Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal presented to Robert P. George

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 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...”
The Good Shepherd Leads Us to the Pasture of Eternal Life

Bishop Rhodes delivered the following homily at Mass at 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 have entered the sheepfold of the Church when they were baptized. They entered the way of the new birth of faith and open life through 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 to the full.” 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 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 Sacred Heart, the Church was born. The water that flowed from Jesus’ side also went to Baptism, our new birth as sons and daughters of God, our entry into the life of the Most Holy Trinity and 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, the successors of the apostles 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 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 cowarding in fear in the courtyard of the high priest Caiphas 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, and Jesus restored him, 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 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. This is why we need you to be bold in the profession of your faith and in your living out of that faith, like the saints whom we are confirming today. 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
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.

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.

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 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 ministry; 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 commissioned 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.

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
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw: May 3-5
- St. John the Baptist, Muncie: June 11-13
- St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend: June 11-13
- Sacred Heart, Notre Dame: June 16-18
- St. 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
- St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart
- St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton
- St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend
- St. John the Baptist, Muncie
- Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- St. Peter and Paul, Huntington
- St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, South Bend
- St. Catherine, Columbia City
- St. Joseph, Roanoke

For the complete schedule, visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist.
Christ’s love unto the end. 

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Christians did and that’s why 

CONFIRMATION, from page 2 

May 7, 2023 

CATHOLICS MUST LIVE WITH EUCHARISTIC COHERENCE SAYS HOLY CROSS SPEAKER BISHOP THOMAS PAPROCKI

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he National Eucharistic Revival aims to explore 

Catholics are properly 

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showing this divine mystery to tran-

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munion 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, 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 

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catholic Must Live with Eucharistic Coherence Speaks Bishop Thomas Paprocki

BISHOP THOMAS PAPROCKI

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BELIEF, from page 2
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, a year that saw significant funding for a major mental health initiative.

Following intense negotiations at the Statehouse last week past midnight on Monday, 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 1,110 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 emphasized that school choice should not end 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—including public school and private 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 $22,000 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 ‘red tape’ or ‘administrative burdens’ 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, kindergartners had to meet certain guidelines to qualify, such as an older sibling participating in a choice program in Indiana. Any child with a grade of “F” will be eligible for the voucher.

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 received significant support from the General Assembly to the governor’s office. Although it easily passed both chambers, the final version ultimately 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. The legislation seeks to establish a crisis hotline funded by $30 million for trail usage in 2023 and $20 million per year for the initiative—better than the $35 million that had been included in the previous biennium’s budget allocations of $10 million for land conservation and $30 million for trail usage in the state’s state parks. Although those figures fell short of what the governor called for in his State of the State Address, Espada said the ICC was “pleased to see some investment in those areas.”

At the conclusion of this 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 eventual expansion of school choice, the eventual increases to TANF, and the success of many of our other priorities. However, we are also 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.”

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To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit indianaicc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the complicated position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.
**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. Cardinal Mario Grech, Synod Secretary-General, told reporters that about 21 percent of the deaths are women. Adding women and children to the list of victims, he said, will be women. Adding women and children to the list of victims, he said, will be a “gift” that the Church can offer to those who have been victims of this violence.

**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 Synod of Bishops in October, Pope Francis has decided. In a decision formalized on April 26, the Holy Father decided that at least 21 percent of the voting members of the synod assembly will be “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 members would not be bishops and at least half of that group would be women. Adding women and young people to the synod, he said, 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.”

**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. 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. Biden 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 Cárdenas, D-Calif., and Ken Calvert, R-Calif., reintroduced the Companion Animal Release Act 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. The bill appropriately reflects the respect due to such animals, both because God has blessed them with awareness and free activity, and also as a gesture of gratitude for the medical service they have provided us,” said Jesuit Father Christopher Stock, 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.”

**Swiss Guard Recruits Prepare for Ceremony**

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.

**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, R.S.M., to whom Day had approached in 1926 to ask where she could have her newborn daughter, Tamar, baptized. The conversation led to Sister Aloysia Mary Mulhern instructing Day in the Catholic faith and she was baptized on Dec. 28, 1927. Day is a candidate for Saint. The bill would add the title “Servant of God” to her cause when she 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.

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 island 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 light 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, exciting about it,” said John. “There was a pretty big roar — lots of emotion, friends — they went on 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.”

“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.

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.

“Faith is a huge part of my life,” Joe said of living out his faith as a professional athlete. “I’m pretty close to my heart as I move forward.”

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
A Good Night’s Sleep Gets New Meaning in Michiana

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Home is the place you hang your hat, where the kitchen smells the smudges 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 to create 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 crews 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 Peace, 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.

“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...
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 addicts counselor, and one part-time intern.
They are currently serving 12 diocesan schools.

**Therapy Services Offered:**
They offer individual, family, marital, addiction (South Bend only), play, and tele-therapy.

