments of uncertainty as he waited for one of the teams that had shown interest in him to make a move.

"So, we're sitting there, and I see a New Jersey number pop up on my phone, and I knew what that meant," recalled Joe, who was watching the draft in Fort Wayne at the home of his parents, John and Kim Tippmann. Joe answered the phone and spoke to the owner, general manager, and head coach of the Jets organization while his family members surrounding him did their best to hold it together. "I'm just seeing the reactions on everyone's faces; I'm tearing up myself — it was truly a breathtaking moment."

"As soon as he hung up, there was a pretty big roar of cheering — lots of emotions," said John. "There was an extreme amount of stress relieved. I was stressed for him; both Kim and I could tell he was a little more relaxed Friday than he was Thursday."

Joe shared the unforgettable experience with about a hundred people who had gathered together at the Tippmann residence — both his close family members assembled in one room, and his extended family, friends, teammates, and coaches who soon joined in the



Photos by Oh Snap Maddie Marie Photography

Joe Tippmann spends NFL Draft night on Friday, April 28, with his parents, John and Kim Tippmann, surrounded by family and friends.



Bishop Dwenger High School graduate Joe Tippmann is drafted by the New York Jets with the 43rd overall pick in the second Round of the 2023 NFL Draft on Friday, April 28.

Joe from a football perspective, ever since flying him out for a pre-draft visit.

"In our meetings, they told me that there were opportunities to be on that team, that if everything falls in the right situation, they were going to be drafting me," said Joe. He will be given an opportunity to compete for a starting spot at center, a position he held for 22 games at Wisconsin after converting from a guard. However, Joe made it clear that his preferred position is "whatever gets me on the field."

Of course, if Joe stays at center, he will likely be snapping the ball to veteran quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who the Jets acquired via trade the week of the draft. The four-time NFL Most Valuable Player texted Joe the morning after he was drafted, congratulating him and stating that he can't wait to get to work with Joe in New York.

"Just waking up and seeing that, I guess that was when it sank in that I'd get to be learning from one of the best," admitted Joe.

After all the draft-night chaos began to subside at the Tippmann's, Joe's siblings got to work calculating drive times to New York, researching flights and airports, and determining what game destinations were manageable for travel. Although the Jets aren't scheduled to play many games close to home this upcoming season — a visit to the Cleveland Browns being the stop nearest to Fort Wayne — Joe's family is ready to support him regardless.

"We're pretty happy for him," said John. "He's worked so hard, and it's a great team to get picked by. We'd be happy wherever he went, but it's at least a little closer than some of the west coast teams."

As Joe prepares to leave home on May 4 to report to rookie minicamp, he'll be taking his Catholic faith with him on the next phase of his journey.

"There's going to be more things coming onto my plate, more of a platform being an NFL athlete, more opportunities to do what I've always wanted to do, especially with more resources, time, and availability," Joe said of living out his faith as a professional athlete. "It's something I need to hold close to my heart as I move forward."

celebration.

"All of his siblings, his grandma, everyone was in the room with us, they were all hugging," said Kim. "And after that, he went outside the room we were in, and people came up to him — coaches from the past, aunts and uncles, cousins, friends — they went on grabbing pictures, hugging, and thanking each other."

One of those former coaches is someone who will forever hold a unique connection with Joe. Jason Fabini, who coached Joe on the offensive line at both St. Charles Borromeo and Bishop Dwenger, was also drafted by the Jets back in

1998 and played eight seasons in New York.

"Jason Fabini was super excited about it," said John. "He immediately sent his kids home to grab all his Jets gear. He said, 'Go clear out the Jets drawers, boys!' They brought all his stuff over and were handing it to people, whoever wanted to wear it."

"As soon as I got the call, I thought of him," Joe said of Fabini. "Just being able to learn from him — he's been my mentor since 5th grade. For me to end up getting drafted by the same organization, I think 25 years later, it's truly amazing."

The Jets also made sense to



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A Good Night's Sleep Gets New Meaning in Michiana

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Home is the place you hang your hat, where the kitchen emulates the smells of grandma's famous cookies, laughter is found around the dining room table, and the safety zone filled with love. At home when the day ends, young children are carried off to bed by mom or dad followed by bedtime stories and nightly prayers. Warm, comfy beds are the key to a good night's sleep necessary to help children grow, stay healthy, and be refreshed for the journey ahead.

Imagine a life without that security or a warm bed to sleep in at night. Recently, it was discovered that a family of nine was found sleeping and living in a van. Night after night, the family struggled to stay warm, safe, and comfortable.

This discovery of a family's despair was the dawning of a collaboration between Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley, and 1st Source Bank. These mission-driven groups came together for a Build-a-Bed project that resulted in 170 volunteers building 115 beds for children ages 2-17 in Michiana.

With a mission to serve all those in need as Christ calls us to do, the team sprang into action to find a solution to solve the family's plight. The first obstacle was securing a safe living space. Once that feat was accomplished, the team began working on beds for the family to get a good night's sleep.

