

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 20

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

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Faithful Gather to Honor Blessed Mother and All Mothers at Catholic Cemetery



Joe Romie

Father Daniel Whelan, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, blesses the crowd at the conclusion of the 'O Beautiful Mother' event held on Saturday, May 13, at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne to honor our Blessed Mother and all mothers the day before Mother's Day.

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

The Blessed Virgin Mary's first apparition at Fatima, Portugal, occurred on May 13, 1917. On this day, the Mother of God appeared to three shepherd children, imploring them to love the Lord, pray the rosary daily, and trust in the maternal protection of her Immaculate Heart.

In honor of this occasion, a special prayer service was held at Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, May 13, coordinated by Jessica Schuster's Ecce Choir and Father Daniel Whelan, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Good Hope Church.

The event, which occurred on the eve of Mother's Day and was advertised with the title 'O Beautiful Mother' wove together Marian themed sacred music and the recitation of the glorious mysteries of the rosary, offered for mothers, living and deceased, and those in various stages of life and maternity.

For the prayers of the rosary, children from Our Lady of Good Hope and other nearby parishes assembled around Catholic

Cemetery's Rosary Garden. Father Whelan announced the mysteries of the rosary and to each child walked with a microphone, giving each one an opportunity to publicly lead a Hail Mary.

Between the decades, the Ecce choir sang traditional Marian hymns, as well as a new piece written by Father Whelan himself.

Following the rosary, Father Whelan read the Gospel account of the Annunciation and gave a short reflection on the importance of remaining close to Mary. He emphasized going to her for spiritual aid, remaining faithful to reciting the rosary as she requested, and looking to her as the perfect mother — whose only goal is to lead souls into the eternal love of the most Holy Trinity. He expressed, "Mary is the surest and quickest way to Jesus. God chose to come to us through a woman, the new Eve, and therefore He desires us to come to Him through that same woman, to love and honor her, and to faithfully follow the commandments of the Lord as He did in His earthly life. He loves her even now in Heaven, and so should we."

He continued, "We should enthrone Mary in our hearts. She must be our queen, she must be our mother, she must be our guide, if we truly want to love Jesus as we are called to love Him. The rosary is one of greatest weapons to fight against evil, recalling that Satan hates the name of Mary — as it was this humble woman of Nazareth who brought about the downfall of his kingdom through her faithful 'yes.' With the rosary in our hands, we lovingly repeat her name and keep the words of Jesus and Mary frequently on our lips."

He added, "I imagine Mary, as I pray my rosary, wrapping her mantle around me, holding me close and saying 'Danny, I've got you.' As we go through life with its difficulties and its valley of tears, we can keep her close to our hearts and trust in her aid to remain faithful. Therefore, we pray, Mary, Mother of God, thank you for your 'yes', which you continued to say throughout your life, even at the foot of the cross. Through your intercession, help

us to imitate your 'fiat' today and tomorrow so that we can also experience the 'eternal yes' in Heaven above."

After this reflection, Father Whelan offered a blessing for the crowning of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Two children who recently received their first Holy Communion were then invited forward to bestow a crown upon her. All those in attendance, some of whom brought flowers of their own, were welcomed to also place flowers before the statue of Mary as Ecce sang the hymn, "Bring Flowers of the Rarest."

The event concluded with the Litany of Loretto and singing the Salve Regina together.

Jessica Schuster and the Ecce choir joyfully expressed their gratitude for the privilege of honoring the Blessed Mother with a musical tribute and coronation. While it had initially looked as though rain might force the event indoors, just as at Fatima, the sun shone upon those gathered in prayer and provided a beautiful scene for all in attendance.



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available at
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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Website: www.todayscatholic.org

260-456-2824

Published weekly, except for the last Sunday in December and every other week from the fourth Sunday in May through the last Sunday in August by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: circulation@diocesefwsb.org

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at :
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

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Bishop Commissions Notre Dame Master of Divinity Graduates

BY JILL BOUGHTON

On Thursday, May 11, Bishop Rhoades celebrated a Mass with Blessing and Sending at Moreau Seminary for the 10 lay students, seven women and three men, graduating from the University of Notre Dame's Master of Divinity program. Eight seminarians have also completed the degree program. As Bishop Rhoades pointed out, "What a blessing it is for seminarians, candidates for religious life, and laity to study together. Surely that enriches the experience for everyone."

Notre Dame's Master of Divinity is a three-year program for lay ministers and those in formation for religious life. Seminarians spend four years earning the M.Div., but build community with the lay cohort by sharing coursework, field work placements, spiritual reflection, and formation, as well as weddings and the birth of children. This unique aspect of the program gives each student insight into different perspectives that will facilitate ongoing collaboration wherever they wind up serving. Students come from all over the country and bring a wide variety of backgrounds and professional and ministry experiences. Most will stay in touch with their peers as their formation continues beyond the academic setting. This particular class includes students of different ages, ethnicities, and experiences — one straight out of college and one old enough that her middle daughter led the prayers of the faithful.

After the homily, the candidates were presented by name and received a special blessing to be "missionaries of joy, icons transformed into the image of Jesus, those whose words echo Christ's voice." Each one received an icon of the Vineyard, with Jesus in the midst, especially fitting since the day's reading from John 15 was the Vine and the Branches. Bishop Rhoades focused on the theme of joy, saying, "Sharing the joy of these graduates in a job well done." This is one among life's many joys — family, friendship, nature, travel, entertainment, and "hopefully you've found joy in the study of theology." Bishop Rhoades pointed out that "all that brings us real joy has its source in God," and that the fullness of joy is found only in union with Jesus. He said that joy is the fruit of selfless love and urged them to remember, "Gaudium de Caritate" (Joy proceeds from Charity).

Dr. Todd Walatka, who directs the academic aspects of



Nicholas Guiney

Bishop Rhoades poses with graduates from the University of Notre Dame's Master of Divinity Program following the Mass with Blessing and Sending that he celebrated at Moreau Seminary on Thursday, May 11.

the program, pointed out that Notre Dame has been ranked as the top theology department in the nation for three of the last four years. "We've built a program that excels in intellectual, pastoral, human, and spiritual formation." Stacey Noem serves as Director of Human and Spiritual Formation. Three years of supervised ministry placements (a ministry of presence with the vulnerable, a ministry of catechesis, and a chance to exercise leadership) offer students crucial opportunities to integrate theological studies with experience, reflectively developing their ministerial identities. Each student also does a "synthesis" seminar that engages a pastoral topic in light of at least two different areas of theology. Thanks to a Lilly grant, intercultural competence is also addressed, with "immersion" experiences like a pilgrimage to Mexico City and accompanying migrants at the southern border.

