

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Teaching the Faith for 45 Years

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Happy Mother's Day!



During the month of May, Catholics pay special honor to our Blessed Mother, Mary. It is also the month of Mother's Day, when we honor all mothers. In honor of Mother's Day, we at Today's Catholic asked our readers to share a memory about how their mom practiced her Catholic faith, how she taught them to be faithful, or why her Catholic faith was so important to them. We hope you enjoy these beautiful stories!

Georgia Shape

"Thank you for your letter asking for memories of my mother's faithfulness. At first glance I thought I was not a good candidate for inclusion in your Mother's Day section of Today's Catholic. I put your letter in one of the many "piles" on the kitchen counter, to be pondered upon later and then perhaps be sent to the recycling bin. However, the letter with the big red heading of Today's Catholic just kept coming to mind ... and to the top of the 'To Do pile!' I had never considered my own mother's faith journey before this. I



began to search my 80-year-old foggy childhood memories. My mother really did share her faith with me in a memorable way. I just wasn't looking at her actions with my much older and wiser adult eyes! (It was no wonder that I had needed

cataract surgery!) I have YOU to thank for prompting me to open those eyes and examine my true opinion that I have about my mother's faith. She had indeed been my first and best Catholic spiritual example!

So, it was with these new eyes that I began at the beginning of my faith-filled mother's own journey as a child herself and then with me, her first child of the next generation.

*Please note: I am 80 years old, so it is kind of a long story!

My mother was baptized into the Catholic faith as Georgia Ann Schlagerter. She was the only child of her Catholic mother, Margaret, and Lutheran father, Carl. (Her father's family had

regretted the marriage of their son to a woman they referred to as 'a papist'. He nevertheless promised at her Baptism to raise his daughter as a Catholic but he did not, for the sake of his parents, convert to the Catholic faith himself. He faithfully took his wife and daughter to Mass at Holy Angels Church every Sunday and Holy Day, patiently waiting outside the church for them. He supported the church financially and with his talents as well. He built by hand boxes of walnut wood to house a large wooden family rosary and a smaller statue of The Blessed Virgin. Each classroom in the

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Bishop Rhoades Blesses Oratory and Dedicates Altar at Southold Center for Education

Bishop Rhoades delivered the following homily at Mass with Blessing of Oratory of the Holy Family and Dedication of Altar at Southold Center for Education in South Bend on Monday, May 1:

Today the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. And today this Oratory has been blessed and dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth of which Saint Joseph was the guardian and protector.

Here in this oratory, you, the little Catholic community of Southold, will worship the Lord in the sacred liturgy and here you can come to pray to the Lord in what has become today a "sacred place." Its walls have been purified by the blessing. The word "oratory" comes from the Latin word "oratorium" and the verb "orare," which means to pray, to speak to the Lord. This oratory is now, as the name indicates, "a house of prayer." And it is the house of the Lord since here the Lord Jesus becomes present on the altar in the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice and remains here present in the tabernacle. That is why we prayed in the responsorial psalm the song that the Jewish people would sing on their way to the temple in Jerusalem (psalm 121): "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

The center and focal point of this oratory and of every Catholic church, oratory, or chapel is the altar. From the earliest times, Christians erected permanent altars for the celebration of the memorial of the Lord, the Holy Eucharist. By its very nature, an altar is a table of sacrifice. This is clear throughout the Old Testament. We read of the patriarchs, kings, and prophets erecting altars to offer sacrifices to the Lord, the greatest being the altar in the temple of Jerusalem. In the first reading from the first book of Maccabees, we heard about the celebration of the dedication of the new altar in the Jerusalem temple. Assyrian invaders had profaned God's temple and turned it into a pagan temple. They defiled the altar in the temple. The faithful people successfully revolted against these invaders and rebuilt the temple and its altar. As we heard in the reading, they rejoiced at the dedication of their new altar. The altar was sacred to them because on it they offered burnt offerings and sacrifices to God. This all happened 2,200 years ago. Today, we rejoice at the dedication of this altar. It has much greater dignity than the altar that was built in the Jerusalem temple because



Photos Provided

Bishop Rhoades Celebrates Mass and Blesses the Oratory and Dedicates the Altar at Southold Center for Education in South Bend on Monday, May 1.



on it will be offered the most efficacious and perfect sacrifice, the sacrifice of Jesus. From the Eucharistic sacrifice the most abundant graces flow, the graces that flow from the heart of Jesus who gave His life for us on the altar of the cross. The Church considers the dignity of the altar so great that, when it is dedicated, it is anointed with the same oil that is used at Baptisms, Confirmations, and priestly and episcopal ordinations: the sacred oil of chrism.

In the second reading, we heard a passage from Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he teaches about the Eucharist. He teaches that the cup of blessing we bless is a participation (a communion) in the Blood of Christ and that the bread we break is a participation (a communion) in the Body of Christ. He is explaining the Eucharistic mystery. And he teaches that in partaking of the one loaf, we become one Body in Christ. We become His Church. That is why the Church teaches that the Eucharist "makes" the Church. The Eucharist is at the very core of the life of the Church and gives the Church its identity. As Saint John Paul

II wrote in his last encyclical, his encyclical on the Eucharist: "The Church draws her life from the Eucharist."

Saint Paul goes on to say that Christians who partake of the Eucharist, the Christian sacrifice, cannot participate in pagan sacrifices. "You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons." Now this may sound quite obvious to us, but think of the situation of those early Christians. Following this instruction of Saint Paul could mean martyrdom for them. How does this apply to us today? We too must avoid partaking of the table of demons, of any kind of false worship or idolatry, ceremonies or practices which are incompatible with our Christian faith. It is alarming to see the increase in such practices in our culture today, not just Satanic rituals, but various other New Age practices where creation and not the Creator is worshipped.

Today's Gospel is from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Our Lord teaches that at worship, the people must leave their gift at the altar if, at the altar, they recall that a brother or sister has anything against

them. They are to go and be reconciled, then come back to offer their gift. This teaching is also important for us who worship the Lord at Mass. Before approaching the altar, we too should be reconciled with our neighbor because, in order to be reconciled with God, we must be reconciled with each other. It is significant that in our liturgy, before we go to the altar to receive Holy Communion, we exchange a sign of peace with our neighbors. Today's Gospel also is a reminder of the importance of the sacrament of Reconciliation. None of us should approach the altar of the Lord to receive Holy Communion if we are not in the state of grace, reconciled with God and the Church and thus properly disposed to receive the Holy Eucharist.

My sisters in Christ who reside here at Southold, what a blessing it is for you to live in a house that has an oratory where the holy sacrifice of the Mass is offered and where the Lord dwells in the tabernacle. I hope you will come here often to pray, even if it is just a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament. The counsel of Saint Josemaria is good to recall. He said: "Go perseveringly to the Tabernacle, either bodily or in your heart, so as to feel safe and calm; but also, in order to feel loved ... and to love."

My sisters, I pray that in this holy place you will grow in your friendship with the Lord, grow in holiness, and receive strength to live your vocation as His faithful disciples. May the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph always be honored here, and may the Holy Family bless all who pray and worship here now and for many years to come!

Prayer Breakfast in South Bend Brings People of All Faiths Together

BY PHIL NISWONGER

United Religious Community of St. Joseph County Board President Chuck Lamphier spoke at the organization's annual Prayer Breakfast, held this year at the Discovery Ballroom of the Century Center in South Bend on Thursday, May 4, as part of the National Day of Prayer and the URC's 50th Anniversary.

Lamphier talked about how the organization is celebrating recent efforts to serve 36 Afghan refugees and how they are looking forward to serving 55 Ukrainians with their 160 volunteers. He also said they have provided more than \$1 million to approximately 200 area families since the beginning of the pandemic.

On behalf of the mayor of South Bend, Project Manager Allie Dolz-Lane welcomed those present and thanked them for their refugee efforts.

Karl Smith of radio station WVPE also spoke, and gave an overview of their "One Small Step" program, which according to their website, is an initiative that brings strangers with different political beliefs together for a conversation — not to debate politics — but to get to know each other as people. He said that cooperative interfaith dialogue was needed for constructive social improvements and "molding prayer into action."

Representatives from Christ the King Catholic Church, the Islamic Society of Michiana, Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, Baha'i, and the Jewish Federation gave prayers and reflections.

Father Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C., was the keynote speaker at the annual Prayer Breakfast.

Father Malloy is President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, serving 18-years as its president from 1987 to 2005. He has been involved in ecumenical social justice nearly all his life and continues as a professor at the University of Notre Dame in their Department of Theology.

Father Malloy grew up in what he calls a "Catholic ghetto" in Washington, D.C. As a youth at St. Anthony Grade School, he wondered why not all kids were in Catholic schools. He continued on at



Phil Niswonger

Father Edward "Monk" Malloy, CSC, speaks at the United Religious Community of St. Joseph County's Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Discovery Ballroom of the Century Center in South Bend on Thursday, May 4.

Archbishop Carroll High School and played with distinction on their basketball team, winning an athletic scholarship to Notre Dame. But since he was not a starter, he found more time to be involved in university life, which led him to his social

justice and ecumenical concerns. He later earned a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Christian Ethics.

Father Malloy said his greatest achievement was the establishment of the Center for the Homeless in South Bend where he was able to involve many faith

communities to achieve success. He also increased his ecumenical awareness as he inherited the mission from his predecessor, Father Ted Hesburgh, the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, Israel, where after three trips to the Holy Land, he realized the challenges of

different religions. He began to understand the similarities and differences, the history and antagonisms, of the People of the Book — Jewish, Islamic, and Christian.

Father Malloy was later able to visit the future Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey (1991-2002), and there appreciated more the ecumenical nature of international peace. Father Malloy said, "We need to be agents of peace in the world. Yet, as we remain faithful to our Christian tradition, we still can be internationally welcoming by the fruits of prayer, study, and common endeavors."