According to Catholic Charities Chief Executive Officer Dan Florin, Kellie Porter, the Vice President of the West Region, spent hours searching for sleeping options. She found "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," an organization dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering quality beds to children and families in need. The organization doesn't have a South Bend chapter but was willing to pull together chapters from LaGrange and Elkhart in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky to hold a build and explore the possibility of starting a South Bend chapter.

"By the grace of God, this all came together," said Florin.

JP Wilson, Senior Director of Operations for Sleep in Heavenly Sleep, said the organization is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering quality beds to children and families in need. They have roughly 280 chapters across the country and hope to add 100 more chapters this year. The lack of a bed forces children to sleep on couches, blankets, floors, and even in cars, which can affect health and happiness.



More than 120 volunteers spent the day building 115 beds for children in need during the first Build-A-Bed event in South Bend.

"Since May of last year, we had 82,000 beds requested but were unable to fill all the requests because we don't have enough chapters," noted Wilson. "There's zero reason in this country why a kid shouldn't have a bed."

When finding a solution to sleeping arrangements was settled, the next challenge was finding an opportunity to recruit volunteers for a build. With a goal of building 150 beds, it was going to take an army.

Connections were made with the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley and the group identified Catholic Charities as a project site for the inaugural Notre Dame Global Day of Service on Saturday, April 29. The day was created for Notre Dame students, alumni, parents, and friends around the world to serve and volunteer in their local communities, being a force of good and improving a world greatly in need.

"This is an exciting event,

and we are glad to be part of this event with Catholic Charities and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. It's important to recognize that anyone can make a difference for those in need in our community," said Annie Envall-Latowski, Service and Grotto Prayer Program Director of the Alumni Association. "It's a privilege to be part of an event that is going to impact so many young lives."

Globally, the day encompassed 160 events worldwide. Locally, more than 120 volunteers participated.

"We are so thrilled to have so many things happening around the globe," said Dan Allen, Associate Director of Spirit/Service with the Notre Dame Alumni Association. He said he is grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community where the University of Notre Dame is located and a place alumni called home for many years.

"Today, we're building

important."

Each bed costs \$250, which includes the materials to make the frame structure, the mattress, and the bedding. The 1st Source Foundation was a presenting sponsor and also brought a crew to physically assist in the building process.

"It's a great opportunity for the community to come together," said Christopher J. Murphy, III, Chairman and CEO of 1st Source Bank. He felt this project was in perfect alignment with the foundation's mission of working to enhance and strengthen the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the community, helping to improve the quality of life for all those in the community. "We are blessed to be part of this opportunity. You can't have a good life without a good bed and a good night's sleep."

Other sponsors included the South Bend Cubs, Sibley Machine, and KIL Architects. When the weather became an issue, Kevin Smith generously offered the use of the Union Station Renaissance District building for the set-up of the assembly line of workers building the beds.

The beds will be stored with different chapters and distributed with the assistance of Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"It's a beautiful thing. I'm proud to be part of this community," said Florin about the experience. "I hope people look back at this time and remember it as one of the best days they ever had."

"These moments build community," said Wilson, who hopes that more events like this happen nationwide.

"God has blessed us to get us in the center of people's lives," said Murphy, who is proud his organization could be part of such an amazing community outreach.

Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

Dan Florin, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and his wife Kelly spent the morning on Saturday, April 29, in South Bend sanding boards for the building of beds for children in need.

beds for people who don't have anywhere to sleep," said Dolly Duffy, Executive Director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association. She noted that she is a bed person and that her kids are always teasing her about it. After this experience, she is going to look at her bed and sleeping arrangements differently, remembering how blessed she is for this necessary comfort. "Service and giving back in any way people can is

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Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend Opens New Counseling Office

BY NICOLE KURUT

On Thursday, April 27, Catholic Charities held an open house at their new Fort Wayne Counseling Services office. Donors, priests, and diocesan principals were invited to meet the staff and learn more about the mental health service the agency provides. Currently, Catholic Charities serves 12 diocesan schools. Since July of 2022, the agency has provided an average of 4,700+ sessions to school children and individuals in the diocese.

Located at Dupont and Coldwater Road in the Woodland Plaza, the new office offers an intentionally peaceful atmosphere. The new space also allows counselors to include play as a therapy tool in the new play therapy room.

Currently in training, Duke the therapy dog will soon be certified to bring extra comfort to those served in the Fort Wayne office.

Here are a few quick facts about counseling at Catholic Charities throughout the diocese:

Staffing:

They have five clinicians in Fort Wayne. Two of them can speak more than one language, which aids many parishioners and refugee clients.

They have one full-time school counselor in Fort Wayne, but plan to add another by the end of summer.

In South Bend, they have one full-time counselor, three part-time school counselors, one part-time addictions counselor, and one part-time intern.

They are currently serving 12 diocesan schools.



Photos by Nicole Kurut

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend holds an open house on Thursday, April 27, at their new counseling office at 10102 Woodland Plaza Cove in Fort Wayne.



Staff members and Duke the therapy dog are excited to offer counseling services at the new office of Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne.

Therapy Services Offered:

They offer individual, family, marital, addiction (South Bend only), play, and teletherapy.