Julia King entered the M.Div. at age 21, immediately after graduating from University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. Her Irish/German and Mexican grandparents still live in the same Houston neighborhood, and South Bend was the farthest she'd ever been from home. All her formal education has been in Catholic schools. She considered a religious vocation as an undergrad, especially after her aptitude for theology changed her intention of majoring in business. However, her experiences in ministry with teenagers and college students deepened her sense of vocation to lay ministry, and in November at St. Casimir, South Bend, she'll marry Alejandro, a Mexican-born Ph.D. student in theology.

King said highlights of her time in the M.Div. program included courses on theology of the Eucharist, Our Lady of

Guadalupe, and the dynamism of the sacraments. One class each semester was taught in Spanish, with a chance to read original documents in that language. M.Div. students made a pilgrimage to Mexico City last October. Her ministry placements included Notre Dame Campus Ministry, Assistant Rector in Ryan Hall, serving migrants on the Texas/Mexico border with Catholic Charities, and helping with youth ministry and confirmation preparation at St. Adalbert in South Bend, where she assisted Father Zach Rathke. In July, she'll become Director of Youth Ministry there. She envisions her role as accompanying youth and their families as they encounter God and co-write their own stories with Him. Helping youth step into leadership roles in the parish in light of the Eucharistic revival is a related goal.

"The M.Div. program has been a really great experience for me," King testifies. "I've gained a new depth of insight, though I have more questions than answers. That's okay since formation is a lifelong process. The Holy Spirit is the principal formator." She knew she wanted to be involved in faith formation but was a little surprised when that crystallized in a call to youth ministry.

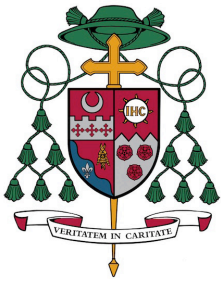
Born in the Philippines, Fernando Garcia grew up in New Jersey, where he attended Catholic schools and served as an altar boy. His 2016 degree from the University of Notre Dame was in chemical engineering, and he spent four years in the Army using some of those skills. However, as he volunteered in a Texas parish, he found himself more drawn to working with people. He also realized he needed more education and formation in order to engage with the youth who were asking him questions about their faith. He'd

met M.Div. students as an undergrad and was drawn to the way Notre Dame's program connected academics with practical Church ministry. "I wasn't that interested in the academics," Garcia admits, "so I was surprised I grew to love it. Notre Dame theology professors are top-notch, but what inspires me is how everything they do is in service to the Church they love."

Garcia's ministry placements included serving as a chaplain at Memorial Hospital in South Bend (where his wife now works as volunteer coordinator), teaching theology at Marian High School, and serving in Notre Dame campus ministry. The Garcias have been attending St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend for a year and a half, so he's eager to take up his new position as Director of Faith Formation and teaching theology to middle schoolers. The variety of roles he'll be filling will enable him to keep growing and developing his skills. "My passion," he says, "is helping others, especially young people, see themselves as beloved by God." He added that being in the M.Div. program has helped him articulate this passion and make it concrete.

King and Garcia are two of the four graduates who will remain in this diocese. The others are Andrea Bodary, who will work with Catholic Charities locally, and Juan Miguel Alvarez, in Notre Dame campus ministry. Bishop Rhoades said he's delighted with 40 percent, but would (facetiously) like to have a private word with the six who will be ministering in the wider Church.

The singing and liturgical responses were robust in a chapel packed with priests, seminarians, professors, formators, earlier graduates of the program, and friends of the current graduates, including many lively children.



Priest Assignments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of priests, effective June 20, 2023:

Reverend Sunday Akuh, from Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist and Holy Family Parishes, South Bend to Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend.

Rev. Thadeus Balinda from Pastor, Saint Patrick Parish, Arcola, to Chaplain, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Donaldson.

Reverend Andrew Budzinski, from Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, Cathedral Parish of St. Matthew, South Bend.

Reverend Paolo Degasperi, from Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne to Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, while remaining Chaplain, Bishop Luers High School.

Reverend Dennis DiBenedetto, from Pastor, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester, to Pastor, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville.

Reverend John Eze, from Pastor, Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, to Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Arcola.

Reverend Stephen Felicichia, from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver.

Reverend Terry Fisher, from Pastor, St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend, to Retirement.

Reverend Dermot Gahan, from Chaplain, University of Saint Francis, to Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Garrett.

Reverend Daniel Koehl, from Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester.

Reverend Glenn Kohrman, from Pastor, St. John the Baptist and Holy Family Parishes, South Bend, to Pastor, St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne.

Reverend William Meininger, from Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver, to Pastor, Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka.

Reverend Daniel Niezer, to Diocesan Director of Vocations Promotion, while remaining Pastor of St. Dominic, Bremen, and Chaplain of Marian High School, Mishawaka.

Reverend Levi Nkwocha, from Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart, to Pastor, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Waterloo.

Reverend Jonathan Norton, to Diocesan Director of Seminarians, while remaining Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw.

Reverend Luke Okoye, from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, Holy Family Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Evaristo Olivera, from Parochial Vicar, St. Therese and St. Henry Parishes, Fort Wayne, to Parochial Vicar, St. Mary Parish, Huntington.

Reverend Logan Parrish, from Parochial Vicar, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, to Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart.

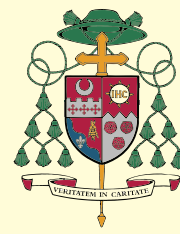
Reverend James Shafer, from Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Garrett, to Retirement.

Bishop Rhoades has also made the following assignments of priests, effective July 5, 2023:

Reverend Felipe Campos, C.S.C., to Parochial Vicar, St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes, South Bend.