Continuing his interest in social justice, he reflected on Matthew 25 which encourages a respond to people's basic needs. Father Malloy also served on the local boards of Robinson Learning Center, Our Lady of the Road, Hope Mission, Girls and Boys Clubs of America, Habitat for Humanity, Logan Industries, Hannah's House, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, and St. Margaret House, among others. He thanked the URC for its commitment to social justice and ecumenism.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, May 16: 6 p.m. — "Our Leaders, Our Shepherds" Event in Support of Saint John Paul II Endowment Fund for Seminarian Education, The Lodge at Camp Red Cedar, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, May 17: 11 a.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Budget Committee, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, May 18: Noon — Meeting of the Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, May 18: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola
 Friday, May 19: 4:30 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass, St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross College
 Saturday, May 20: 11 a.m. — Mass with Ordination of Deacons, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, May 20: 5 p.m. — Commencement Mass, Joyce Center, University of Notre Dame
 Sunday, May 21: 5 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

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 27-29 (updated)
 St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, South Bend: June 25-27
 St. Catherine, Columbia City: June 26
 St. Joseph, Roanoke: June 27

JULY

St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse: July 16-18
 St. Henry, Fort Wayne: July 16-18
 St. Mary of the Presentation, Geneva: July 23-25

AUGUST

St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville: Aug. 6-8
 St. Jude/Sacred Heart, South Bend: Aug. 6-8
 St. Mary of the Assumption, Avila: Aug. 13-15
 St. Peter, Fort Wayne: Aug. 13-15
 St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur: Aug. 13-15
 St. Hedwig and St. Patrick, South Bend: Aug. 14-16
 St. John the Baptist, New Haven: Aug. 20-22
 Queen of Peace, Mishawaka: Aug. 20-22
 St. Bernard, Wabash: Aug. 20-23
 St. Monica, Mishawaka: Aug. 27-29
 St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne: Aug. 27-29
 St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart: Aug. 27-29

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

University of Saint Francis Celebrates Class of 2023

BY REGGIE HAYES

The University of Saint Francis proudly awarded degrees to the Class of 2023 on Saturday, May 6, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

USF Board of Trustees Chair Richard Poinsett welcomed attendees and offered a message of appreciation for USF President Reverend Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer's service to the university throughout the last three years, citing advancements in academics, athletics, and facilities. Father Zimmer previously announced he will step down as USF President as the academic year ends.

"In addition to ensuring students receive the highest quality academic experience, the spiritual development of the students was fostered under Father Zimmer," Poinsett said, pointing to the formation of the St. Benedict the Moor Justice Center and the Assisi Program for Discipleship and Leadership.

In opening the conferral of degrees, Father Zimmer presented a Doctor of Humane Letters to Anne Marie Koehl, who graduated from the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in 1974 (prior to the program coming under the direction of USF). Knowing the important work of the Women's Care Center in South Bend, Koehl worked to open a center in Fort Wayne and has served as director for the last 20 years.

USF's graduating class included five valedictorians:

Joseph R. Caffee (BS, Exercise Science), Isaiah B. Lacey (BS, Computer Information Systems), Emma Mantica (BS, Biology; AS, Chemistry Pre-Pharmacy), Daniel W. McKeeman (BS, Finance), and Timothy J. Tippmann (BS, Biology Pre-Medicine; AS, Chemistry Pre-Pharmacy).

USF conferred 583 degrees to 411 undergraduate students and 172 graduate students. These totals included 137 students graduating in online programs and 47 graduating from USF Crown Point.



Photos provided

583 Degrees were awarded to 411 undergraduate students and 172 graduate students in the Class of 2023 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne on Saturday, May 6.



University of Saint Francis Names Dr. Lance Richey as Interim President

The University of Saint Francis has announced that Dr. Lance Richey will serve as interim president, effective Tuesday, May 9. Dr. Richey has handled the day-to-day responsibilities of the president for the past month since Reverend Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer announced his decision to step down.

"We are thankful for Dr. Richey stepping into the role of Interim President," Board of Trustees Chair Richard A. Poinsett said. "Dr. Richey has faithfully served USF for 12 years and fully understands the mission and goals of the university. We know USF will continue to thrive under his guidance as we search for our next president."

"I am honored to lead the University of Saint Francis during the upcoming months to ensure our students continue to receive the high-quality experience USF is well-known for," Dr. Richey said. "Our Catholic and Franciscan values have guided this university since its founding more than 130 years ago and our emphasis on a holistic experience for students remains today. We expect a strong incoming class this fall, and I am excited about serving as Interim President and working closely with students, faculty, and staff to keep our momentum going."

Dr. Richey holds the rank of Professor of Theology and has served USF in several capacities during 12 years of service to the university, most recently as



DR. LANCE RICHEY

Vice President for Academic Affairs since April of 2018. Prior to that, Dr. Richey served more than four years as Dean of the School of Liberal Arts

and Sciences. He also previously served as Director of the John Duns Scotus Honors Program.

Dr. Richey holds doctorates in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and has published widely in both disciplines. He also holds a Certificate of Pre-Theological Studies from Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri, and a B.A. in History from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Prior to joining USF, Dr. Richey taught at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Conception Seminary College; and Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration remain focused on continuing the strength and impact of this important ministry of higher education in the name of the Catholic Church. The Provincial leadership, working closely with the Board of Trustees, will prayerfully appoint the next USF President after a thorough search.

Spring into making a difference!

Looking to spruce up your estate plan? Spring is a great season to make changes and tidy up loose ends. Let the Catholic Community Foundation help you include your own parish as a benefactor. There's no better time than today to make a difference!

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St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Teacher Retires After 45 Years

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Carol Sarasien always knew that she wanted to teach. In 1978, that vocational dream became a reality at St. Joseph School in Hessen Cassel.

"I always wanted to be a teacher, and I actually would play school at home in the garage and have the neighbor kids for my students. That's what I wanted to do."

Now, nearly 45 years since her first day of class, Sarasien will retire.

Just a few months before she started teaching, she married her husband, and this month they will celebrate their 45th anniversary. Unfortunately, shifts in the local economy during the early 1980s saw the couple move to Kingsport, Tennessee, where Serasien took a job at another Catholic school, St. Dominic. While in Tennessee, the Sarasiens welcomed two daughters, Amanda and Kimberly.

"We decided we had to move back to Fort Wayne because we missed both of our families very much."

After a brief time as a substitute teacher in local Catholic schools, Sarasien came back as a full-time teacher in 1989.

Of course, the profession of an educator has seen drastic changes throughout the last 45 years. A noticeable change, Sarasien said, has been in the use of technology.

"When I came back in '89, we had started using Apple IIe computers. We had a principal when I came back, Sister Judas Plumb ... she was very helpful getting the computers started in this school."

She also recalled that playgrounds underwent a drastic increase in student safety during her time as a teacher.

Sarasien noted that over the years she has seen an increase in recordkeeping and more rigorous curriculum planning to meet standards, and recommends that new teachers and



St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Teacher Carol Sarasien educates her students in her last year of full-time teaching as she plans to retire after 45-years of teaching students in Catholic education.

Photos by Joshua Schipper

those discerning the vocation find a mentor to help them with this process.

"Be outgoing and get a group of teachers to be your people — your team — and discuss how to get things done on those requirements. And then you can focus on your creative ways of teaching children. And don't shy away from that, because that's what will give you the joy that you are looking for. If you're just stuck with the standards and the lessons, page-by-page or what-

ever, you are not going to have as much fun as if you look at the lessons presented to you and say, 'Oh, we could do this project, we could do this activity, they would love that. And we would have so much fun.'"

A fulfilling aspect of any teacher's vocation to sow seeds in the minds of young people is witnessing the fruits of their labor.

"I've seen some of them become teachers. I've seen them become business owners. I've seen them bring their children back to our school. We have a lot of that. This year, I have 20 students, and I would say, at least 15 of them, I taught their parents."

Sarasien realized the wide impact that her vocation as a teacher had on the community during a recent Christmas program at the school. The principal, Jeanine Skordos, asked the guests and parents in the audience whom Sarasien had taught to stand up.

"And it was amazing. I just about started crying because there were so many people there."

Sarasien even taught St. Joseph's current 2nd-grade teacher, Angela Whitman, in her first class in 1978.

Her Catholic faith, of course, has been at the center of it all. "It helps me get through the hard times. And there's that in everyone's life and everyone's family. It has been my anchor. And I have sung at the funerals of both of my parents. I've sung at funerals of aunts and uncles. I recently sang at St.

Charles at a choir member's funeral. We experience life together as a community."

While Sarasien belongs to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, she says that she has been at St. Joseph for so long that it's "like my other parish family."

After retiring, Sarasien plans to travel with her husband. She and her sister also plan to do a "European Viking cruise" in Germany, part of her ancestral homeland.

"I also would like to just travel around the country and visit relatives, just see some sights that I haven't seen yet because I've been teaching all these years. I actually haven't been to Washington D.C. or the Grand Canyon and places like that. I would love to see those things."

Between travels, she still plans to have a presence in the classroom as a substitute teacher.

"I just want to say that this school and all the teachers are — the principal Mrs. Skordos, Father Kummer, and many of the parents and grandparents — these people are the best. I've had many successes with students over the years, but they would not have happened without those people in my life. And so they are as much a part of my celebration as what I've done — they are definitely part of that."

All are invited to an open house for Sarasien on Sunday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Joseph School in Hessen Cassel.



Staying Connected to the Faith

"I encourage our people to be informed by reading Today's Catholic. I hope that Today's Catholic truly helps our people to grow in their faith."

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades,
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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Dallas Bishop Reacts to Mass Shooting at Mall with 'Heavy Heart,' Urges 'Prayers for Peace' in Communities

DALLAS (OSV News) — Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns addressed the faithful of the diocese “with a heavy heart” late on May 6 after at least eight people, including a child, were killed during a mass shooting that afternoon at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas. “Like all of you, I am deeply troubled by the shooting in the community of Allen and the senseless disregard for life that has occurred in our community,” Bishop Burns said in a statement. “The Catholic community is in unity and solidarity with the families who have lost loved ones in this tragedy. May God, our Heavenly Father, bring comfort and strength to all affected by this tragic event. We ask God to comfort our community, the victims, and their families.” Authorities said a gunman opened fire at the Allen Premium Outlets, a Dallas-area outlet mall, killing eight and wounding at least another seven people before being killed by a police officer who happened to be at the mall. The Allen Police Department said one of its officers had already responded to the outlet mall on an unrelated call, when they heard gunshots shortly after 3:30 p.m. The department said their officer “engaged the suspect and neutralized the threat.” Victims range in age from 5 to 61-years-old, authorities said. President Joe Biden on May 7 decried the “latest act of gun violence to devastate our nation.” “Jill and I are praying for their families and for others critically injured,” he said, “and we are grateful to the first responders who acted quickly and courageously to save lives.” Elsewhere in Texas on May 7, there was another tragedy, authorities said, when a driver plowed into a group near a shelter that had been housing migrants in Brownsville, near the Texas border.

Possible Eucharistic Miracle in Connecticut Under Vatican Investigation

HARTFORD, Connecticut (OSV News) — A possible Eucharistic miracle in Connecticut is now under investigation by the Vatican. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair told a Hartford television news station on May 2 that the Dicastery (formerly Congregation) for the Doctrine of the Faith will examine whether an apparent multiplication of Communion hosts during a March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston,

Religious Sisters Helping Migrants in Costa Rica



OSV News photo/Rhina Guidos, GSR

Andreína González, of Venezuela, plays with her 10-month-old daughter, Yulianis, in downtown San José, Costa Rica, on March 31, 2023. Like many Venezuelan migrants, González traveled through Costa Rica in March with two children, hoping to make it into the United States, fleeing the economic situation in her native country.