Modalities/Approaches (Forms of therapy used): They offer Christian/Faith-Based, CBT (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy), Play Therapy, which allows children

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

to play out what they are feeling or what has happened to them and talk while they are in their element (Fort Wayne only), Solution-Focused, and EMDR for Trauma (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing).

Payment:

Catholic Charities is credentialed with most major commercial insurance companies and Medicaid. They also offer a sliding scale of payment.

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3rd-Grader Launches 'Kid's Bible in a Year with Teddy' Podcast

BY GABRIELLA PATTI

NEWPORT, Michigan (OSV News) — When he grows up, 3rd-grader Teddy Howell, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newport, and wants to be a podcaster and a priest. At 9-years-old, he already has achieved one of those goals with the recent launch of his podcast: "Kid's Bible in a Year with Teddy."

In each 10-minute episode, released Sundays and Wednesdays, Teddy leads his listeners in prayer and through a series of Bible verses. Teddy has been given permission by Ascension Press to use the "Catholic Bible Chronicles" as his reference.

Subscribers can listen to Teddy's podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast hosting platforms.

If the youngster's podcast sounds familiar, that's because it's inspired by Father Mike Schmitz's chart-topping podcast, "The Bible in a Year (with Father Mike Schmitz)." The priest, of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, created the Bible podcast with Scripture scholar Jeff Cavins with the backing of Ascension. Cavins is the author of the hugely popular "Great Adventure Bible Study Program" and "The Bible Timeline Learning System."

Although Teddy, the oldest of six children, wanted to listen to Father Schmitz's podcast along with his parents, the series contains some material



OSV News photo/Courtesy Howell Family

Nine-year-old Teddy Howell, seen in an undated photo, wants to be a podcaster and a priest. Inspired by Father Mike Schmitz's popular podcast, "The Bible in a Year," the 3rd-grader at St. Charles Borromeo Academy in Newport, Michigan, has achieved one of those goals with the recent launch of his own podcast: "Kid's Bible in a Year with Teddy."

that isn't suitable for young children, said Teddy's mother, Steffi Howell.

"Father Mike Schmitz gets a PG-13 rating, and Teddy was getting frustrated when we turned off Father Mike," Steffi Howell told Detroit Catholic, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Detroit. "He first had the idea about two years ago to make his own (podcast), and it finally came to fruition."

Teddy writes his own scripts, including an intro, prayer, Bible verses he wants to highlight, and a conclusion to each episode. His parents help him type it out, and he records each episode using a microphone hooked up to his father's computer or his mother's cellphone.

At the time of Detroit Catholic's interview with Teddy, he was unsure how many followers he had; however, he has had 323 episode plays total for his five first episodes with listeners in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Great

Britain.

Once this podcast is over, Teddy hopes to make another and another — eventually becoming a podcaster priest like Father Schmitz.

"I love God ... and I want to grow in the virtue of God with other kids," said Teddy, who attends St. Charles Borromeo Academy in Newport.

Although Teddy's podcast is geared toward other children, he thinks it could benefit adults as well.

"(If adults listen to it) maybe if they're not Catholic, they could become Catholic," Teddy added.

Teddy's goal for the podcast is just for people to listen to the word of God.

"I like to read about the Bible, and I pray," Teddy said. "If you want to follow me, you can subscribe if you want."

Gabriella Patti is a staff reporter for Detroit Catholic, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Detroit.



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The Very Purpose of a Monstrance is to Show the Eucharist to the World

The very purpose of a monstrance is to show the Eucharist, “the living bread that came down from heaven” (Jn 6:51). The word monstrance comes from the Latin *monstrare*, which means “to make known” or “to reveal.” In the Middle Ages, monstrances were often shaped like little churches, making the connection between the worship that took place in the sacred place and the holiness of the Eucharist itself. Then, in one of the Church’s most beautiful examples of inculturation, Spanish missionaries began to shape monstrances like the sun in order to make the association between native peoples’ reverence for the sun and the Eucharist.

Some might hesitate to take the Eucharist to the streets in a monstrance. In an act of incredible fortitude, one of my Dominican confreres began leading a Corpus Christi procession at his parish — during June — in New York’s Greenwich Village neighborhood. While many expected the procession to be a source of controversy, tension, or antagonism, none of that was the case.

Astonishing encounters followed. Onlookers marveled at the procession. Some asked questions of participants. Others quietly crossed themselves in prayer as the procession passed by their res-

taurant table. For those who asked questions, how could they know to ask a question if there was nothing to be seen to inspire their curiosity? For those who crossed themselves, how would they know to offer a gesture of faith if they could not see the Eucharist?

A Eucharistic procession is never a display of triumphalism or showmanship. Processions aren’t parades. When the faithful demonstrate reverence and prayer, processions are moments of authentic engagement with the world. When passersby happen upon moving examples of worship, their hearts can be moved to seek God.

Pope Francis says that Eucharistic processions are important because they remind us “that we are called to go out and bring Jesus to others.” The Holy Father offered a marvelous witness of the openness a Eucharistic procession offers at the beginning of his papacy, humbly walking behind the Blessed Sacrament in Rome’s Corpus Christi procession, instead of kneeling on a pope-mobile as his immediate predecessors had done.