Reverend Cameron Cortens, C.S.C., to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Mark Hellinger, to Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Wednesday, May 24: 10:30 a.m. – Jubilee Mass for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll, Huntington

Wednesday, May 24: 5:30 p.m. – Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Dwenger High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Thursday, May 25: Noon – Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Best Western Plus, Warsaw

Thursday, May 25: 7 p.m. – Baccalaureate Mass for Marian High School, St. Pius X Church, Granger

Friday, May 26: 10 a.m. – Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Luers High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Saturday, May 27: 4 p.m. – Adult Confirmation Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Sunday, May 28: 11:30 a.m. – Adult Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



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

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, South Bend: June 25-27

St. Catherine, Columbia City: June 26

St. Joseph, Roanoke: June 27

SS. Peter and Paul, Huntington: June 27-29 (updated)

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.

Father Terry Fisher Spends 30 Years Beating the Odds

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Saying the words “not for you” to Father Terry Fisher doesn’t discourage him but inspires him to do something and do it well. Naysayers led him to graduate college, teach, and to a commitment to the Catholic Church as a priest for more than 30 years. This year, the beloved leader, mentor, priest, and friend will retire as Pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

His vocational journey and aspiration to squelch cynics began with a visit during vocations week from a priest at the University of Notre Dame.

“He asked if anyone in the class wanted to or was interested in being a priest and I raised my hand,” recalls Father Fisher about a visit from a priest while he was a student at Holy Cross Grade School in South Bend. “Sister said to me, put your hand down. You know you’re not going to be a priest.”

This thought of joining religious life stayed in the back of his mind and after his time at Holy Cross, he moved on to Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, where he struggled in school.

“My counselor at St. Joe said, ‘You know, you would be very smart to enroll in a trade school because you’ll never make it in college,’” notes Father Fisher. “So, I went ahead and applied for college and graduated in 1971 with a degree in education.”

Upon his college graduation,

the world was in the midst of the Vietnam War and Father Fisher was number 75 in the draft list. He was told not to get a job because he would be heading off to war soon, so he spent the summer at home. During his time at home, a neighbor and teacher at St. Matthew Grade School in South Bend was planning her retirement. When she found out Father Fisher had an education degree and was available to work, she put in a good word for him and he became a 3rd and 4th-grade teacher.

During his time of teaching, he interacted with and got to know Bishop Joseph Crowley, the bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese at that time.

“Bishop Crowley asked if I was ever interested in being a Priest,” recalls Father Fisher. He shared his grade school experience where he was told he wouldn’t become a priest and was concerned that he might be too old to enter the seminary. “Bishop Crowley said to me, ‘Well, you know, Father (he called everyone Father), I was a late vocation. I didn’t enter the seminary until I was 30.’ So, I applied, and started the seminary at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland.”

Father Fisher was ordained a priest at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in 1985, the place where his vocation journey began as a teacher of education that transformed into a spiritual teacher and mentor. His first assignment was St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Haven.



Lisa Kochanowski

Father Terry Fisher, Pastor at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, recalls his journey to and through priesthood as he prepares for retirement.

“Bishop John D’Arcy (bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the time) asked me if I would go to St. Joe High School and be the Chaplain and the Head of the Theology Department,” said Father Fisher. His reassignment took him back to his high school stomping grounds and included a position as a resident at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church in South Bend. During that time, he was available to anyone needing a priest and filled in at parishes all throughout the diocese whenever needed.

After a few years, he was asked to remain at St. Joe High School and also take over a special project. He was assigned to a parish in Bremen to take over for an ailing priest and

also a parish in Nappanee. The assignment was to establish a merging of the two churches while teaching and advising at the high school. Father Fisher successfully merged the two parishes.

“I went to Warsaw to Sacred Heart Catholic Church for six years,” said Father Fisher about his assignment after the parish merge. “Then, I came back to South Bend to St. Anthony’s, where I had been in residence. Only this time, I came back as the pastor and was there for seven years.”

After his time at St. Anthony, Father Fisher was assigned to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mishawaka for 10 years, with the plan to retire once his assignment was complete. He then got the call asking for him to become pastor at St. Matthew’s in South Bend.

“My parents belonged here. My brother was married here. My sister was married here. My niece was married here. My parents celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary here with Bishop Crowley. I have a long

history at St. Matthew’s,” said Father Fisher. “I started here as a teacher and seminarian and ended up here as the pastor.”

It has been a wonderful journey filled with love, friendship, memories, and the blessing to live his life doing the Lord’s work. His most memorable moment was his ordination at St. Matthew Cathedral, where his spiritual journey began with the support of then-associate Father Bill Schooler and Bishop Crowley.

“I’ve enjoyed every minute,” said Father Fisher about his time as a priest. “I’ve been in some absolutely wonderful parishes and I’ve gotten to know so many wonderful people and still keep in touch with them all the time. I recently heard from the principal that was at Sacred Heart in Warsaw when I was there. I hear from people from all the different parishes I’ve been at and I still see a lot of them.”

One thing he said he will miss in retirement is routine. He is a regimented personality who likes and appreciates his daily routine. That lack of consistency will take some getting used to for Father Fisher, but he plans to remain active in the community.

He hopes he helped people on their faith journey and inspired them on the joy of being Catholic.

“I don’t know where the years have gone. I mean, you know, after ordination, it’s been just a whirlwind and I’ve loved every minute of it,” said Father Fisher. “I love hearing confessions. It’s one of my favorite things to bring people back to the Lord. It’s such a gift to be able to touch people’s lives in that way and help them understand God’s forgiveness and God’s love for them. Saying Mass every day, of course, is a gift in itself. I’ve been blessed to work for two wonderful bishops — Bishop D’Arcy and Bishop Rhoades.”

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Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

Kathy Ehinger reflects on 33 Years of 'Fulfilling and Humbling' Vocation

BY ERIC PEAT

For Kathy Ehinger, the call to become a teacher came when she was in 3rd grade.

"I was inspired by my teacher, Ms. McKean — she made learning fun," recalled Ehinger. "My mom and dad were instrumental in my journey to become a teacher. Catholic education was very important to them. I saw how they sacrificed to send me and my siblings to a Catholic school. My mom was very involved in the school and was always willing to volunteer."