**Modalities/Approaches**
(Forms of therapy used):
They offer Christian/ Faith-Based, CBT (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy), Play Therapy, which allows children 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.
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 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.
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 6:33). 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. It is 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-

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OP
to Christ. The monstrance is not a treasure because of the preciousness of this life I 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 First Peter 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 family — a field of fluffy sheep watched over by a shepherd fastidiously resting in the shade of a tree. The familiar 23rd psalm presents just such the Eucharist: “The Lord is my shepherd, / I shall not want. / In verdant pastures he gives me repose. / He guides me along the right path /; 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 sacrifice of vegetables. Later in the book of Genesis, as Abraham prepares to sacrifice his only 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 father’s sheep. Isaac’s sheep later became part of her inheritance (Gen 30). And the greatest king of Israel, David, was called from the field to shepherd the family’s flocks to be anointed as the future king by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16). Isaiah had already compared God’s chosen people to a flock of sheep, professing the Almighty’s tender care and peace. They shall lay down in green pastures /; me; / he guides me along the right path /; me; / he refreshes my soul.”

HALLENIUS, page 13

Like the Apostles, We Must Spread the Word of God

Reflection

Weeks have passed since Easter. Throughout all of them, the Church joyfully has told us of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. 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 the Church, as a visible, active institution. This weekend’s selection from Acts reveals the endurance and the timeless mission of the Church through successors of the Apostles.

Christ ascended to heaven, but the Apostles continued the work of salvation. He sent them out to 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.

READINGS

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13b Jn 21:42-31a
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

T

the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, the veneration of the cross of 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 bad, and women, bad men. Male athletes, claiming a female identity, can dominate women’s sports. Transgender surgery, mildly anti-woke on the internet, can dominate women’s sports. Transgender surgery, mildly anti-woke on the internet, can dominate women’s sports. And if you read the ideologues behind cancel culture, you’ll see that they are gung-ho for the idea that everything is permitted, but nothing is forgiven.

In light of the cross, we know that many things ought not be permitted … everything in principle can be forgiven. In thought of Cardinal George’s own words 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 wickedness. What brought the Lord to the cross was a demonic arrange of hatred, stupidity, violence, cruelty, instrumentality, and 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 the decision of ours is ever subject to question or correction, where “I’m okay and you’re okay.” But the cross of Jesus is athwart all of this. It shines an unsparring light on our sin, especially our hidden sin; it convicts 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 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 apologetics 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.

Bishop Robert Barron

WORD ON FIRE

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, in fact, indeed showed His wondrous, loving, paternal care, 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.

SCRIPITURE 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.

THE PLACE AND WAY


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 delicate care and guidance. And God, who knows what we need even before we ask, has not left us to our own devices, promising, “I will forgive them 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 feeds us, as they open the broad 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 scrape 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 their family and friends, 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).

It’s best 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 were converted. 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 monstrance will be the cause of unspeakable joy.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor. Follow him on Twitter @ PatrickMaryOP.
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.
What’s Happening?

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 Saints 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 renowned, 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 Hinnen at 260-224-3506 or laura.hinnen@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 RECL — 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 — 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 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 will go to the Honor Flight. Contact Kathleen Wisel at 260-437-2489 or kwisel8@yahoo.com for information.

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.

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

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School is now hiring

Full Time Spanish Teacher for grades 3-8

Full Time Kindergarten Teacher

Questions can be sent to Principal Lois Widner lwidner@seacsfw.org • 260-432-4001
Apply at diocesefwsb.org/careers

Fellow Readers of Today’s Catholic,

St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne seeks your help in referring outstanding candidates who are authentic disciples of Christ. Interested applicants can learn more and apply from the bottom of our school home page, school.saintv.org, by clicking the employment opportunities button, with full job descriptions linked there as well.

Full-Time Openings for 2023-2024
- 1st Grade Lead Teacher
- 5th Grade Lead Teacher (specializing in Social Studies/Science)
- Jr. High Lead Teacher for Spanish (both grades 7-8)
- 8th Grade Math Teacher, 3 academic levels
- Cafeteria Clerk / Accounts

Part-Time Openings for 2023-2024
- Teaching Assistants, working up to 29 hours/week
- After School Care: working approximately 2:30-5:45 p.m. daily
- Recess Monitors, working approximately 10:20 a.m to 12:20 p.m. daily

If interested, contact the office at school@saintv.org or 260-489-3537, ext. 213.
1720 E. Wallen, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
www.school.saintv.org
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 coronation of the Evangelium Vitae. In fact, in his great encyclical Evangelium Vitae, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote that these words of Jesus represent 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 in 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 in defending 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 to life of every human being to have this primary good respected up 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 – and 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 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 envious 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 when the Father laid down His arms of our merciful Father, 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 dimax 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 Confirmation, we enter the sheepfold, the Church, through the gate that is Christ. We enter into communion with Jesus. In 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 in heaven.

The new life we receive in the sacraments flourishes when we follow the Good Shepherd, live in His love, and love 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 become part of what He freely gives, most fully human. Loving is what we are programmed to do, what we were designed for by the Lord Himself.” This leads me to ask: what does it mean to be truly alive. It is at the very heart of Jesus’ moral teaching: loving God and loving 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 dying. This is the promise of the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ’s love unto the end, nourishes us to do, as it nourishes us to be, the call of the Church. When we live in this way, we find life in abundance, and in doing so, we are building the very life and civilization of love.

May Our Lady, for whom this universe is named, help us to fulfill our Son, the Good Shepherd, that we might have life and have it more abundantly!