Connecticut, was supernatural. The church, along with Immaculate Conception Church and St. Casimir Church, both in Terryville, Connecticut, is part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. St. Maximilian Kolbe pastor Father Joseph Crowley said in a YouTube livestream of his March 12 homily that an unnamed extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at the previous week's liturgy had begun to run out of hosts — only to find that “all of a sudden there (were) more hosts in the ciborium.” Speaking to media on May 2, Archbishop Blair said he had “(sent) out an experienced priest who has knowledge of church law, canon law, to follow procedure, (and) to just examine exactly what happened and under what circumstances.” He noted that “the guidelines for these kinds of situations do call for me to notify the (Dicastery) for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.” The Vatican's investigation is expected to take approximately two weeks.

Head of Taxi Company Serving Cities in Ukraine, Poland, Helps Sisters Get Supplies to War-Torn Villages

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine (OSV News) — Ivan Smyglia and Denys Kurpikov say they had “no other option” but to assist in delivering food and much-needed supplies to some of the hardest-to-reach and most dangerous places in a country at war. With Sister Lucia Murashko, a member of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great of the Ukrainian Catholic Church “we often went into a ‘gray zone.’ These are the villages on the front line, between our army and the army of the Russian Federation — territories that Ukraine does not control,” said Kurpikov in an interview in Zaporizhzhia in southeast Ukraine. Sister Murashko lives in a monastery there with other Basilian sisters

who serve at the local Ukrainian Catholic parish. The sisters, too, have been providing humanitarian aid within their parish community, as well as to the civilians and Ukrainian soldiers on the front, only 30 miles away, since the war began on Feb. 24, 2022. Smyglia was running a successful company, Ivan-taxi, in 10 Ukrainian cities and in Warsaw, Poland, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. “When the war started, my team and I had no other option. I had a feeling deep inside that we needed to help,” he said.

Supreme Court Stays Richard Glossip's Execution in Oklahoma

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — The U.S. Supreme Court on May 5 temporarily blocked Oklahoma from executing death-row inmate Richard Glossip after the state's attorney general said Glossip should

have a new trial. Glossip was scheduled to be put to death on May 18 despite arguments from Oklahoma's Republican Attorney General Gentner Drummond that he did not receive a fair trial. The now-blocked execution date was his 9th scheduled execution date, coming so close on prior occasions that he received three last meals, despite investigations resulting in doubts about his conviction. The high court put the execution on hold so it may consider whether to take up the case. Justice Neil Gorsuch recused himself. While no official reason was given by the court, Gorsuch previously dealt with the case when he was an appeals court judge. In a statement, Drummond said he is “very grateful to the U.S. Supreme Court for their decision to grant a stay of execution.” Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, Executive Director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, praised the stay in a statement. “We give thanks to God that Richard Glossip has been granted a temporary stay of execution, and we pray the Supreme Court decides to formally take up his case,” Vaillancourt Murphy said.

Utah Law Requiring Adult Content Websites Verify User Age Takes Effect

SALT LAKE CITY (OSV News) — A Utah law requiring websites with adult content to obtain age verification for users went into effect on May 3. Pornhub, one of the world's most-visited adult websites, responded by blocking access to users in Utah in what it said was a protest of the law. In March, lawmakers in Utah passed SB 287 Online Pornography Viewing Age Requirements, requiring websites with adult content to verify each user is a legal adult in an effort to prevent minors from accessing the content. The bill was passed unanimously by the Legislature and signed into law by Republican Governor Spencer Cox earlier this year. The law states that any website with adult content that “fails to perform reasonable age verification methods” could be held liable for “damages resulting from a minor's accessing the material.” Federal law currently prohibits children from accessing pornography, but it is rarely enforced. Critics of the bill argue that the age verification requirement presents free speech and privacy concerns, while supporters say it protects children from adult content.

Local Therapists See Their Faith as Integral to Their Practice

BY ERIN LYNCH

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, making this an excellent time to reflect on how this health care fits into our lives as Catholics. In our area, we have a number of Catholic counselors who are passionate about their work in the counseling field and how it is inspired by their faith life.

Father John Eze is the pastor at Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka and he is currently in the process of finishing up his graduate degree in mental health counseling at Indiana University in South Bend. Father Eze shared that ever since his seminary days, he has had a desire to learn more about clinical mental health counseling. However, this desire was put on hold for several years as he lived out his vocation in pastoral ministry in Nigeria, his home country. While he has been serving at Queen of Peace, the tug on his heart to learn more about counseling has continued.

When he learned more about the program he is currently in, Father Eze approached Bishop Rhoades to ask for permission to enroll. He said that he is so grateful for all the support that Bishop Rhoades has shown him in allowing him and encouraging him to pursue this degree so that he can better serve the people of this diocese. Father Eze said, "I very much see my vocation as a priest and the counseling profession are very much in tandem. They are so connected."

He said people often ask him what he will do once he is done with the program. He responds by saying how he is already seeing the impact of his studies and using what he has learned. "I am using the program to become a better listener, to understand the human condition, and to open my eyes to issues that can only be addressed through mental health counseling."

Father Eze talked about how grateful he is to be in a diocese where the importance of mental health care is really understood and promoted. One example he gave was that the counseling department of Catholic Charities was invited by Bishop Rhoades to a diocesan meeting of the priests in order to teach the clergy about how and when to refer someone to a mental health professional. Father Eze emphasized how important this was and said, "There is some sin that may have underlying mental health origins, and if you keep addressing it only with spiritual advice, there is no way that wound will be healed. Then they will come back next week with the same



ADAM SMITH

sin. But if you help the person to go through healing by using mental health services, then he will be able to make changes." This is one reason Father Eze said he feels it's so important for priests to continue to be trained in the importance of mental health care and he is grateful to be able to serve as a resource for his brother priests.

When thinking about his vocation as a priest and his service in the counseling profession, Father Eze turns to Jesus as his model of a counselor. He said, "Look at the way Jesus encountered the woman

at the well. Look at how He encountered Zaccheus. He didn't tell Zaccheus to repent or that he was a sinner. He told him, 'Come down. I will be with you.' He showed compassion and empathy. The guy came down and said, 'If I had defrauded any person, I will give four times back and from now on I will give half my property away to the poor.' So, how did Jesus encounter him? People treated him as an outcast, but Jesus treated him with love, compassion, and empathy. And Zaccheus then made the choice to become who he became. I read the Gospels today with a mind of Jesus as a counselor. And I see Jesus encounter people in their brokenness and He encompasses all the skills that I should be bringing to my clients."

Melissa Buddie is another counselor in the Michiana area who provides services through telehealth. Her current specialty is perinatal mental health, which consists of serving women who are considering conceiving, those struggling with infertility, those who have experienced miscarriage or infant loss, and women who are currently pregnant or who have recently given



FATHER JOHN EZE

birth. Buddie also mentioned her view of Jesus as the first social worker and said that this really shaped her view of how she sees herself as a therapist. She said, "As a therapist, I approach each session saying, 'God what do you want me to accomplish in this session?' My clients come with what is on their mind and I come with my expertise, but also with what

God wants us to focus on that day and accomplish. I rely on Him to give me the words, especially in those tough moments when there aren't really earthly words to say to them

that would be as perfect as you would like, and so I rely on God for that."

Buddie talked about her passion for advocating for all people to feel comfortable accessing mental health care if they need it. She said, "There's a lot of really hard things we encounter in our lives. As Catholics we understand that suffering is a part of that. However, we also do not need to sit in suffering unnecessarily. There is some suffering that we can get stuck in and this can really impact us and the people around us in a negative way. When we think about mental health care, it's not just about us and our feelings, but it's also about taking care of those around us as well as taking care of ourselves. In order to live our vocation, it's important to have mental health care. In order to be able to be what God has asked us to be, we might need mental health care. Mental health care does not mean that there is something wrong with you or that you've failed in any way. It just means that there is a chemical imbalance in their brain or that they've experienced some really big event that their brain is having trouble coping with,



MELISSA BUDDIE

and neither of those things make you a failure. So mental health care becomes really important in showing us the respect and dignity that God wants us to have and making sure we are able to be the best version of ourselves for everyone else in our lives."

Buddie also encouraged people who might be hesitant to try therapy. "As the client, you are in control of the conversation. When you are sharing things that are so vulnerable, it can be helpful to remember that you are in control. No one can force you to talk about anything you don't want to. Therapy is supposed to help you with the things you bring to it."

Adam Smith is a therapist working at his own private practice in Mishawaka, Smith Counseling Services. He spoke about how he initially had a career in software consulting and transitioned to the counseling profession. "My wife suggested I start looking at other career options after I wore down her patience droning on about how empty my job felt. I fell in love with the vocation after volunteering with adolescents who were

experiencing grief from losing a sibling or parent."

Smith also emphasized the importance of relying on God in the counseling profession. He said, "I've also found myself profoundly humbled in this vocation. When confronted with trying to walk with someone through devastating loss or overwhelming stress, if I believed that their healing relied solely on my expertise, I would be having panic attacks of my own in sessions. Trusting that I am doing my best to be a conduit for God's love and healing allows me to work with a greater freedom and confidence knowing that our time together is just a medium for God's greater work in that person's life."

For those hesitant to try counseling, Smith wants Catholics to know that all therapists are bound by the code of ethics to respect the faith lives of their clients. He remarked, "I have worked with individuals who have waited more than a year to see Catholic or Christian therapists due to limited availability. I often hear concerns of people fearing that their spirituality would be rejected or they would be given recommendations for interventions that run counter to their faith. Therapists are trained to adhere to a strict code of ethics in order to protect clients in these situations, where the beliefs or potential biases of a counselor should never be projected onto their clients. While there are certainly examples of counselors failing to live up to this expectation, I would strongly encourage anyone who is uncertain if they can wait to see 'the perfect therapist' to give a chance to other options if their needs are urgent. If a counselor is doing their job, they should help you feel safe and understood regardless if they share your exact beliefs."

"As the client, you are in control of the conversation."

MELISSA BUDDIE



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A Mother's Faith and Love Never Dies as

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but of whose place no one else can take."
— Cardinal Mermillo

MOTHER'S DAY, from page 1

Catholic school received one of Carl's beautifully made boxes to be used by students who took them home in turns to pray the family rosary for world peace, the end of war, and the defeat of communism. (This was in 1950.) He created a steel flagpole for the new Catholic high school building and supported generously every fundraiser that the Catholic school sponsored. He did these things for the Church, his daughter, and then for her four children. Carl and his wife, Margaret, were my mother's heritage and her examples of faithfulness!

That is where my faith began!

But wait.....there's more!

My mother, Georgia, married my father, Joseph Shape, in the Catholic church rectory in December of 1941, just as the United States entered WWII. My dad enlisted in the Army Air Force, leaving my mother at her home with her parents when he left. He had been a member of the Presbyterian faith and had once considered becoming a minister. With my mother's encouragement and example, he began instructions in Catholicism and became a very faith-filled and, along with my mother, active member of the Catholic Church. (Pope John XXIII was his favorite!) My mother loved to celebrate all the special saint's days. (Saint Nicholas Day on December 6 was my personal favorite), but she also was partial to St. Lucy, The Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, Saint Patrick, etc. Our home was tastefully appointed with sacred art works, icons, and statuary. Every threatening storm was met with lighted holy candles. My childhood was secure, surrounded by this faith and this three-generation family unit I was a part of.