After graduating with a teaching degree from Ball State University, Ehinger began calling Catholic schools to inquire about open positions. An interview at St. Therese School in Fort Wayne would prove providential. "I interviewed with the principal, and at the end of the interview, he asked if I would like to go see my classroom!" said Ehinger. "I remember spending most of the summer getting my classroom ready. It was so exciting."

Thirty-three years later, Ehinger is retiring from the only teaching job she has ever known. Although she has shifted between 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classes, Ehinger has always called St. Therese home. While principals and pastors have come and gone — more than a dozen of them, combined — Ehinger has remained a constant on Lower Huntington Road, continually motivated by the development of young hearts and minds.

"One of the greatest rewards of teaching is seeing the progress of your students," said Ehinger. "From when students understand a difficult concept,



Photos by Eric Peat

Kathy Ehinger spent the last 33 years teaching 1st through 4th grade at St. Therese School in Fort Wayne.

to helping children learn a new skill, seeing a child's eyes light up after grasping a new piece of knowledge is priceless. I think one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching is the ability to influence kids, and shape the kind of world I want to live in. I hope I was able to make a difference in the lives of my students and their families in meaningful ways every single day. It's incredibly ful-

filling and humbling all at the same time."

Amid the countless fond memories, Ehinger was quick to point out the rewarding aspects of teaching in a Catholic school setting.

"Not only did I get to teach math, reading, science, and social studies, but I got to incorporate my love for God into every lesson I taught," explained Ehinger. "As a Catholic school teacher, you are able to incorporate education and faith so students can see how God is present in their lives and practice applying the faith to their everyday lives."

Rick Ruhl, Principal at St. Therese, often traces the vocation of teaching back to scripture — in particular, Proverbs 22:6: "Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it."

"For the past 33 years, Kathy Ehinger has been doing just that for the St. Therese School community," said Ruhl. "Thirty-three years of service and dedication to our school, impacting the lives of more than 500 children during her teaching career. One of the many blessings of teaching in a Catholic school and attending a Catholic school is that you get to have an encounter with Christ every day. In word and



Kathy Ehinger, right, talks with Julie Jauregui at Ehinger's retirement party on Wednesday, May 10.



Kathy Ehinger embraces a guest at her retirement party on Wednesday, May 10.

deed, Mrs. Ehinger embodies the hands and feet of Christ each day as she shares Christ's love with her students and colleagues, and we are a great deal richer because of it."

Richer, too, are the numerous students who Ehinger helped prepare to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion — a responsibility that she calls "one of my greatest joys."

"Being able to talk about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist with my students is a privilege and honor," reflected Ehinger. "I remember telling my students that they were going to get to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation after a school Mass, and their response was 'Yeah!' I hope they will always keep that feeling."

Many have done just that, judging from the display of love and gratitude at Ehinger's retirement party at the St. Therese school gymnasium on Wednesday, May 10. Among her former students are all three of her own children, as well as a couple second generation students whose parents were also her students. In

addition, she had the distinction of teaching Father Stephen Felichichia, Associate Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, when he was in grade school at St. Therese. The relationships she has built with these students, parents, and fellow teachers are what Ehinger said kept her coming back each year.

"It is really rewarding when a former student tells you that you inspired them to become a teacher," remarked Ehinger, "or you see a former student in the grocery store, and they say, 'I remember when you were my teacher — we had so much fun!'"

After more than three decades of fun, the time has come for Ehinger to step away. Ruhl shared the thoughts of many when he expressed his appreciation for everything that Ehinger has meant to the St. Therese community.


"On behalf of everyone at St. Therese School — past and present — I want to thank Mrs. Ehinger for selflessly sharing her many amazing gifts," said Ruhl. "I wish her well in her retirement."



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Cassandra E. Kaiser, PA-C Dr. Emily M. Krach, DO

U.S. Bishops with Mexico-bordering Dioceses Reaffirm Humanitarian Commitment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) — Eight U.S. Catholic bishops whose dioceses share a border with Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to promoting human dignity and their cooperation with government officials as the Church and its partner organizations provide humanitarian aid. “Daily, we witness the human consequences of migration, both its blessings and its challenges,” the bishops said in a May 12 statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “As pastors of border communities, we minister to migrants and native-born persons alike. Our congregations include asylum seekers, enforcement officers, landowners, and elected officials, who come together, not as strangers or adversaries but as sisters and brothers, equal in dignity and worth before the Lord.” The statement came the day after the May 11 expiration of Title 42, a federal U.S. public health law granting the federal government some authority to implement emergency action to prevent the spread of contagious diseases by prohibiting some migrants from entry. With the end of Title 42, U.S. immigration policy defaults to a set of laws known as Title 8. While the status of some migrants not eligible for U.S. entry under Title 42 may change, recent Title 8 policy updates suggest those migrants may face new hurdles. Both Title 42 and Title 8 have been criticized by Catholic immigration advocates as insufficient, especially for migrants seeking asylum.

Pope, Ukrainian Leader Talk About Humanitarian Situation Provoked by War

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After literally hundreds of public prayers for peace in Ukraine and 443 days after Russia launched an all-out war on the Eastern European country, Pope Francis welcomed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the Vatican. The topics of the conversation on May 13 included “the humanitarian and political situation in Ukraine caused by the ongoing war,” Vatican press officials said. Pope Francis assured the president of “his constant prayers, evidenced by his many public appeals and continuous invocation to the Lord for peace since,” the statement continued. “Both agreed on the need for continued

NEWS BRIEFS

Women Religious Help Migrants Celebrate Mother's Day



OSV News photo/Rhina Guidos, Global Sisters Report

Migrant women play a game with water balloons at the Cobina migrant shelter in Mexicali, Mexico, on Wednesday, May 10. The games were part of a visit by women religious who arrived with gifts and food for the migrants to mark Mother's Day.

humanitarian efforts to support the population,” Vatican officials said. And “the pope particularly stressed the urgent need for ‘gestures of humanity’ toward the most fragile people, the innocent victims of the conflict.” Zelenskyy, in a tweet after the meeting, said he was grateful for the pope’s “personal attention to the tragedy of millions of Ukrainians.” But he also said he asked the pope “to condemn Russian crimes in Ukraine. Because there can be no equality between the victim and the aggressor.” Earlier that morning, in a speech to new ambassadors to the Vatican, Pope Francis seemed to indirectly address criticisms, including by many Ukrainians, of his attempts not to demonize and isolate Russia. Having no “political, commercial, or military aims,” the pope said, the Vatican operates on the world stage “through the exercise of a positive neutrality. Far from being an ‘ethical neutrality,’ especially in the face of human suffering, this affords the Holy See a certain standing in the

international community that allows it to better assist in the resolution of conflicts and other matters.”