A monstrance, which reveals Christ, puts Christ at the center of our journey. Hiding the Lord, or enclosing Him, makes it easy to miss that He is the one being followed. That’s what’s so beautiful about Pope Francis’ witness: He’s pointing



GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OFM

to Christ. The monstrance is not a treasure because of the precious metal from which it’s made or the gems and designs which adorn it. A monstrance is sacred because of the one it carries.

We are, by our baptism, pilgrims. Our destination is not the here and now. A monstrance declares for all to see our faith in the one whom we follow; it allows the one we love to be seen. A Eucharistic procession, then, importantly is a sign of the very deepest meaning of Christian life: We are led by Christ. We are guided by Him from the false hopes and happinesses of this life to our eternal destiny in heaven.

The Gospels are filled with stories of people trying to get near to Jesus. Why would we not allow the Zaccheuses of today a glimpse of Him? Why would we not carry Him to the eyes of those who might very well be healed were they even to glance at Him who sees the very depths of their souls?

BRISCOE, page 13

Shepherds and Sheep

We’ve reached the point in the Easter season when the liturgy presents Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd, tending his flock with care. When I think about this, I usually picture a tender, pastoral image of a field of fluffy sheep watched over by a shepherd lazily resting in the shade of a tree. The familiar 23rd psalm presents just such a scene, telling us that “The Lord is my shepherd, / I shall not want. / In verdant pastures he gives me repose. / Beside restful waters he leads me; / he refreshes my soul.”

When you think about it, sheep play an important role in the history of salvation. In the story of Cain and Abel (Gen 4), it is Abel’s sacrifice of a lamb that God prefers to Cain’s grain offering — note that this is not, however, a divine dismissal of vegetables. Later in the book of Genesis, as Abraham prepares to sacrifice his son Isaac, God instead provides a ram for the sacrifice (Gen 22). Jacob, the son of Isaac, first meets his wife Rachel as she was watering her family’s sheep, a flock which later became part of her inheritance (Gen 30). And the greatest king of Israel, David, was called from the field where he was shepherding the family’s flocks to be anointed as the future king by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16). Israel’s prophets often compared God’s chosen people to a flock of sheep, promising the Almighty’s tender care and protection: “He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

lead those that are with young” (Isa 40:11).

According to those who’ve worked with sheep, however, those fluffy puffballs are not always innocent, gentle, and carefree. In his essay, “Out Like a Lamb,” Andre Dubus describes his experience as a temporary shepherd for a vacationing friend, where he discovered how difficult it is to tend a flock. The sheep would repeatedly break out of their protective pen, fall over cliffs, eat the vegetable garden, get eaten by wolves, and generally act with reckless abandon for their own safety. “Christ had called us His flock, His sheep; there were pictures of Him holding a lamb in His arms. His face was tender and loving, and I grew up with a sense of those feelings, of being a source of them: we were sweet and lovable sheep. But after a few weeks in that New Hampshire house, I saw Christ’s analogy meant something entirely different. We were stupid helpless brutes, and without constant watching we would foolishly destroy ourselves.”

HALLENIUS, page 13

Like the Apostles, We Must Spread the Word of God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday of Easter John 14:1-12

Once again in this season, the Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading. The early chapters of Acts graphically display the lives of the early Christians. Obvious in this glimpse into history is the primary place of the Apostles, and the superior position among them of Peter, in the infant Church.

The Apostles were acknowledged because the Christians recognized the Apostles’ special relationship with, and calling from, the Lord. Indeed, reverence for the Apostles was so deep that the people placed their possessions at the

Apostles’ feet, allowing the Apostles to control even the material assets of the community.

In Acts, this community was situated in Jerusalem. Although the very heart of Jewish life, Jerusalem was not Corinth. It was not Antioch. It most certainly was not Rome. In the total scheme of things, it was not a great city.

Caesarea, a seaport on the Mediterranean Sea, was more important. In Caesarea, the Roman governor resided. The Roman occupation had its headquarters there. Its port provided the way to Rome.

Not surprisingly, Acts also speaks of events in the vicinity of Caesarea. (The ruins of Caesarea now are in the suburbs of modern Tel Aviv. It is interesting, incidentally, that the only relic of the administration of Pontius Pilate as governor, aside from mention in the Gospels, is a stone carved with his name, found at the site of ancient Caesarea.)

Very clear in Acts is the way that the first Christians lived. Care of the needy, and of poor

widows, was their priority. The Apostles directed such care. The Apostles also taught the Gospel, with Peter always as their spokesman.

To assist in providing care, and to proclaim the Gospel, the Apostles chose seven holy men to be deacons. Calling deacons was not just an exercise of organization but also of the Apostles’ authority to act in the Lord’s name.

First Peter provides the second reading, proclaiming Jesus as essential in life. The reading urges Christians to be true uncompromisingly to Jesus.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. Not a Resurrection Narrative, it recalls the Lord’s discourse with the Apostles, telling them what to expect in the future. Looking ahead, frank about the obstacles awaiting, Jesus prepared them for their future duties.