When my father's job required us to move from Ohio to Indiana, my mother chose our new home in a place that included a strong Catholic identity which matched our family values. The small community of Huntington included two beautiful Catholic parishes with grade schools and a Catholic high school; a renowned Catholic publishing company; the mother house of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters; Saint Felix Franciscan Capuchin monastery; and the security of the values of the Church and the community. Following mother's assuredness and faith in God, we settled into a routine that included new friendships, frequent Mass, priest friends joining us for lasagna

dinners, and many adventures that were surrounded by the security of our faith.

Being a child born into the anxieties of a wartime era, the fundamentals of faith that I learned at home, especially with my mother's influence, I was able to survive and thrive in my uncertain world.

My mother did experience her own anxieties and uncertainty as her life unfolded. Not unlike many of her contemporaries, she had become a woman of strength who could endure many things. (After all, she had lived through all the seasons of Lenten sacrifice required by church rules of her time!) The one thing she could not endure to sacrifice was her romance with her cigarettes and her ashtrays. It was the one thing she did not pass on to her children. Standing with her in her surgeon's office when she was in her 70s and pondering the implications of her chest x-rays with her, she told me she was not letting lung cancer conquer her. She had great faith in the intercessions of the saints and in particular, the intercession of then Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Capuchin, who had also been a citizen of her Indiana hometown. As Father Solanus would have done, my mother "thanked God ahead of time" and went straight home to find her small badge with the relic and picture of Father Solanus. She pinned it to her chest, always to wear it there as she endured months of cancer treatments. She had sure faith that, through the prayers of intercession of this now Blessed priest, she would be delivered from the dreaded disease. And she was, as her x-rays later proved! She wrote to the office in Detroit where Father Solanus' case for sainthood was being investigated and, with much pride, declared herself healed of lung cancer. Once again, her great faith had been her stronghold, as it had been 'for ages past.' Thank you, God!

And this has been my heritage of faith from my mother. "Thank you, God!"

— Sharon Shape Solloway

Glenda Stover Casey

"My mother, Glenda Stover Casey, was a very special lady. She was a convert to the Catholic faith when she married my dad, William, in 1940. My Dad



was a very good man and a devout Catholic. She was very strict about attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Sunday was a very special day. We all went together to Mass and wore our special Sunday clothes and when we returned home, we had our special Sunday dinner in the afternoon. The rest of the day we did no work but spent time together. We prayed before every meal and at bedtime.

This greatly influenced me as I became an adult and mother. Mom was a very kind and generous person. She would help others any time they needed it. One thing that stays with me is when I was in grade school and one of the nuns who was my teacher needed someone to mend and make some new parts to her habit. Well, mom ended up doing it for all the nuns and even made new curtains for the classrooms. I can only hope that I can be as generous as mom was. Mom passed away from Alzheimer's in 2007. God blessed our family with a very special mom."

— Nancy Snyder

Helen Berghoff

"I was blessed with a beautiful holy mom. Her Catholic faith was of great importance in her life and of course in raising her family. I would see her on her knees in the morning and at night praying. She and dad prayed the rosary every evening together. She went to Mass, Benedictions, Stations, and May Crowning because it was good for us. When she could no longer drive, mom moved to an apartment at Saint Anne's so that she could attend daily mass. Mom gave me the greatest gift, my Catholic faith. I am so grateful."

— Pat Hayes

Barbara Mulholland

"It is ironic that the name Barbara means 'stranger' because I don't think anyone would classify my mother, Barbara, as a stranger. My mother lived out the call in Hebrews, 'Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have



unknowingly entertained angels.' The Christian virtue and responsibility of hospitality was alive in our home through my mother. Our home was a place where friends and family gathered. Because of this I got to witness my mother loving serving others and bringing witnesses of the faith to our home. I feel like every Catholic feast day, it was also a feast day at our home. We would attend Mass as a family and then celebrate with our community. People from all walks of life would come and my mother would embrace them with open arms. Our St. Joseph Day table would have new people every year. She is a shining example of the love of God. In so many ways I have learned from my mother. I truly believe she took the verse, 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it' from Proverbs to heart, because I, every day, hope to create a home like the one she did for us and our community."

— Brian Mulholland

Loretta Sherwood

"One of my earliest memories of my mother-in-law to be was her acts of charity, patience, and kindness. She and her three sisters cared for their two mentally disabled brothers upon the death of their widowed mother. Their mother died at the age of 57, so they took it upon themselves to care for their brothers while still raising their own families. The sisters helped with housing, meals, medical visits, and made sure that they were at all the family get-togethers. My mother-in-law never complained or saw it as a burden, but more out of love and honoring the wishes of their mother. I admired the charity given by her and grew to love my "new" uncles by her loving example. Her Catholic virtues of charity, patience, and kindness have always been close to my heart. Soon after, I would convert to Catholic faith."

— Barbara A. Sherwood

Claudine Houser

"Both of my parents raised all five of us to go to mass on Sundays and Holy days. We all attended Catholic school at St. Peter's and Central Catholic. We always said grace before meals.



Mom and Dad were good parents to all five of us."

— Elaine Moser

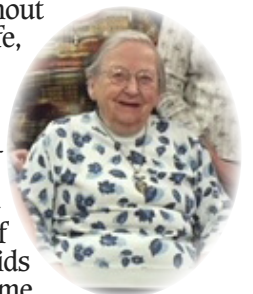
Germaine Kummer

"The memories of mom are always too many to recall. Besides teaching prayers, I recall a story of what I think is uncommon advice. I had gone off to school and things were not going too well. I called home and related all that was wrong: grades, not making friends, food not like home, homesick, etc. I was looking for sympathy and compassion. What I received was the advice, 'Go to Confession!' Thanks Mom!"

— Father Bill Kummer

Mary E. Voors

"Throughout her entire life, our mom, Mary E. Voors, lived a life of profound faith and encouraged each of her seven kids to do the same.



As we were celebrating her life after her death in 2021, each of her children received a hand-signed note from her which is perhaps the best evidence of her ongoing faith:

I hope you know that from the moment of your conception until the day I died, I have loved you. My prayer and hope is that my vocation as your mother has shown you the path to Heaven. And now, (I hope from the wonder of Heaven), you know without any doubt I truly continue to love you. My prayer, my hope, is that one day we are rejoicing together with God in Heaven. I thank you. I love you. And although I did my best to set a Godly example — keep me in your daily prayer — as I may still be in need.

Her kids and their partners continue to celebrate the level of faith mom experienced in her daily life."

— The Voors Family

Sister Mary Laetitia

"My mom was widowed in 2008 when we lost the rock of our family, my dad. In the next five years, we watched our mother grow in her faith and spend most of her time in the Chapel at St. Jude, praying the rosary, at Mass, or helping homeless/needy in the community. She then felt called to join the Poor Clares, who spent their first 19 years at St.

s Witnessed by Overwhelming Response

Andrews Parish on New Haven Avenue being cloistered.

I cannot tell you the transformation that we have seen in our family. I am one of three children (one older and one younger brother), and our lives have been forever changed. At first, we mourned our loss and felt a huge sense of grief. Since then, we have seen, heard, and experienced God's grace, mercy, and love in abundance! We are blessed to call her mom and we are more than blessed to know that she is praying for us constantly! On December 28, 2022, she moved to Kokomo to join the Poor Clares there along with some of her other sisters. It is rough being so far from her since she was always in Fort Wayne, but we know that God has a bigger plan! Our family, including her 11 grandchildren, are more than happy with her decision to answer His call, although, it isn't always easy, we are reminded that only God is in control and knows the plans He has for us. We have learned so much from her and watched each of us grow in faith and love."

— Jill Wright

Elizabeth Mary Ketterer Friedel

"Elizabeth Mary Ketterer Friedel was Catholic in all things that matter. Fiercely independent, strong willed, and fair minded, she was a woman to be reckoned with, respected, and admired by all who were privileged to get to know her.

As a member of Most Holy Name of Jesus (MHN) Catholic Church for 70 years, on Troy Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Elizabeth was baptized, confirmed, graduated from 8th grade, married Anthony (Butch) J. Friedel, celebrated their 25th, 35th, and 50th wedding anniversaries with Masses and renewal of wedding vows in Most Holy Name of Jesus (MHN) Catholic Church on Troy Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Plans were made for the celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary in June of 1990, but Butch died in April so the planned Mass was said for the repose of his soul.

Elizabeth (Betty as known to friends) was the 6th of eight



children born to Joseph and Katherine Ketterer, and as a child, attended Mass in the pew at MHN bought by her father. While living on Troy Hill in the shadow of her mother's attic for 70 years, Betty was a member and officer of the Christian Mothers and Catholic Women's Union groups of MHN. She and Butch had one child, Arthur, who attended MHN school and was taught by some of the same School Sisters of Notre Dame teachers as Elizabeth had been. The practice of the Catholic faith was transferred to Arthur through his mother as well as the same women who instilled the faith in her. As Arthur was a sickly child, there was always a seven-day candle at Mary's altar for his change to better health. As Arthur is now 85, the Blessed Mother must have answered Elizabeth's petition represented by the candle.

When she was 70-years-old, with great sorrow, Elizabeth had to leave her beloved Troy Hill and MHN church due to Butch's ill health. It was the only day that she cried in her life. They moved to live with their son, a chemistry professor at IPFW in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She lived her faith through the help of Father (now Monsignor) Bill Schooler of St. Jude's Church. Through friends, she became active in the Ladies Group of St. Jude, a member of the St. Francis University Guild, and called Bingo at St. Anne's Home every other Monday. In her last years, she said her rosary every night, even after a stroke that left her mind slightly impaired. On Thanksgiving of 2002, she was hospitalized with pneumonia, and when released from the hospital she had forgotten how to walk. She was then admitted to the Canterbury Green Nursing home where rosaries were lost in the bed clothes and on a Wednesday night, five days after admission, she confessed to her son that, 'I have had enough of this life; I am ready to try another.' When Arthur got a call at 12:30 a.m. that she was dying, he shouted. 'Even God listens to her.'

Elizabeth is buried in the plot of MHN cemetery where her father bought the lot when their youngest daughter died of diphtheria in 1928. She is buried there with her mother, father, sister, and husband. Arthur's name is there as well, waiting."

— Dr. Arthur Friedel

Mildred Driscoll

"My mother, Mildred Driscoll, joined the Catholic faith after she was widowed

with five children at the age of 36. Her children were being raised in the Church and attended St. Bernard School in Wabash, Indiana. She felt strongly she could be more of a mentor to her children if she also practiced Catholicism.

She enjoyed this transition and felt her relationship to God helped her with the daunting task of raising her five children. She felt His presence in the various jobs she took to put food on the table and to guide her throughout her life.

My mother lived to the age of 97 and now lies next to her husband and my father in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Lagro, Indiana."