UK Bishop Denounces New IVF Method Resulting in First Baby Born with DNA of Three People

LIVERPOOL, England (OSV News) — An English Catholic bishop has denounced the first reported births of “three-parent” babies in the U.K. as “deeply concerning.” Auxiliary Bishop John Sherrington of Westminster said the creation of babies by mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT) was unethical because the process involved the destruction of two embryos to create a single new life. His remarks came after The Guardian newspaper reported on May 9 that the “first U.K. baby with DNA from three people” was born after the new in vitro fertilization (IVF) proce-

dures. “It shows a further step in the technical manipulation of new life with the loss of human life as part of the technique,” said Bishop Sherrington, Lead Prelate for Life Issues of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. “The technique depends on the destruction of two human lives who had inherent dignity and rights and must be protected from their creation as persons in order to create a third embryo and life,” he said in a May 11 statement published on the bishops’ conference website.

Ugandan Church Desperate to Fight a Plague of Human Trafficking in the Country

KAMPALA, Uganda (OSV News) — Government figures show that more than 24,000 Ugandans seek household jobs in the Middle East annually, driven out of the coun-

try by poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, and family breakdown. Thousands of them become victims of human traffickers. In 2021 alone, up to 28 Ugandan migrant workers died in the Middle East, according to Uganda Human Rights Commission. The situation has compelled the Catholic Church to intensify awareness campaigns to end human trafficking in the country. Bishops, priests, sisters, catechists, and other church leaders have been visiting homes, villages, churches, and public places to educate the people on the dangers of human trafficking. The church leaders want the government to strengthen and speed up efforts to reduce poverty and unemployment so that vulnerable Ugandans, especially girls and women, are not lured to travel overseas. Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Gulu in northern Uganda encouraged others, including human rights organizations, to join the church in tackling human trafficking, a plague of the country. “We need each other to address this evil trade that is killing our people and subjecting them to inhuman conditions,” he said, urging the government to arrest anyone engaging in human trafficking. “I appeal to church leaders and other stakeholders to spread awareness about the dangers of human trafficking and report any evils that promote this illegal activity,” Archbishop Odama told OSV News.

Foster Care Is a Pro-life Issue the Church Should Fully Support, Parents Say

COLUMBUS, Ohio (OSV News) — “There are no unwanted children,” an anonymous inspiring quote declares, “just unfound families.” If that’s so, the almost 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system — approximately 100,000 of whom are legally adoptable — need only wait. But the reality, especially in post-Roe v. Wade America, presents a more complex and challenging scenario — one in which foster care must, Catholic experts urge, be viewed as a pro-life issue. “What we’re trying to do,” said Kimberley Henkel, a Ph.D. who is Executive Director of Springs of Love — a ministry that “encourages, equips, and educates Catholics to discern and live out the call to foster and adopt,” according to its website — “is to help create a culture of fostering and adoption in the Catholic Church. And we see fostering and adoption, clearly, as a very significant pro-life issue.” Henkel — who has four adopted children — added that, “Jesus commands us to care for widows and orphans in their distress, and the children in foster care are our modern-day orphans.”

Congratulations to the Top Graduates of Our Diocesan High Schools

BISHOP LUERS

For the Class of 2023, Bishop Luers High School has two Valedictorians and no Salutatorians.

Full Name:
Genevieve Rose Cicchiello

Religion:
Catholic

Church/Parish: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elementary and Middle School

Attended: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

City: Fort Wayne

Class Rank and GPA:
Valedictorian 4.52

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure):

University of Notre Dame

Intended Major and/or

Career: Engineering with a Focus on Energy Studies

Favorite Class and Why:
Physics — My teacher was amazing and taught the subject in a fascinating and interactive way which helped me discover my career goal.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: It has taught me to see the best in every person and situation and to learn from everything I experience.

Awards and Honors:
National Merit Northrop Grumman Scholarship, Key Club Scholarship

School Activities: Girls Tennis, Academic Superbowl



GENEVIEVE ROSE
CICCHIELLO

(Math Team), Secretary of Student Government, Secretary of National Honor Society, Created a Tower Garden at Bishop Luers my sophomore year, Show Choir for three years

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: President and Member of Mayor's Youth Engagement Council, Co-Executive Legislative Director of Confront the Climate Crisis

Full Name:
Abigail Marie Spoltman

Religion:
Catholic

Church/Parish: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elementary and Middle School

Attended: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

City: Fort Wayne

Class Rank and GPA:
Valedictorian 4.52

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure):

Indiana University

Intended Major and/or

Career: Biochemistry and Entrepreneurship, Direct Admit to Kelley

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: Bishop Luers has prepared me for life after high school by helping me deepen my Catholic faith. I have learned about Church history and doctrine, and I understand



ABIGAIL MARIE
SPOLTMAN

Catholic teaching more than I ever have before. I am prepared for life beyond high school where I will not be able to learn about my faith every day, and I am very grateful for that.

School Activities: Three Theater Productions a year for all four years, Show Choir, Radio and Television/Media Program, Key Club (President), National Honors Society, Student Ambassadors, Academic Super Bowl

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Camp Potawotami Youth Committee

BISHOP DWENGER

For the Class of 2023, Bishop Dwenger High School has one Valedictorian and one Salutatorian.