As we come along, reassuringly, the readings say that Christ will be with us always, “the way, the truth, and the life”, the Almighty, the merciful Son of God.

Reflection

Weeks have passed since Easter. Throughout all of them, the Church joyfully has told us of the Resurrection. The Lord lives!

Before long, this Easter season will end. We will return to life in 2023, with its burdens and rewards. What will assist our discipleship in our time?

These post-Easter readings at Mass answer this question by putting before us the Church, as a visible, active institution. This weekend’s lesson from Acts reveals the endurance and the timelessness of the Church, through successors of the Apostles.

Christ ascended to heaven, but the Apostles continued the work of salvation by drawing others into their mission. They called and ordained deacons. Deacons serve us today.

Paul named Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, and others to be bishops, to further his efforts. Succeeding Peter was the second bishop of Rome. Then came the third and the fourth and the fifth, now to Francis. Thus, it has been for 2,000 years.

Through successors of the Apostles, the Church still tells us that Jesus is with us as Savior and Guide. The Church still cares for the poor.

In the variety of modern religion, which Christian community truly reflects the gathering of the first Christians in Jerusalem? It uniquely is the Roman Catholic Church, precisely because the Church still relies upon the Apostles with Peter clearly as their head.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-4, 15-16 Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13ab, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-5 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-10, 12 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1-3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Many Things Are Not Permitted; Everything Can Be Forgiven

The washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, the veneration of the cross on Good Friday, the journey through the pivotal readings from the Old Testament during Saturday's Easter Vigil, the joyful resurrection of the "Alleluia" on Easter Sunday — all of it is meant to plunge us into the mystery of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus.

At several points during the celebrations, I was reminded of a saying of my mentor, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago. It kept coming into my mind as a sort of mantra or refrain, prompted by so many of the gestures and readings of Holy Week. The Cardinal once famously commented that we live in a culture where "everything is permitted and nothing is forgiven." In the typical Georgan manner, the saying is pithy, memorable, and dead right. Even the most casual survey of our society discloses the truth of the first part of the Cardinal's adage. Men are allowed to be women, and women men. Male athletes, claiming a female identity, can dominate women's sports. Transgender surgery, even when it amounts to the mutilation of children, is positively encouraged in many parts of our country, including my home state of Minnesota. Abortion, even to the moment of birth, is legal (indeed celebrated) in a number of states; assisted suicide of the suffering is considered a fundamental right of the individual and prerogative of the state.

But the truth of the second part of the Cardinal's statement is equally obvious. Violations of the accepted secular orthodoxy today result in cancellation, elimination, permanent ostracization. If you doubt me, try posting something even mildly anti-woke on the internet. The Jacobin mob will be on you in moments. And if you read the ideologues behind wokeism, you will see that being, say, a white male, or an

advocate of traditional religious values, makes you permanently a reprobate with no hope of redemption. If you doubt me on this score, ask any woke enthusiast just how much apology or reparation is required to relieve an offender of his guilt. You will find that the answer is "never enough." So, on the one hand, everything seems to be permitted, but on the other hand, nothing is ever really forgiven.

In light of the cross, we know that many things ought not be permitted ... everything in principle can be forgiven.

I thought of Cardinal George's *bon mot* during Holy Week because the dying and rising of Jesus reveals precisely the reverse of what obtains in our secular culture. During the Holy Week liturgies, especially on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we see practically all forms of human dysfunction. What brought the Lord to the cross was a demonic farrago of hatred, stupidity, violence, cruelty, institutional injustice, self-serving careerism, betrayal, denial, and gross indifference to the will of God. Though many of those responsible for the death of Jesus wrapped themselves in the mantle of righteousness or offered pathetic justifications for their behavior, in fact, all of them were exposed as frauds and sinners. The cross itself served as judgment on human folly and wickedness. In its light, there was no chance to hide. Of course, we would all love to live in a society where everything is permitted, where no decision of ours is ever subject to question or correction, where "I'm okay and you're okay." But the cross of Jesus stands athwart all of this. It shines an unsparing light on our sin, especially our hidden sin; it convinces us, beyond doubt, that we are not okay. And this is all to the good, for if we never admit to sin, we will never be open to salvation.

At the same time, the



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

accounts of the Resurrection of the Lord disclose the opposite of the cancel culture. To the very people who had denied, betrayed, and abandoned Him, Jesus does indeed show His wounds, lest they forget their sin, but then He utters the incomparably beautiful word "Shalom." In any conventional telling of a story like this, the offended man, back from the dead, would certainly be intent upon revenge. But in the Gospel story, the man who had been hurt as fully as a person can be hurt, returned in forgiving love. And let us press the point, for the person in question was not only a man but also true God. Therefore, they killed God and God offered a word of peace and reconciliation. If any people in the history of humanity deserved to be cancelled, it was all those who contributed to the death of Jesus, but instead they are forgiven. And this means (and it is the Good News of the Gospel that applies to every person up and down the ages) that every sin is forgivable, that God cancels no one.