— Tom Driscoll

Esther Kromkowski

"Do what has to be done at this time. The good Lord has a plan for each of us. He knows where we 'fit in' and if we have faith, He will direct our minds and hearts.' These are my mom's words, sent as a support note to my son on a retreat. These words and her numerous acts of kindness were always part of her life. Five of us knew Esther Kromkowski as 'Mom'; 16 as 'Busia'; many as 'Aunt Esther'; and many as a friend at St. Adalbert's Parish. My mom was a blessing in different ways in each of our lives."

— Ann Marie Szymanski

Carol Jane Martin Zech

"When I was a child, we prayed the rosary as a family once a week. Mom attended Mass for all the Holy Days. She and dad enrolled me in Catholic School, St. Thomas, Elkhart, and encouraged me to be an altar boy at St. Thomas. (About 1950)

With the nuns, mom instilled in me to always do the right thing, never lie, and help at home doing our chores. God was first, then mom, then the job, then me."

— John Zackrajsek

Marguerite Walsh

"I have many vivid memories of my mother's faith and how she lived it. She was from a strong Irish family which included two priests with cus-



toms and traditions from 'back home.' She was faithful in all aspects of faith and teaching her children was her main mission. She made sure that we knew our prayers, went to Mass weekly, went to confession, understood the history of our faith, the importance of the saints, the sacraments, and how much Jesus loved us. She had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, and we gathered often to say the rosary. She lived and talked her religion daily. As a child, we all witnessed this and followed her beautiful example. She took great pleasure inviting the priest to our home for dinner. The family priests were at our home many times and I remember them off by themselves saying their daily prayers while we played in the yard, fully aware of what was going on."

— Dorothy Korte

Luanne Obergefell

"Mom lived her Catholic faith by regularly attending Mass on Sundays, Holy days, and week-days, and by spending an hour a week in the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Jude usually in the middle of the night in winter or summer for decades. However, the way she most visibly practiced her faith and taught us to be faithful was by her volunteer activities for the Church and the Catholic schools.

She volunteered at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne through her membership and leadership in the Rosary Society. As an early member of the Funeral Dinner ministry, she served the church by coordinating and serving hundreds of grieving families. Some weeks, there would be as many as three or four funerals and she, along with other dedicated women, called volunteers to bring food, set up the luncheons, and serve the families. This service to the church went on for years and she only slowed down when she wasn't physically able to do it anymore though she still made the calls for volunteers to bring dishes.

Another of her favorite activities was helping out at Bishop Dwenger, especially the Saints Alive activities. She was one of the volunteers in the early years, helping coordinate the students and parents who served the dinner. Saints Alive continues to provide support for BDHS and Catholic education today thanks in no small

part to those early 'pioneers' who designed and built the event.

St. Joseph Hospital was another recipient of her volunteer work as she spent every Friday in the gift shop waiting on customers. When she transitioned to living in St. Anne's four years ago, she continued to volunteer serving as the President of the Residents Council.

We learned from mom how to be faithful through her practice of the faith through religious observances as well as through her commitment to the Catholic Church by serving others as a volunteer."

— Ann M. Obergefell

Sarah Shank

"My mom has always been my rock. She has taught me life lessons including staying strong in the Catholic faith. She is consistent, fair, loving, and Christ-centered. I am happy to call her my mother. I love you mom."

— David Shank

Betty Huot

"What a timely and meaningful opportunity this is for me to be able to honor my mother for Mother's Day. My mom resides at St. Anne Home and Retirement Community here in Fort Wayne, and she has just recently been put on hospice. On the day that I received the invitation to share a memory about my mother's faith, I had just come home from spending the morning with her at St. Anne's.

It had been one of those very warm early spring days and I had wheeled Mom out into the courtyard to enjoy the beauty and warmth of the sun, not knowing how much time she will have left to do so. One of the first things I noticed was the little purple violets just emerging from the ground, and I pulled one up and showed it to mom and proceeded to share with her how these violets so delightfully brought to mind the May altars that she had taught me how make for Mary each year when I was growing up. I reminded her about the violets and the lilies of the val-



MOTHER'S DAY, from page 9

ley and especially the fragrant lilacs that surrounded my Mary statue that I enthroned on top of a doily-covered pile of books. As I shared these thoughts with her, I wondered if she could understand what I was saying. The knowing look in her eyes assured me that she did. And then I sang "Immaculate Mary" to her and asked her if she remembered. She smiled and slowly nodded her head yes.

There are so many other things I could share about my mom's love of Jesus and Mary, and how she taught my sisters and me what it meant to live out one's faith in both word and deed. Her compassionate letters to others could fill many a box. Her religious paintings and banners adorned many events at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart where we grew up.

But for me, I believe the most profound sharing of my mom's faith will now be that moment with the violet in the courtyard ... the time when words were not needed ... the time when my mom's precious soul was closer to Jesus and Mary's than it ever has been before. What an awesome treasure she shared with me! Thank you, mom. Happy Mother's Day. I love you!"

— Diana Peat

UPDATE: Diana sent this note to us at Today's Catholic on Monday, May 8:

"I just thought that I would share with you that my mother did pass away on Saturday, May 6. She had been unresponsive for many days, but my two sisters and I spent most of our waking hours with her praying, singing, telling stories, and laughing, anticipating her glorious reunion with our dad and all of heaven. I feel it is so special that my tribute to her for Today's Catholic will be such a timely way to honor her!"

We at Today's Catholic send our prayers and condolences.

Dolores Keyes

"I started pray for the right words to come to me for this writing for those to realize reading this about the strong faith that mother had instilled in me growing up. I am the youngest of five children born to Dolores and Bob Keyes. My father passed away beautifully on December 17, 2016. As a child, we never missed Mass unless we were desperately sick. Growing up, mom faithfully took all five of us by herself. My dad converted to Catholicism when



I was 10-years-old. It was a trip to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Dad was instructed by Monsignor Thomas Duncan. A day I will forever hold in my heart. I am sure his conversion was brought by the faith shown by mom over the years. One of my fondest memories is when mom gathered us around her bed, and on our knees to pray the rosary together during Lent. We would always honor the statue of the Blessed Mother on top of the TV with flowers and a crown on her head during the month of May, a tradition that I still do today in my home. I was blessed to go with my parents to Germany to live when I was 17-years-old. A cherished memory was going to Easter Mass at the Cathedral of Norte Dame with mom. The crowd was enormous. We never thought we would receive the Eucharist, but we made our way to the priest in the crowd. I will never forget the tears of joy in both our eyes. Mom encouraged me to teach my first religious education class when I was 17. Mom said to me that I should share my faith with the children. They were kindergartners. That was the start of my 38 years teaching religious education. Whenever one of us kids had issues with friends, boyfriends, making decisions, or heaven forbid someone was arriving home late from curfew, mom would tell me to say a prayer quickly! Mom also shared transportation with our Catholic neighbors to get us to weekly catechism classes on Saturday mornings! Later on, married with my own family, I would call mom just to check on her. Today I phone mom every evening (if possible, I miss a few) to say good night. Her final words every night, 'God Bless you,' help me feel her love and bring God's peace. Mom and dad also enjoyed adoration chapel time at ICC Auburn while they lived in Auburn. She and dad faithfully prayed the daily scripture up until dad's death. Mom is legally blind so now she listens to EWTN. Mom also has written her own prayer for Lent that she had shared with others when living at Sacred Heart in Avilla. She and dad moved to Sacred Heart home in Avilla when the family asked them to make a change. Both gracious, even though we all knew how hard it is to leave your home, however, it was the daily Mass that drew them there. Mom immediately made friends with the Sisters (Clare and Theresa), who are still her friends today. Mom has now moved to Astral at Auburn, closer proximity for my sister and me to see her. She needed a change with dad being gone now as well. They did not have Mass organized at Astral when we moved mom. I called ICC in Auburn to arrange for my friend, Ann Helmkamp, to bring mom Communion

when possible. Ann and mom immediately had a bond of faith. Ann tells me she just did not know what it was, but they felt the presence of God together. Ann faithfully brings Communion not only to mom but the other faithful Catholics living at Astral. Ann also organized saying the Rosary once a week with mom and the others who wish to attend. In conclusion, mom is ready to go home to her Heavenly Father, however, we keep telling her God knows we still need her. Who would I phone every evening at 7 p.m. if she was not here with me? I am grateful to God for the blessing of my mom, her faith, and her ever love for HIM."

— Cindy Turner

Anna Gora

"The greatest inspiration in my spiritual life was my grandmother, Anna. She left Poland for a better life when she was 16, leaving behind her entire family. When I was a child staying at her house, my little bedroom window opened onto the front porch. Every night I would listen to her praying the rosary in Polish and saying her evening prayers while swinging on the porch swing. She would ask me to join her and say my prayers. She had a simple faith, always turning to Jesus in times of hardship. She lost her husband and suffered illness but always remained faithful. She set the example for all of our family."

— Cheryl Adams

Joan Nunn

"My dad and mom, Murray and Joan, taught their five children the meaning of Christmas, the meaning of Easter, and the meaning of Good Friday, but we were not baptized. It's not something that I fault them for because my mom was my biggest supporter when I walked (maybe ran towards is the correct wording) to my baptism into full communion with the Catholic Church at the 1997 Easter Vigil.

My mom taught me how to live my faith when she came to me three months into her battle with inoperable pancreatic cancer to tell me that she thought that she 'should be marked for Him before I meet Him,' and was baptized into full communion with the Catholic Church at age 72 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Father Stoyke. I have a photo of her with Bishop D'Arcy



taken about 20 minutes before she was baptized that I treasure. It wasn't until her final nine months (May 2007 — February 2008) that we were able to talk about faith. I had never known that she prayed daily to the Blessed Mother for her five children after my dad's death in 1973. She had never told anyone that she prayed several times a day for anything and everything that crossed her mind. I had never known that the name of her guardian angel was revealed to her when we lost my dad, or that she was revealed the name of my guardian angel as well (not something that I had ever thought to ask to be revealed to me).

My mom taught me how to live my faith when she gave an example of how to die. I asked her how she was able to sit each day and look at her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who were around her and whom she loved and not want to scream out to God and be angry about being told that she would have 30 days of life left (she battled and lived nine months and 15 days total). I asked her if she had ever gotten angry at God and wanted to walk away from everything, did she scream out to Him, 'Why me?' Her response to me, "No, I thank Him and say, 'Why not me?'" would not be completely understandable until nine years later through my grief with the loss of my husband and had to face all that my mom lived through in her life.

Being with my mom the last nine months of her life was a blessing, and having the humble joy of bringing her Communion and looking into her eyes and saying, 'The Body of Christ' and her responding 'Amen' never failed to have tears falling because, after 40 years of living the life that she and my dad gave me, I was bringing her a piece of Him whom she sought her whole life so that she was able to experience fully His unconditional love for her the last six months of her life."