Full Name:
Benjamin Leo Sarrazine

Religion:
Catholic

Church/Parish: St. Vincent de Paul

Elementary and Middle School

Attended: St. Vincent de Paul

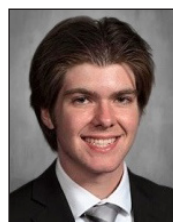
City: Huntertown

Class Rank and GPA:
Valedictorian 4.620

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure):

University of Notre Dame

Intended Major and/or Career: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering on a



BENJAMIN LEO
SARRAZINE

Pre-Med Track

Favorite Class and Why:
Dignity of Men — I really enjoyed the daily seminar style of the class and readings from JPPII, St. Josemaria Escriva, and St. Thomas More.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: High school has helped me to recognize and appreciate the unique talents and interests of others, and to learn what career path I should pursue knowing my own gifts.

Awards and Honors:
Commended Student, AP Scholar, Rising Star of Indiana, Science Student of the Year 2019-2020, AP Literature and Composition Student of the Year

School Activities: Boys Tennis, Manager for Girls Tennis, Liturgical Choir, Apologetics Club, English and Math Academic Teams

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Fort Wayne Children's Choir Youth Chorale and Chamber Singers, Kitchen Employee at Ted's Beerhall, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Altar Server at St. Vincent de Paul

Full Name:
Tommy Trung Le

Religion:
Catholic

Church/Parish: St. Charles Borromeo

Elementary and Middle School

Attended: St. Joseph Central and St. Charles Borromeo

City: Fort Wayne



TOMMY TRUNG
LE

Class Rank and GPA:
Salutatorian 4.619

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure):
University of Notre Dame

Intended Major and/or

Career: Chemical Engineering
Favorite Class and Why:
Throughout all four years, my respective math classes have always been my favorite since I find beautiful meaning through how numbers, symbols, and letters interact with each other to form the most breathtaking results.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: My time at Bishop Dwenger High School allowed me to not only balance my time between my academic, social, and faith lives, but also highlight what it means to be a Catholic in a modern world, opening up my mind even further to the opinions of others, even the most conflicting ones, and centering my attention on the human dignity of every person.

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Honor Award, Chemistry Olympiad Award, Indiana Regional Academic All-Star, BD Scholar

School Activities: Academic Team, National Honor Society, Liturgical Choir, Spanish Club, Game Club

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Church Choir at St. Charles Borromeo, Service Work at Franciscan Center Family Thrift Store, Service Work at Dove's Nest Thrift Shop

GRADUATES, page 8

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF

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for college and heaven.*

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while attending Marian!*



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GRADUATES, from page 7

SAINT JOSEPH

For the Class of 2023, Saint Joseph High School has one Valedictorian and one Salutatorian.

Full Name: Emmanuel John Thomas

Religion: Catholic

Church/Parish: Christ the King

Elementary and Middle School Attended: Christ the King

City: South Bend
Class Rank and GPA: Valedictorian 4.462

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure): Purdue University or Indiana University

Intended Major and/or Career: Biology, Doctor

Favorite Class and Why: Science and Mathematics — They encourage me to think in creative new ways.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: It deepened my religious faith.

Awards and Honors: Rising Stars, National Merit Finalist, Academic All-Star

School Activities: Quiz Bowl, Mathletes, SADD Club, NHS, GREIA Tutoring, Liturgical Choir, Chess Club, Spanish Honors Society

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Lector

Full Name: Anna Maffetone
Religion: Catholic
Church/Parish: St. Pius X



EMMANUEL JOHN THOMAS

Elementary and Middle School Attended: St. Pius X
City: Edwardsburg, Michigan
Class Rank and GPA: Salutatorian 4.441

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure): Northwestern University

Intended Major and/or Career: English Literature — I plan to work in the literary publishing industry, possibly as an editor.

Favorite Class and Why: AP English Literature with Mrs. O'Brien in my Junior Year — Before taking AP Lit, I really had no interest in studying English in college or of pursuing an English-related field for a career. I have always loved to read and write, but Mrs. O'Brien's class gave me an appreciation for the written word that has made me want to surround myself with it for the rest of my life. Every book we read felt like a puzzle that we got to solve as a class through analytical writing and discussion. It was the perfect mix of challenging and fun.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: Saint Joe has taught me what it means to work hard and how to fully apply myself to everything that I am involved in. I have had countless teachers who not only push their students, but work with them to ensure their success and I look forward to using the dedication I have learned from my peers and environment over the past four



ANNA MAFFETONE

years in every setting I enter in the future.

Awards and Honors: National Merit Finalist, Rising Star of Indiana Class of 2023, Scholastic Writing Gold Key, Scholastic Art Gold Key, AP Scholar with Distinction

School Activities: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA): Senior Vice President, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club): Campaign Leader, Writer for the Saint Joseph Square, Student Ambassadors, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michiana, VBS Volunteer at St. Pius X

MARIAN

For the Class of 2023, Marian High School has one Valedictorian and one Salutatorian.

Full Name: May Weston

Religion: Catholic

Church/Parish: St. Pius X

Elementary and Middle School Attended: St. Pius X

City: Niles, Michigan
Class Rank and GPA: Valedictorian 4.635

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure): University of Michigan

Intended Major and/or Career: Major in Biology or Biomedical Sciences and Minor in Spanish and Public Health

Favorite Class and Why: Art — Art always brought me

great peace and joy, and it was the perfect escape from the stress of schoolwork. It was a way that I could pursue a hobby that I had not fully embraced in my free time, but have a passion for.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: Marian has impacted me the most in my growth as a person. I look at myself today and see someone that I never thought that I would become. I am the person I always aspired to be, which I can fully attribute to my experience at Marian. Through the influences and models of my peers, I slowly began to insert myself into the Marian community, and I can confidently say that it was the best decision of my life.

Awards and Honors: Indiana Science Talent Search, Indiana Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, Science Fair Awards, Scholastic Art Silver Key and three Scholastic Art Honorable Mentions, Medals of Excellence in Honors English 9 and 10, Health, Introduction to 2D Art, Honors AP Junior Composition, Honors Advanced Science Credit Biology, Honors Science Special Topics Research, Honors Science Research Independent Study, Honors Advanced Science College Credit Chemistry, Certificate of Achievement in Honors Biology I

School Activities: Varsity Golf — Captain, Academic All State, and First Team All NIC during senior year, Knights for Life, Student Ambassador, National Honor Society for two years, Knights for Positivity for two years, and Spirit Knight for two years

Outside Activities, Including Service Activities: Employment — Deputy Clerk at Milton Township (Michigan), Service — Student Service Leadership Council at Marian for two years

Full Name: Grant McCourt
Religion: Catholic
Church/Parish: St. Pius X

Elementary and Middle School Attended: St. Pius X

City: Niles, Michigan

Class Rank and GPA: Salutatorian 4.607

College You Will Attend (List Possibilities if Unsure): University of Notre Dame

Intended Major and/or Career: Finance and Sustainability

Favorite Class and Why: AP Computer Science Applications — The class required problem solving and I enjoyed finding different answers to the questions.