And so, to the cancel culture that says, "Everything is permitted but nothing is forgiven," we Christians should counter, "In light of the cross, we know that many things ought not be permitted," and in light of the Resurrection, that "everything in principle can be forgiven." In that reversal of the present orthodoxy, we find a truly saving word.

Bishop Robert Barron is the Bishop of Rochester, Minnesota, and the Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 7, 2023

John 14:1-12

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

| | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| YOUR HEARTS | TROUBLED | FATHER'S |
| HOUSE | MANY | PREPARE |
| PLACE | TO MYSELF | WHERE I AM |
| MAY BE | THE WAY | THOMAS |
| HOW CAN | WE KNOW | JESUS |
| THE LIFE | NO ONE | COMES |
| EXCEPT | THROUGH ME | KNOW ME |

THE PLACE AND WAY

W O N K E W K N O W M E
T H R O U G H M E C Y S
O P E X C E P T J O A U
M R C R D J R K U M W O
Y E A K E O I R E E E H
S P L W U I H N A S H S
E A P B S E A N A L T N
L R L U A I L M G B X N
F E S R M Y A M A N Y O
D E T H O W C A N Y O O
J S V T H E L I F E B N
J K F A T H E R S B C E

HALLENIUS, from page 12

To my eyes, that's actually pretty refreshing to read, as it fits with my own experience of the life of faith. I know my own tendencies, that I'm not always innocent and/or holy. I know that I need leading, prodding, and pulling to do what I ought to be doing, whether that be prayer or work. I need, in other words, a shepherd, who cares for me with tender attention. I know I'm not alone in needing this gentle guidance. And God, who knows what we need even before we ask, has not left us to our own devices, promising, "I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed" (Jer 23:4).

In Latin, the word for shepherd is "pastor," which is related to "pascere (to feed)." In this word we can hear echoes of the "Paschal Sacrifice," a term familiar from Holy Week, where it is used to describe the self-sacrifice of Christ Jesus that accomplished our salvation. A good shepherd both protects his flock, usually from themselves, and feeds them. We see this in our own pastors, who offer mercy in the Sacrament of Penance, saving us from ourselves, and feed us as they break open the Word of God and offer the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324).

As a kid growing up in the 1980s, I loved watching "The Dukes of Hazzard" on Friday nights with my family. Each

week, the main characters Bo and Luke Duke would inevitably get into some sort of shenanigans that would put them in conflict with the corrupt county commissioner and his bumbling sheriff. The Duke boys' kindly Uncle Jesse would usually warn them of the pending danger, getting their attention via the two-way radio by calling, "Shepherd to Lost Sheep." The show always ended with the boys safe at home, back among the sheepfold, and all was right with the world (at least until the next week's episode), echoing St. Peter's reminder that, "you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls" (1 Pt 2:25).

I'll bet that this may be the first time that "The Dukes of Hazzard" has been presented as an allegorical reference to Christ and the Good Shepherd!

One final note about shepherds and sheep: Let us, in this Easter season (and always), pray for our pastors, who have a great responsibility before God, and therefore have even greater need of God's grace. As we enter into the Marian month of May, let us lift up our priests and bishop, asking that Our Lady intercede for them to be true shepherds after the heart of her Divine Son. That's the least that we grateful sheep can do for the guardians of our souls.

Ken Hallenius is a syndicated radio host and podcaster living in South Bend.

BRISCOE, from page 12

Not all will believe in what they see. Not all believed when they saw the risen flesh of Christ. But some will believe. Some will be transformed. Some will be encouraged. Some will be renewed. And for them, that they might catch sight of the one we love, a procession with a monstrosity will be the cause of unspeakable joy.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor. Follow him on Twitter @PatrickMaryOP.



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'Your Job is to Listen': Young Women Spend Saturday in Vocational Discernment

BY GRACE FLANAGAN

On Saturday, April 29, the feast of St. Catherine of Sienna, more than 20 young Catholic women gathered at Sacred Heart Parish Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame for a retreat focused on discernment in spiritual life and the beauty of true femininity. The retreat opened with the women filing into the chapel for Mass celebrated by Father Matthew Coonan.

Then followed a reflective day filled with insightful talks, fruitful fellowship, and Confession and Adoration. Two of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration were present during the retreat to give talks and interact with the young women.

The first speaker, Anne Marie Stroud, began the day hyping up the attendees with an earnest talk on the primary calling of every woman: being rooted in one's identity as a daughter of the Father. Smaller breakout sessions were offered during the day, giving the young women an opportunity to choose what topic they wished to hear more about and creating a cozy atmosphere of leisurely chatting with one's sisters.

These sessions were given by Sister M. Ignatia Henneberry, O.S.F, who spoke on vocations and specific discernment advice, Sister Regina DeVreese, O.S.F, who spoke on community and love, and Anna Laisure, Youth Minister, who spoke on prayer and its importance.

In the afternoon Jessica Hayes, Consecrated Virgin and Advisor for Vocations to the Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, shared her insights on prayer, especially Lectio Divina. "Your job is to listen, not to hear," she shared, encouraging the women not to be downcast when nothing seems to be standing out to them in prayer.

The day closed with a Vocations Question and Answer Panel featuring Sister Henneberry, Margaret Freddoso, currently living the vocation of being single, and wife and mother of four, Megan Quigley.