— Janice Martin WP

Mary Martha Snyder

"My Mother was the most influential person in my relationship with God. Attending Sunday Mass was always of utmost importance. When I was a young girl, my family lived in Zanesville, Indiana. During the war, my father worked seven days a week at General Electric in Fort Wayne. Not having any other way to church, my mother would get the five of us children up at 5 a.m. to get ready and ride with my father as he went into work. We would stand on the



corner of Taylor and Brooklyn Avenue, during cold, hot, rain, or snowy weather, to catch the city bus to the Cathedral so we could go to Mass. After Mass, we would again take the bus to grandma and grandpa's house and wait until my dad got off work. Mom emphasized the importance of learning the prayers and saying the rosary. Eighty years later, when I say the Hail Mary, the Memorare, and other prayers, I remember practicing them while we were doing dishes after supper. Yes, my mother was committed to bringing up her eight children in the Catholic faith and being an excellent influence in their relationship with God."

— Mary Lou Snyder

Carole Elder

"Born with a lovely singing voice, our mom was always involved in the liturgy as a cantor or choir member. She often sacrificed her work lunch hours and evening family dinners for rehearsals and practices in order to be prepared for the upcoming weekend Mass. Our weekend Mass obligations and holidays revolved around her liturgy commitments. As we grew, she encouraged our participation in the Mass as altar servers, cross bearers, and lectors. Her steadfast commitment and contribution to the liturgy and our parish with her valuable time and musical talent fostered a strong Catholic foundation in our childhood home.

Happy Mother's Day, mom! We love you. Love, Christy, Jeremy, and Joe."

— Jeremy Elder

Sally Hickey

"My mom, Sally, raised us in the Church with a Catholic education and afterward encouraged an adult conversion with a Catholic High School education, good movies, frequenting the sacraments, EWTN, and just living Catholic with all the loving sacrifice that implies.

— Chris Hickey

**Marcella Kriss**

"My mother's name is Marcella (Sramek) Kriss. While she passed away many years ago (1994), she is frequently in my thoughts and prayers. I am the oldest of six siblings, four girls and two boys, and we grew up in the small town of North Judson, Indiana. Since we lived just two blocks from our church and school, my life, at least,

revolved around the Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish.

Going to Mass on Sundays and feast days was always an event and a priority for my mom and dad, even with six children. I remember getting dressed up for Sunday Mass and other special feasts such as Christmas and Easter. For Easter we would all have new matching coats and hats of our favorite color. My mother was a beautician, so my sisters and I always had beautiful hairdos. My mother and her faith were the mainstay of our family. Prayers before meals and praying the rosary together were family traditions for many years. Mom always had her prayer books and rosary nearby. To this day I have a well-worn rosary she used and which I use myself from time to time. I even have a rosary collection of my own!

Even the television shows we watched revolved around our Catholic faith. I remember the family watching episodes of the Fulton J. Sheen show, "Life is Worth Living," on a regular basis. My siblings and I attended our parish school, where mom was frequently involved in preparations for special events like May Crowning, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and other parish events. Photos taken by my dad, or family movies recorded by my Grandpa Sramek captured our participation in these special events. The Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration from Mishawaka, Indiana staffed our parish school. Through grade school and high school, I worked with the sisters in the school and as a sacristan. I remember many enjoyable moments working with Sister Jane in the sacristy. She was just a few years older than I was at the time. I often attended early morning Mass to sing in the choir.

The faith of my mother inspired my own faith as a child and through my early life. My mom went through some tough times, but even today her faith inspires me. I am now a member of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration serving at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana."

— Sister Elise Kriss

Dolores Hilligoss

"My Mother, Dolores (Nix) Hilligoss, went to church at St. Catherine Nix Settlement her entire life starting in 1917 to 2001. She said the rosary every day, went to church every Sunday and Holy Day, belonged to the Rosary Group, May Altar in



our home every Mother's Day, and raised four children that are very strong in their faith today.

Thank goodness she was our mother."

— Nancy Josephson

Theresa Gabet

"My mom, Theresa Gabet, has lived her Catholic faith fully. The day started with the morning offering, and daily Mass as often as she could. We said the family rosary every evening. She frequently invoked the help of the Blessed Mother, the poor souls, and another favorite, the infant Jesus of Prague for any special needs. She did all she could to make our home a happy one. Even with nine children, she and dad were charitable to others. A couple examples are that they would pick up children from the orphanage who had nowhere to go for the holidays and take food and treats to the poor at Miss Virginia's. One time, my mom was visiting a friend in a nursing home and one of the residents who was having a birthday did not have a cake. This made mom feel so bad that for years she would get a list of the residents' birthdays and make each one an angel food cake for their special day. These are just a few examples of her kindness that impacted us. My siblings and I feel so blessed and are so thankful to God for giving us such a wonderful mother!"

— Annette Sisco

Valeria Buchanan

"If I was to list all of my memories of my mom, I would need an entire book, so I will condense my thoughts. My Mom was the 5th of 13 children and each had their specific chores, hers being baking. From birth to death, religion was an integral part of her daily life. Growing up, she instilled a strong religious presence in our lives as well. We attended Catholic school through 8th grade even though it was an economic strain with five kids. We always said grace before every meal and attended Sunday Mass, usually as a family. Mom was strong, kind, thoughtful, helpful, and available. I am proud to be her son."

— Dick Buchanan



Marian Herman

"My Mom's name is Marian Herman. She is 92-years-old and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka. We are a family composed of nine children, six daughters and three sons. Seven of us live in the South Bend-Mishawaka area and two are out of town. Mom taught all of us to be proud of our faith. We then passed that down to our children and her grandchildren. There are 18 grandchildren, one of whom is deceased. She also has five great-grandchildren, all of whom are strong in their faith."

Mom has had both joy and sorrow in her life, starting at the young age of 13. Her faith persevered and has gotten her through the most difficult times. She was a rosary maker for nearly 38 years and has passed that passion on to her daughters and granddaughters. Mom would make both rosaries and one-decade rosaries and send them to nursing homes. When Bishops Rhoades became the bishop, she even made him a rosary with Notre Dame colors. She has taught all of her nine children to never give up and to always trust in God. He will always be there for you. Be it joy or sorrow, she has taught her family to give everything to God, and He will be there.

Happy Mother's Day to our mom who is a wonderful mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother! God Bless her and may He continue to be at her side. Love you mom."

— Kathy Wisniewski

Ruth Hoffman

"My mother, Ruth Hoffman, was a very beautiful, strong, faith-filled woman. She taught the four of us to be respectful and kind by the way she lived and treated others. It was very important to her that we learn more about our Catholic faith by attending Sacred Heart Catholic School and Bishop Luers High School. Sunday Mass was an important part of our lives. Because of her strong devotion to Mary, we prayed the rosary as a family daily."

Mom passed away in 1984. I still miss her."

— Maureen Ousley

Cheryl Hickey

"We all learn from our parents, but we learn something special from our mother. Whenever



we find ourselves in challenging times or difficult situations, we can confide in our mother who seems to always provide a comforting embrace or words of wisdom. I believe this is where my devotion to our Blessed Mother first came from — seeing the example of my own mother. There have been many cases in my life where a challenging situation presents itself and I instinctively turn to our Blessed Mother who provides the same comfort and wisdom my own mother provides. One situation still remains clearly in my mind where I found myself at a grotto praying during a challenging time. While walking at the grotto in front of a statue of the Blessed Mother, I called my mom on the phone, and it brought such peace and serenity. I turn to our Blessed Mother in times of need because of what I first witnessed in my own mother, and they are both instrumental in my vocational discernment. May our Blessed Mother continue to look over you, mom, and surround you with her love. I love you!"

— Michael Hickey

Betty O'Shaughnessey

"My mother, Betty O'Shaughnessey, was born a Roman Catholic in 1929. She has spent her entire life living and praying her faith. She and dad shared that faith by providing a Catholic education for their children."

Mom can be described by many words that begin with the letter C.

Catholic — Mom always led by example.

Caring — Mom loved each of us unconditionally since the day we were born and helped us to be happy and successful.

Courageous — Mom raised 10 children as a stay-at-home mother. Our dad, Kenneth, died in 1994. Mom continued to lead her family of grown children.

Considerate — Mom always thought of helping others first.

Clean — Boy did we!! We did laundry, washed dishes, and shared in the farm chores.

Calm — Mom never raised her voice, yelled, or said a bad word.

Complimentary — It never mattered how bad a situation may seem, she always had a positive word.

Charitable — Mom was a volunteer organist for nearly 50 years at St. Rose in Monroeville and shared her love of music at the school with the children.

On Mother's Day, her 10 children, 10 in-laws, 29 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren are proud to show her their love. Happy Mother's Day!"

— Donna Hazelett



Mary Lou Rahr and Mia DeBock

Our Catholic faith was always a big part of our life. My mother, Mary Lou Rahr, was born in the Netherlands to Mia and Jacques DeBock. They attended Mass every Sunday and Holy day. They had photos of Jesus and The Blessed Mother in their home, as well as a statue of Mary. They immigrated to the United States when my mom was 14. They moved to a house in a small Pennsylvania town that was within walking distance to the only Catholic Church. They continued to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy day and they were very active in the church. My Opa (Dutch for grandpa) even helped with the accounting. After my Opa died, my Oma (Dutch for grandmother) retired, and she then went to Mass every day. Watching their devotion to the faith left a life-long impression on me.

My mother married my father, who was Christian but not Catholic. He agreed to raise any children they had in the Catholic faith. When he was transferred to Huntington, Indiana, for his job, my mother immediately found St. Mary Catholic Church and loved the church and the people. My younger sister and brother and I all went to St. Mary Catholic school. We attended Mass every weekday, Sunday, and Holy Day through our grade-school years.

My mother was thrilled when I chose the University of Saint Francis for college. She never failed to tell me how proud she was of me! When I got the job as Secretary for Communications here at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she cried and told me that it was one of the best days of her life.

I know she missed going to Mass when the pandemic hit. In late December of 2021, my beautiful mother ended up in the hospital with COVID. While in the ICU, she prayed her rosary many times a day. Father Thomas Zehr was such a blessing for us during this time. We were not given much time and knew that she was not going to make it. Father Thomas came to the hospital to spend time with her, offer confession, the Holy Eucharist, and last rites.

My mother died on December 23, 2021. I miss her more than words can ever say! I am beyond grateful for her faithfulness and for teaching me how to love and live my Catholic faith. Happy Mother's Day!

— Nicole Hahn

What Does it Mean to Be Salted with Fire?

The image of Salt occurs more frequently in the Bible than we often realize. Most of us remember Jesus calling us the salt of the earth. But there are many other references as noted in the linked article in the previous sentence. Let's just list a few here that are most curious to New Testament readers.

Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another (Mark 9:49-50).

Another interesting passage is in the Acts of the Apostles:

And while eating salt with them, He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father. (Acts 1:4)

These are odd references to us who live in an age that often demonizes salt as detriment to good health. How should we understand the biblical references to salt? Let's begin with a few observations about salt in those times.

1. Salt was valuable. Some people were even paid with salt (which is where we get the word "salary").

2. Salt was connected with healing and purity. Saltwater was applied to infections and wounds (it helps heal afflictions of the skin). Newborn babies were washed with saltwater.