The Most Impactful Way High School Prepared You for Life: High school taught me how to manage my time, persevere through adversity, and find creative solutions to problems. Besides intellectual development, high school allowed me to develop in my relationships with my friends.

Awards and Honors: Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair Second Place in Engineering, Academic Excellence in Computer Science Applications, Academic Excellence in German III, Rising Star of Indiana, National Merit Commended Scholar, Certificates of Achievement in Honors AP Statistics and Honors AP Physics C

School Activities: Varsity Soccer, Varsity Lacrosse, Knights for Life, NHS, Greek Club, German Club, Fencing Club, School Ambassadors, Spirit Knight



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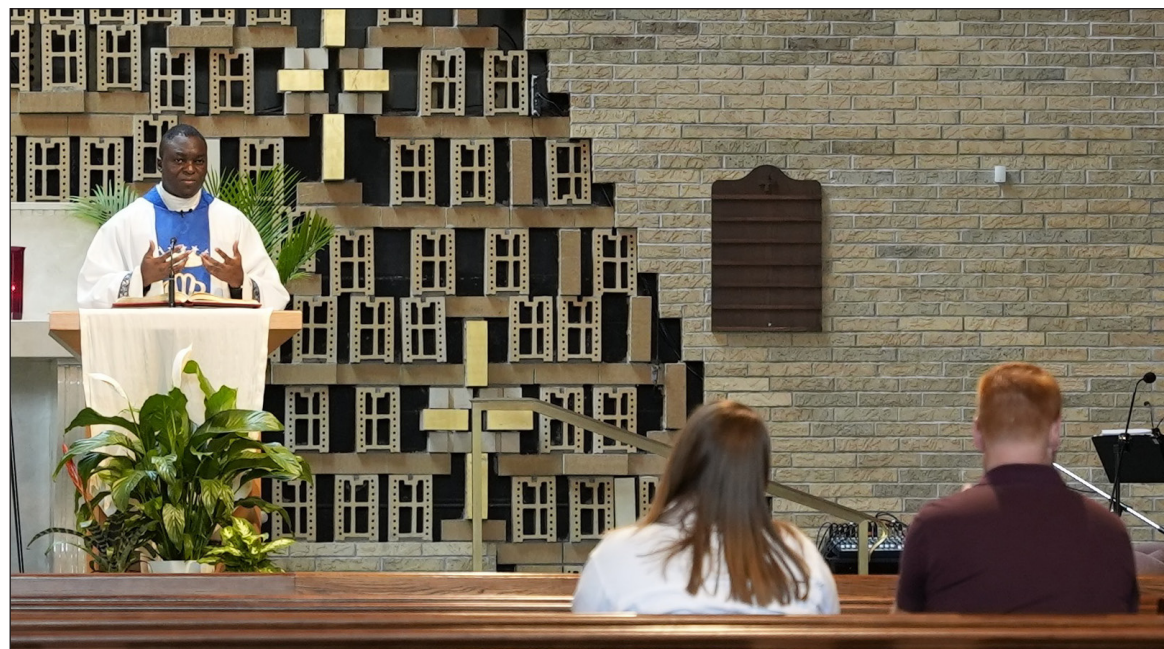
Finding Belonging in A Time of Sadness

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Prayer is powerful and the benefits are boundless. On the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a special Hope for the Journey Mother's Day Mass for those who struggle with infertility was celebrated by Father Julius Okojie at St. Thérèse Little Flower Church in South Bend.

"Around this time, it's easy to feel forgotten by the Church," said Anna McKeever, who leads the Hope for the Journey group in South Bend. It's a ministry within the diocese that offers spiritual, emotional, and practical support that is rooted in the Catholic faith for anyone experiencing infertility or secondary infertility. She hopes that everyone who attended "felt a sense of solidarity and belonging."

Father Julius Okojie began his homily by saying, "We thank God for this opportunity and we're offering the Holy Mass, which we believe was the sacrifice of Jesus, and of course the highest form of prayer that we can offer. We're offering this Holy Mass asking for your intentions. I know you've been to so many Masses. I know you've been to so many. Pray again because



Father Julius Okojie celebrates a special Hope for the Journey Mother's Day Mass at St. Thérèse Little Flower Church in South Bend on Saturday, May 13, for those struggling with infertility.

I know you've asked people to pray for you. Those are good things. Just don't stop. Just continue to do that. And I must commend you for your faith and hope. And before, even when it seems that prayer sometimes is hopeless, or when it seems like the Word is so distant to your pleas, the Word is so deaf to whatever your cries might be. Your situation is real and we do not dismiss

it or undermine it. It takes a lot of courage."

He recalled a recent meal where he was seated with people in academia talking about their research work. During the moment, he found himself wanting to change the conversation to something real that he can relate to and mentioned how hard it must be for the families at the Mass to go through those same types of

moments with friends and family talking about their adventures in child-rearing. Father Okojie said he could only imagine the many emotions felt by families as the Church celebrates motherhood for those with fertility issues.

"We honor the gift of motherhood and we're very grateful for it. Otherwise, if none of us have parents, then we will not be here. But also, we recognize

that there's different vocations of life and our vocation as parents and as men and women could be too," said Father Okojie, who noted that parenting in the Bible took different forms other than biological child-rearing. "Because even in true scripture you have multiple people who had difficulty raising children at all."

"Today we offer you the space to bear your hearts," noted Father Okojie. "To recognize that that the Lord is still in the business of working miracles and the Lord is not done with me yet. As smooth as that might sound, I know you live the reality and it might be different for you, but I just want you not to lose the fact that God is still God of Miracles."

The readings of the weekend were set in anticipation of Pentecost and Father Okojie offered solace to the crowd to look to the Holy Spirit.