Photos by Grace Flanagan

Retreat participants enjoy a beautiful spring walk around the University of Notre Dame campus during "Beloved Daughters: A Retreat for Young Women" on Saturday, April 29. Below, Consecrated Virgin Jessica Hayes, O.V. speaks on prayer at the retreat.



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.

Local Knights of Columbus Sponsors Silver Rose Pilgrimage

WARSAW — A silver rose on a nine-month pilgrimage will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service on Friday, May 5, at 6:15 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 125 N Harrison St. Join the Knights of Columbus Archbishop Noll Council 4511 to pray for a civilization of love and culture of life. Contact Bob List at 574-267-5212 or info@boblistphotography.com for information.

Evangelization Training

FORT WAYNE — As part of the Eucharistic Revival, become equipped to confidently and peacefully share your Catholic faith in the Eucharistic Lord with anyone by attending one-day evangelization training offered by the St. Paul Evangelization Institute on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 502 E Wallen Rd. An additional training will be held Saturday, May 13, at St. Pius X Parish, 52553 Fir Rd. in Granger. The program includes a light breakfast and lunch. Cost: \$20 per person/couple, waivable for financial need. Contact info.revival@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Wine Around the World Dinner

HUNTINGTON — A Wine Around the World Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 5-10 p.m. at the Huntington Knights of Columbus, 2817 Theater Ave. The event includes a four-course dinner with tasting-size wine pairings plus live music. The event is presented by Denny Jiosa, world renown, four-time Grammy nominated Mass Guitarist, who will give a presentation on each wine and the country it is from during the dinner. Jiosa and his band will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets are \$60 each and all proceeds will go to the Rob Mayo Scholarship Fund. Contact Laura Hinen at 260-224-3096 or laura.l.hinen@hotmail.com.

Dr. Timone Davis to Speak at St. Mary

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Timone Davis will speak following the 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 1101 S Lafayette St., on Saturday, May 21. Dr. Davis is an assistant professor at Loyola University in Chicago. After working for the Archdiocese of Chicago as the coordinator of ReCil — Reclaiming Christ in Life Young Adult Ministry, Davis launched PEACE centered WHOLENESS

with her husband, Orlando. There is no charge for the event.

Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage

MISHAWAKA — From June 4-11, pilgrims from across the diocese will give public witness to the faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament in a special Eucharistic procession from Fort Wayne all the way to South Bend. This eight-day event is a kickoff for the national Eucharistic procession occurring during the summer of 2024 all across the U.S., concluding in Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress in July of 2024. Our diocese is honored to help pave the way for this seminal event for our country. Visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist-events/#pilgrimage for information.

St. Joseph Book Sale

ROANOKE — The St. Joseph Rosary Society is holding a used book sale in conjunction with the town-wide garage sale on Friday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

REST IN PEACE

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St. Vincent de Paul

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Charles Lewallen,
93, St. John the
Evangelist

New Haven

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Baptist

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Cathedral of St.
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Sylvia Wieczorek, 82,
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St. Adalbert

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in the church basement at 651 N. Main Street. Cost is \$1 per hardcover book and \$3 per bag of paperback books. Bags are provided. A large selection will be available including cookbooks, fiction, nonfiction, history, and more. All proceeds go to the Honor Flight. Contact Kathleen Wisel at 260-437-2489 or kwisel8@yahoo.com for information.

O Beautiful Mother

FORT WAYNE — Join the Ecce Young Adult Choir and Father

Daniel Whelan from 1-2:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Catholic Cemetery outdoor Marian grotto, 3500 Lake Ave., for rosary, prayers, and Marian hymns to honor our Blessed Mother and to pray for ALL mothers, living and deceased. Bring blankets and chairs for sitting on the lawn. There will be reserved parking near the grotto for the handicapped. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Resurrection Mausoleum on site.

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to work as a Catholic school educator.

Bishop Rhoades delivered the following homily at the Evangelium Vitae Medal Mass on Saturday, April 29, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame:

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” These words of Jesus in the Gospel for this 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, are ideal for our reflection this evening as we celebrate the conferral of the Evangelium Vitae Medal. In fact, in his great encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote that these words of Jesus present the heart of His redemptive mission: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” What is Jesus referring to in these words? According to Saint John Paul II, “Jesus is referring to that ‘new’ and ‘eternal’ life which consists in communion with the Father, to which every person is freely called in the Son by the power of the Sanctifying Spirit. It is precisely in this ‘life’ that all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance” (EV 1).

The fullness of life that Jesus came to give us “far exceeds the dimensions of our earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the *greatness* and the *inestimable* value of human life even its temporal phase” (EV 2). As John Paul wrote: even in this phase, our life on earth, our natural, temporal life, is a “sacred reality, entrusted to us, to be preserved with a sense of responsibility and brought to perfection in love and in the gift of ourselves to God and to our brothers and sisters” (EV 2).