3. Salt was connected with preservation. In the years before refrigeration, salt was one of the most common ways

of preserving meat and fish.

4. Salt was connected with flavor. Salt adds spice to life; it brings out the flavor in food.

5. Salt was an image for wisdom. Gregory the Great said, "Now by salt is denoted the word of wisdom. Let him therefore who strives to speak wisely, fear greatly" (Pastoral Rule 4.12).

6. Salt was connected with worship and covenant. Scripture says, Season all your grain offerings with salt. *Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings* (Lev 2:13). So, the use of salt was ordered first for the meal offerings, and afterwards for "all" offerings, including the "burnt offering."

7. Scripture speaks elsewhere of a "covenant of salt." For example, *Don't you know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?* (2 Chron 13:5) The covenant of salt refers to the imperishable and irrevocable quality of the engagement made between the two parties to the covenant.

8. The use of salt to signify and ratify what was sacred was widespread. There is a Latin saying attributed to Pliny the Elder (and Virgil, too), *Nulla sacra conficiuntur sine mola salsa* (Sacred things are not made without salted meal).

To apply the image of salt to the Christian life, we should see that the Christian is charged



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MSGR. CHARLES POPE

with purifying, sanctifying, and preserving this wounded and decaying world by being salt to it. The Christian is called to bring flavor to life in a world that is so often filled with despair and meaninglessness.

With that background, let's turn to an analysis of Jesus' words from the Gospel of Mark.

1. Everyone will be salted with fire. Two images of salt and fire come together here, but the result is the same: purification. We have already seen how salt purifies. Fire does the same thing through the refining process. Precious metals come from the ground admixed with iron and many other metals. Subjecting them to fire purifies the gold or silver, separating it from the iron and other metals.

Both salt and fire purify by burning, each in its own way. Hence the Lord marvelously brings those two images together, telling us that we will all be "salted with fire."

Indeed, it must be so. We must all be purified. Scripture says of Heaven, *nothing impure will ever enter it* (Rev 21:27). St. Paul speaks of purgatorial fire as effecting whatever purification has not taken place here

on earth:

If anyone builds on this foundation [of Christ] using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved — yet as one escaping through the flames (1 Cor 3:15-15).

Yes, we must all be salted with fire. We must be purified, both here, and if necessary (as it likely will be), in Purgatory.

2. Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor?

In other words, we must let the salt of God's grace have its effect or else we, who are to be salt for others, become flat, tasteless, and good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot (cf Matt 5:13).

If the salt will not be salt, there is no substitute for it. Jesus asks rhetorically, *if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor?* There is no substitute for Christians. If we will not be light, then the world will be in darkness. If we will not be salt, then the world will not be purified, preserved, or have anything good or tasty about it at all. The decay of Western culture has happened on our watch, when we collectively decided to stop being salt and light.

3. Keep salt in yourselves

and you will have peace with one another. In other words, allow the salt, the purification, to have its effect. Only if we do this will we have peace with one another.

Our divisions and lack of peace are caused by our sins. Thus, to accept the purification of being salted with fire is our only true hope for peace. When the Lord burns away my envy, I no longer resent your gifts; I rejoice in them and come to appreciate that I need you to complete me. In this way there is peace. When the Lord burns away my jealousy and greed and helps me to be grateful for what I have, I no longer desire to take what is rightly yours nor do I resent you for having it. In this way there is peace. When the Lord burns away my bitter memories of past hurts and gives me the grace to forgive, an enormous amount of poison goes out of my soul and I am equipped to love and to be kind, generous, and patient. In this way there is peace.

Yes, allowing ourselves to be salted with fire is a source of peace for us. And while we may resist the pain of fire and salt, just as with any stinging medicine, we must learn that although it is painful it is good for us. Yes, it brings peace; it ushers in shalom.

Everyone will be (must be) salted with fire!

Msgr. Charles Pope is the Pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

We Must Love Each Other as Jesus Love Everyone



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sixth Sunday of Easter John 14:15-21

The Acts of the Apostles once again this Easter season furnishes the first reading. In the readings of the weekends earlier in this season, the identity of the Apostles clearly has been established.

In a critically important revelation, the Apostles exercised the very power of Jesus in naming a new member of their group, Matthias, to succeed the dead Judas. With power held by Jesus, Peter healed the sick. On behalf of the Apostles, Peter spoke as Jesus had spoken.

Clearly the Apostles discharged the divine power

that had belonged to Jesus, and they continued the mission of Jesus the Redeemer. They had been the Lord's specially selected students and companions, but in Acts they possessed a unique role themselves.

Through them, the Lord continued the mission of salvation. They bore within themselves the Holy Spirit, and they gave the Holy Spirit to others.

While Acts already has established that Peter was the head of the Apostles, the character of Apostle belonged not just to him. It was also with the others.

Thus, in this reading, the central figures are Philip and John. They performed miracles, as Jesus had performed miracles, having been sent by the Apostles to Samaria. Their destination reveals much. They looked to the salvation of all people, even of Samaritans, whom Jews so despised. No one was beyond the scope of salvation in Jesus. No one was inherently bad, beyond redemption.

The second reading is from

the First Epistle of Peter. It is a strong, joyful, and enthusiastic proclamation of Jesus as Lord, calling believers to hear the Lord and to follow the Lord. The Lord should be in their hearts and minds.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Not a Resurrection Narrative, it nonetheless serves the Church's purpose as it teaches us this weekend. After celebrating the Resurrection for these weeks since Easter, the Church gently summons us to look at our lives in these times, occurring with circumstances particular to us and to our time.

This reading is our blueprint for life. Our task as disciples is to love others as Jesus loved all. It is clear. In God's love, given to us in the Lord, is our salvation. Indeed, the very act of giving us a blueprint for living is a vitally important gift given in love to us by God.

Reflection

The next major liturgical event for us will be the celebration of the Feast of the

Ascension of Jesus. Soon after this feast, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Within sight now is the close of the Easter season.

For these weeks, the Church enthusiastically has proclaimed the Resurrection of Jesus, gloriously occurring after the dreadful events of Good Friday. It has shared with us its joy, echoing the joy of the first Christians. It has told us again and again of the Risen Lord's appearances and admonitions.

The message is very strongly catechetical. Contact with Jesus was not lost with the Ascension, when Jesus returned to the Father. Contact with the Lord remains clearly in the visible, institutional Church. The Church offers us the service of the modern successors of Peter and the other Apostles.

Through them we still hear the words of Christ. In the Sacraments they give us, we still access the power of Christ's eternal life. We commune with Jesus.

Finally, in the reading from John's Gospel, the Church tells

us how to live. We must love others.

Gently, gradually, but intently, the Church has entered, and pursued, the process of leading us to ask what the Resurrection deeply and really means for each of us individually.

Remaining for us is the obvious question. Are we willing to accept the Risen Lord?

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20, 1 Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16: 11-15, Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b, Jn 15:26 – 16: 4

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34, Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8, Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1, Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14, Jn 16: 12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8, Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18, Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28, Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10, Jn 16:23b-28

How to Make Our Catholic Parishes Vibrant Once Again

A recent Pew Research Center study caught the eye of many Catholics, despite the fact that the information the study conveyed wasn't really news. Latinos are disaffiliating from the Catholic Church at alarming rates. The 2022 study reported that only 43 percent of U.S. Latinos identify as Catholic. That's down from 67 percent in 2010. The statistic is a shock to those who are being told that Latinos are the future of the Church in the U.S.

But since the largest growth rate in the U.S. Latino population is not the immigrant community, the statistics are unsurprising for those who have been watching closely. The largest-growing sector of Latinos in the United States is now U.S.-born men and women. And that's where the danger of secularization lurks. The Pew survey reveals that, while 16 percent of foreign-born young Latinos raised in a faith tradition are now unaffiliated, 23 percent of U.S.-born young Latinos now identify as unaffiliated.

What we are seeing play out among Catholic Latinos is the same story Catholic immigrants to the United States have lived for centuries. In communities abroad, especially countries where Catholicism was or is the religion of the majority, the parish church was not only the place for worship but the center of daily life. People frequented churches daily, visiting the chapels and memorials that had been part of their family life for centuries.

In the United States, however, the parish church is no longer the center of daily life. Some immigrant communities built their parish at the heart of their neighborhoods. And those communities were vibrant for a time, but, increasingly, they have disappeared.

Places, however, are not the only visible markers of the decline of Catholicism in immigrant communities. Often in American history, immigrant communities' expression of

their distinctly Catholic faith is muted in the process of assimilation to the broadly Protestant approach that characterizes the practice of Christianity in the United States. The proximity of a parish church to parishioners' homes is one thing, but the tangible expressions of faith that mark immigrants' identity are being quietly eroded as well in this process of assimilation.

So, what is to be done to help Latino Catholics keep the Faith? The same thing, in fact, that needs to be done to keep every Catholic a practicing Catholic: to invest in visible, experienced, incarnational expressions of faith that build communities and shape individual Catholics' sense of common identity.

This can start, simply, with the Angelus. It's a common prayer, a traditional prayer. The Angelus grew out of the practice of villagers uniting themselves in prayer with local monasteries. Pastors can ensure that their churches ring the Angelus bells morning, noon, and night. Parishioners should be reminded of the meaning of the prayer so that the bells really serve as invitations to prayer. Catholics can then build and live the practice of saying the prayer in their daily lives, knowing that they are joining their hearts and minds with their local communities.

In addition to the Angelus, pastors and parishioners should encourage and foster different communities of prayer in a parish. Invite people to join for morning prayer or offer to lead vespers several days a week for working people on their way home. Keep churches open so that people can come in to say a prayer, but have ready materials such as candles to be lit and prayer cards at hand to help guide seekers in their desire for prayer. Family rosaries can be a part of a shared prayer life in the home. Parishioners can support pastors to organize 40 hours or other periods of Eucharistic adoration.

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

Some pastors might balk or be reluctant to launch efforts that seem more aimed at community than evangelization, but they should think again. Card nights, bocce clubs, picnics, potlucks, and a host of other things that were part and parcel of parish life 100 years ago are part of the answer to our epidemic of loneliness. And these events can and should be coordinated largely by parishioners. To inspire joy, invite conversation, make connections, and introduce parishioners are the very beginnings of conversion.

The Angelus, regular trips for personal prayer to a parish church, and an avalanche of community events is the way forward. These are expressions of doctrine in daily life. For both immigrant communities and established Catholics in America alike, the lived connection to a local parish is the bulwark against secularization. In a way, it's what we've always done. But surveying the landscape of life in modern America, there's simply nothing else like it. And that will lead hearts and minds to Christ and renew the Church across our country.

We need communities of faith to better know and serve Christ, who is truly present in our parishes. It's the way the Lord established the Church, that we might know Him together. No Christian is saved alone. Out of love for Christ, then, who calls us to be His own, let us renew our efforts of love in our parish communities.

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Father Patrick Briscoe, Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden, and York Young.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

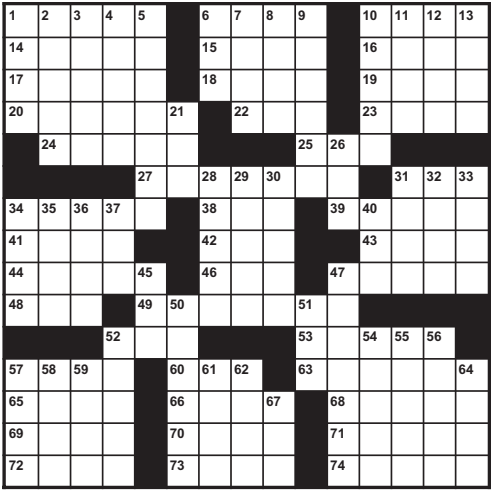
Gospel for May 14, 2023
John 14:15-21

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

IF YOU LOVE ME	KEEP	FATHER
GIVE	ANOTHER	ADVOCATE
SPIRIT	TRUTH	THE WORLD
NEITHER SEES	BE IN YOU	ORPHANS
A LITTLE WHILE	NO LONGER	SEE ME
I LIVE	THAT DAY	BE LOVED
REVEAL		MYSELF

ANOTHER COMES

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



ACROSS

- 1 One of the two natures of Jesus
- 6 St. _____ Diego
- 10 _____ Cross Brothers
- 14 Chew the scenery
- 15 Annapolis (abbr.)
- 16 A Rachael Ray favorite
- 17 Light melodies
- 18 Obtains
- 19 Suggestive
- 20 Roof of the mouth
- 22 Matter of law
- 23 Potpourri
- 24 Greek prayer
- 25 "Can any of you by worrying _____ a single moment to your life?" (Mt 6:27)
- 27 Rerum _____
- 31 Mrs. McKinley
- 34 Jeremiah's description of himself
- 38 Element of Baptism, in Paris
- 39 "Quo _____?"
- 42 Bologna bone
- 42 Monopoly quartet (abbr.)
- 43 Castor's mother
- 44 Mosquito bite

DOWN

- 46 Distress signal
- 47 "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
- 48 Boy
- 49 Singleness
- 52 Number of Commandment that forbids taking the Lord's name in vain
- 53 Coveted statuette
- 57 Catholic actress Dunaway
- 60 Cardinal color
- 63 Reception in colonial India
- 65 Mr. Greenspan
- 66 Enclose in paper
- 68 New Zealand aboriginal
- 69 Category
- 70 Soprano Gluck
- 71 Finished
- 72 Golf mounds
- 73 Urges
- 74 Big name in farm equipment
- 1 "Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our _____ and shield" (Ps 33:20)
- 2 Eskimo boat
- 3 Unsinkable Catholic survivor

- of the Titanic
- 4 Fragrant oil
- 5 Like some dolls
- 6 Earthenware container
- 7 Computer nerd, e.g.
- 8 Poker stake
- 9 Archdiocese in the Bahamas
- 10 He had John the Baptist executed
- 11 Like zero
- 12 Positions
- 13 Spool-like toy
- 21 US government agency
- 26 Auto agency
- 28 Biblical division
- 29 Brother of Miriam
- 30 Charlotte's dessert?
- 31 Ancient Roman day
- 32 Queen of Carthage
- 33 PDQ
- 34 Long, distressful cry
- 35 US labor agency
- 36 Applied
- 37 "... _____ thousand times..."
- 40 Malt beverage
- 45 Sunday now called Divine Mercy Sunday
- 47 Taken body and soul into heaven
- 50 The Archdiocese of Oslo is found here
- 51 Turf
- 52 Paul made these
- 54 Large wading bird
- 55 Residence
- 56 Less common
- 57 _____ and abstinence
- 58 Natural balm
- 59 Lively, as in sailing
- 61 Perry's creator
- 62 Ruin
- 64 Travel on
- 67 Step in ballet



PAULINAS OF NOLA

FEAST: JUNE 22
354-431

Born to a wealthy family in Bordeaux, France, Pontius Meropius Paulinus studied poetry and rhetoric, practiced law, held public office, traveled widely, and married a Spanish noble woman, Theresia. After the death of their week-old son in 390, they were baptized, gave up marital relations, and began living monastically, giving their wealth away, first in Spain, then in Nola, in southern Italy. In 409, after the death of Nola's bishop, Paulinus was chosen as his successor. He served with distinction, devoted to learning, writing, and the care of his people. Many of his poems and letters to such luminaries as Augustine, Jerome, Ambrose, and Martin of Tours still exist.



OSV News photo/courtesy Tyler Ottinger

Our Sunday Visitor headquarters in Huntington, Indiana, is pictured here on May 5. OSV has launched an investigation after "suspicious activity" was found on its network on March 8.

OSV Launches 'Comprehensive Investigation' After 'Suspicious Activity' Found on Network

HUNTINGTON, Indiana (OSV News) — Our Sunday Visitor, one of the largest Catholic resource providers in the world, announced on May 5 an incident regarding data security within the company that, according to a statement, "may affect the privacy of some personal information maintained by OSV."

"On March 8, 2023, OSV discovered suspicious activity on its network," company officials said in a statement. "OSV immediately took steps to secure its systems and initiated an investigation into the nature

and scope of the event with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists. The investigation determined that certain files were acquired by an unknown actor while on OSV's network. In response, OSV undertook a thorough review of the data determined to be at risk to assess the type of information at issue and to whom that information relates."

The review, the statement said, is ongoing, but it is believed the "files contain sensitive information for certain individuals."

OSV currently is in the pro-

cess of finalizing the review and mailing letters to potentially impacted individuals.

The sensitive information varies for each affected individual, OSV officials said, but "the specific data elements vary by each individual and impacted individuals will be receiving letters that provide details regarding their personal data."

OSV officials said they have seen no evidence of misuse of any information related to this incident.

In an email to all employees on May 3, Kyle Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer, said that the "security and peace of mind (of employees) are very important to us, and we are working to mitigate any possible dangers

from this data breach."

OSV was founded in 1912 by Father John Francis Noll as a way to spread knowledge about the Catholic faith through periodicals, books, and parish resources. Today, OSV is the largest provider in church envelopes and one of the largest Catholic publishers in the world.



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St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla is in search of a licensed and qualified middle school English Language Arts teacher. The ideal candidate would be a person who is faith-filled, dedicated to quality pedagogy, and committed to holistic education of children. The school has a reputation for academic rigor and high expectations. Quality candidates should be open to sharing their faith with children and collaborating with their colleagues. Familiarity with educational technology and a willingness to grow professionally and spiritually are ideal.

For more information about the position, contact Damian Schmitt at 260-897-3481.

Interested candidates can apply at diocesefwsb.org/careers

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- Jr. High Lead Teacher for Spanish (both grades 7-8)
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- Cafeteria Clerk / Accounts

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- 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

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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.

From Broadway to God

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4910 Trier R.d. will host Father John Sheehan on Sunday, May 21, from 7-9 p.m., who will entertain attendees with a mix of religious and contemporary music and fascinating stories of his life and travels. Father Sheehan joined the Actors Equity, the professional theatre union, more than 50 years ago. He has sung more than 1,000 solo performances in 13 countries and in 15 different languages. A free-will offering will be accepted with all proceeds going directly to the St. Charles Borromeo Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need in our area. Contact Dennis Redding at 260-615-1692 or djr0155@yahoo.com for information.

'Hope for the Journey' Mass and Social

SOUTH BEND — Mother's Day weekend can be very difficult for those who struggle with infertility. If this is your experience, you are invited to attend a special vigil Mass on Saturday, May 13, at 4 p.m. at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, 54191 N Ironwood Rd., followed by a social in the parish center. Father Julius Okojie will be the celebrant. The event is sponsored by the diocesan min-

istry Hope for the Journey, an outreach of Marriage & Family Ministry. For information, contact Lisa Everett at 574-234-0687 or leverett@diocesefwsb.org. Cost: free of charge.

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. Contact Jessica Schuster at jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com for information.

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.

Evangelization Training

FORT WAYNE — As part of the Eucharistic Revival, a one-day evangelization training offered by the St. Paul Evangelization Institute on 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.

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Medals, Scapulars Are Often Part of Jockeys' Uniforms; Amid Risks of Horse Racing, Riders Value Prayer, Devotion

BY MARY RAMPPELLINI

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas (OSV News) — Jockey David Cabrera has had a special devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe since he was a child.

It's something he's continued to carry with him — literally.

Cabrera, who races at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, is one of many jockeys who wear Catholic sacramentals when competing in races. He has a scapular with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"It's from Mexico," said Cabrera, 30. "I wear it all the time. I never take it off."

Other jockeys have a Miraculous Medal attached to the back of the helmets they wear each time they get on a racehorse. It's an old-school tradition — one in place long

before 25-year-old jockey Cristian Torres burst onto the scene at Oaklawn Park.

"I've seen it," said Torres, who is the meet's current leading jockey.

There are other traditions, too, noted jockey Jon Court, a 62-year-old veteran who rides at both Oaklawn Park and tracks in Kentucky.

"Through the years, I've seen some riders adamant they wear a certain saint medal or crucifix," Court told Arkansas Catholic, Little Rock's diocesan newspaper. "I've seen them down on their knees, kissing a medal."

The profession of riding racehorses is fulfilling but also dangerous. The rules of the sport require an ambulance to follow jockeys around the track every time a race is conducted.

It's a way of life that leads many to call on their faith for



OSV News photo/courtesy Coady Photography
Jockey David Cabrera wins the Poinsettia Stakes aboard Pretty Birdie on Dec. 17, 2022, at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

protection.

Before each program of races at Oaklawn Park, track chaplains Rich and Robi Heffington visit the jockeys' quarters — where there are separate "locker rooms" for

men and women.

"We have the chaplain in the jocks' room, and he prays for everyone for safety, for everyone who works with the horses," said jockey Francisco Arrieta, a 34-year-old native of Venezuela. "Every time I get on a horse in the post parade, I say, 'God, please take care of my horse and take care of me, in Jesus' name.' I've been doing that a long time. I put my trust in God."

Torres, who was born in Puerto Rico and later moved to Florida, said he does not wear any religious items on the racetrack, but he keeps a Bible in the jockeys' quarters at Oaklawn Park.

"When I go into the (starting) gate, I always say to myself, 'I'm in your hands in this race, God,' and I feel I'm covered," Torres said. "Every morning, my mom will text me a prayer, and she lets me know

she's always praying for me. I go peacefully to work."

Cabrera, who won last season's riding title at Oaklawn Park, is a native of Mexico who grew up Catholic.

"I pray a lot before the races and sometimes after the races, just to thank God for his blessings," Cabrera said.

Cabrera said when he was an 8-year-old, he asked Our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for him because he needed a miracle to help him through a difficult time at school.

"I prayed with all my heart," he said. "That miracle that I needed, it came true. So, I always think, no matter what it is, if I ask with a lot of faith and with all my heart, eventually things come around, and things smooth out."

Mary Rampellini writes for Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.

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