Our distinguished Evangelium Vitae medal recipient, Professor Robert George, has been an eloquent witness to the Gospel of life, teaching and defending the truth about the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, a truth that can be recognized in the natural law written in the human heart, known “by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace.” Thus, the Church affirms “the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree,” a right that Professor George has so convincingly and courageously defended and promoted, as Pope John Paul II called us to do. I am truly delighted that Professor George is the recipient of this year’s Evangelium Vitae medal.

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” Jesus said these words in His Good Shepherd discourse. Before He identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd, Jesus identifies Himself as the gate for the sheepfold. He promises that “whoever enters



Peter Ringenberg

Bishop Rhoades gives his homily during the Evangelium Vitae Medal Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, April 29.

through Him will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” Similarly, elsewhere in the Gospel, Jesus identifies Himself as “the Way.” He says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Jesus is the gate, the open door, the way through which we enter into salvation. He is the Good Shepherd who leads us to the pasture of eternal life. There are others whom Jesus describes as thieves and robbers who don’t enter the sheepfold through the gate, but climb over the sheep’s pen elsewhere. They seek to exploit the sheep and they do them harm. In the world today, many are exploited and harmed by those who do not lead them to the pastures of life, but to fields of death. How many women are exploited and harmed by opponents of the Good Shepherd who convince them that the life they carry is a burden and not a gift! Our task as disciples of the Good Shepherd is to help people to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd and to follow Him, to find abundant life in Him, and to reject the culture of death.

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” The word “life” sums up the aspirations of humanity. We all yearn for life and life in abundance. But

we can be tempted to look for this abundant life in the wrong places. The figure of the prodigal son is a paradigm of this search for life in the wrong places. The prodigal son wanted everything that life can offer. He wanted to enjoy life to the full and so he left his father’s house and immersed himself in selfish pleasures, spending his inheritance on a dissolute life. In the end, he found himself caring for pigs and even envying them. In his quest for life, his life had become empty and miserable. He had wanted to take possession of life, and we can be tempted to do so as well, take possession of it, rather than receive it as a gift. But we don’t find life, let alone an abundant life, in this way. We may think that we can live an abundant life by having everything, immersed as we are in a consumerist culture, or by being able to do whatever we want, influenced by a culture of libertine individualism. In the end, however, we realize, like the prodigal son realized, that these things do not really satisfy us. In fact, living in sin is living for death, not life. On the other hand, living in grace, being in communion with God who is infinite Love, is a truly abundant life.

The prodigal son found

life again when he repented, turned back, and was embraced in the loving arms of his father. In fact, the father even said: “this son of mine was dead and has come back to life.” He returned to true life which he found in communion with his father. The same with us. We do not find life when we forsake our Father’s love and break His commandments. And we don’t find ourselves free, but enslaved. But even in such a situation, the thirst for life continues to burn within us, and we can return to the arms of our merciful Father and find our thirst satisfied by the living water that flows from the heart of His Son.

Jesus’ mission on earth reached its climax when He, the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for the sheep. With infinite love, Jesus surrendered His life for us on the cross. And this love was victorious over sin and death. When Jesus rose from the dead, He revealed that He is the Lord of life and the author and source of the life of abundance we all yearn for, the life He has in Himself as the Son of God. In the Holy Trinity, life is love, the very love that, as Saint Paul teaches, is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

The sacramental life of the

Catholic Church is a beautiful expression and means by which we receive and share in the life in abundance that Jesus promises us. Through the action of the Holy Spirit in Christ’s Body, the Church, the power of Christ’s Paschal Mystery touches us. In Baptism, we receive the new life of Christ and become new creatures. Through Baptism, we enter the sheepfold, the Church, through the gate that is Christ. We enter into communion with Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. Our life and our death thus become a path to eternity. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit communicates to us, intimately and personally, the divine life, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son. Then in Confirmation, the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, binds us even more perfectly to Christ and to the Church, strengthening us to follow Him and to bear witness to Him in our words and deeds. When we, like the prodigal son, squander this gift of life through sin, God’s life within us can be restored or renewed by the forgiveness of our sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Of course, the greatest sacrament is the Holy Eucharist, the bread of life, Jesus Himself, who nourishes us with the medicine of immortality, an antidote to death, His Body and Blood, on our journey to heaven.

The new life we receive in the sacraments flourishes when we follow the Good Shepherd, live in His love, and love one another as He has loved us. Indeed, the sacraments give us the grace to do so. This is life in abundance — love! Pope Benedict XVI taught that “when we love, we are fulfilling our deepest need and becoming most fully ourselves, most fully human. Loving is what we are programmed to do, what we were designed for by our Creator.” This is what it means to be truly alive. It is at the very heart of Jesus’ moral teaching: loving God and loving one another as He has loved us, imitating the Good Shepherd who laid down His life in loving sacrifice for us, serving Him in our brothers and sisters, including those in the womb of their mothers, those who are weak and defenseless and those who are suffering. This is what the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ’s love unto the end, nourishes us to do, as it nourished all the saints of the Church. When we live in this way, we find life in abundance and, in doing so, we are building a culture of life and civilization of love.

May Our Lady, for whom this university is named, help us with her prayers to faithfully follow her Son, the Good Shepherd, that we might have life and have it more abundantly!