"The greatest gift of Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit," said Father Okojie, noting how hard it is to rejoice when families feel the pain of infertility. "And how do I rejoice for this while in so much pain? Dear friends, I don't have an answer to that. But I want to show you that I will pray for you and I will be praying for you. That's the way we're to bring you consolation."



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2023



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God's Plan A for Sweet Little Ones

BY LISA EMRICK

“I didn’t want to feel like adoption was our Plan B because we couldn’t get pregnant. I wanted to see it as God’s Plan A for us,” Jessica B. wrote on her blog “Sweet Little Ones,” detailing her and her husband Jim’s journey to parenthood. The journey to motherhood can at times be a faith bending path, oftentimes with obstacles that have underlying medical conditions, and is met with never seeing a positive pregnancy test result. However, for many, like Jessica and Jim, their faith and trust in God and His plan for them do help create beautiful things for the world to awe.

Jessica and Jim’s story began with a novena to St. Joseph by Jessica with a very detailed list of wants in 2005 for her future husband ranging from fun and responsible to wanting to be a husband and father. As with many people,



Provided by Jessica B

The family celebrates National Adoption Day on Nov. 19, adopting their youngest and celebrating all four of their children.

it is easy to forget to add the “extra” prayer for the day and Jessica happened to skip her prayer to St. Joseph on March 19. Starting her novena over caused her to finish on the same day that Jim and Jessica had their first chat. After dating and answering the call to the sacrament of marriage, Jim and Jessica learned of their fertility issues. But Jessica said, “I still had hoped that we would have children someday because of what I had listed in my St. Joseph novena years before.” She wrote, “Please help me find this man who wants to be a great husband and father and *will be too*. My first answered St. Joseph novena prayer gave me hope. I knew that someday my husband would be a father because that is what I asked for in my future spouse. God gave me everything else I wanted in this regard so I had no reason to doubt He would fulfill the rest of my prayer. This hope was a special grace that helped keep me afloat during our darkest infertility struggles.”

Jim and Jessica began the adoption process in 2010 and officially got on the list in January of 2011, picking St. Joseph and St. Thérèse as their patron saints. In early July, they received a call from their agency saying they had a potential match and that the birth mother wanted to meet. A day and time were set. On July 11, Jessica had a voicemail to call her agency. The baby came six weeks early and they needed to be on call to come to the hospital. The next day after attending Mass and having what Jessica said were

several signs from St. Thérèse, they were told they could come pick up their daughter, whom they named Josephina from St. Joseph Hospital.

After nine months and much discerning, Jim and Jessica decided to begin the process and adopt again, knowing that it could take longer. They were on the list around July, and to their surprise, they got a call a month later saying they were matched. However, the due date came and went with no word. They found out the birth mother decided to parent. It was their first adoption loss, and it was very hard, and it wouldn’t be their last. A week later, they were matched again, this time with a due date in the beginning of January. On Christmas Eve, they got the call that the birth mother was in labor. The next day, with snow on the ground in Indiana as they walked up to labor and delivery, they said there was another sign from St. Thérèse, this time with a rose bush in full bloom. The courageous birth mother labored until Dec. 26, and had baby James right after Jessica and Jim had gotten out of weekday Mass.

With each adoption journey the Family had been on, and the biblical nicknames they had been given, it was expected that God, with the help of St. Thérèse and St. Joseph, there would be little miracles sprinkled again when it was decided to begin the process to adopt a third time in July of 2014. By the fall, the family was matched for twin girls twice, but again God’s plan was something different and the matches did not follow through

for an adoption. Miracles certainly happened, but in a whirlwind way, as in the span of 14 hours, getting a call to drive to a hospital, meeting the birth parents, saying goodbye, driving home, and introducing the older two to their baby brother, Luke. Jessica was a little discouraged for not getting the “roses” like she did with the previous two. It dawned on her, after getting things finalized that the date that they had picked for baby Luke’s baptism was going to be St. Thérèse’s parents feast day. She got her rose.

Very unexpectedly in May of 2022, the family announced that they would again be adopting, this time Josephine’s biological sibling. Much like with their experience with Luke, it was a whirlwind. Teddy came into the world in June and was prayed for by his older siblings for a long time. Teddy was born in a hospital next to St. Joseph. Jessica said it was looking back she realized she had received her twins she had always asked for in Teddy and Josephine.

Tips for Those Seeking to Be Supportive of Birth/Adoptive Parents

Jessica has offered suggestions for people supporting adoptive parents. “Do not ever talk badly about a birthmother. What I wanted most was prayers for her, the baby, and God’s will. Also, check in! Do what you would do for a pregnant woman; baby shower, meal train, prayers, etc.” She also recommended that if the match ends up not following through, the potential parents still need meals, people to check in on them, and general support. “Knowing it’s complicated, it is a loss like a miscarriage, but not a death like a miscarriage. There is grief because you can’t help but picture that child in your life.” Jessica and Jim said, “Never discount an adoption fall through. It’s difficult for prospective adoptive parents to talk openly about it. I have never experienced miscarriage so I cannot directly compare the emotions, but we had three fall throughs of five children: a boy in October of 2012, twin girls in November of 2014, and twin girls early in 2015. I have not forgotten them or their mothers.”

Because their journey to parenthood has been different, the family has not always felt they “fit in” to certain groups, and it is important to them that others going through the same thing know that there is a whole community out there praying for and encouraging them.

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Vocation Journey for Retiring St. Michael the Archangel Priest Inspired at Young Age

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Father Vincent Joseph Rathappillil was brought up in a traditional Catholic home in Kerala, South India. The family was part of the St. Thomas Christians, and he was very involved in all parish activities from an early age.

"When I was in 5th grade, I became an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for young adults. This spiritual orientation I received at an early age gave me encouragement and inspiration to dedicate my life to the service of the poor," said Father Rathappillil, who joined the Vincentian Congregation guided by their patron St. Vincent de Paul.

It is this affiliation that brought him to his current assignment with St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo, where he has been since 2018.

"The Vincent Congregation of which I am a member has a mission territory in East Africa. Before I came to the U.S., I was a missionary there for 10 years, organizing the activities of our missionaries. Before I came to this diocese, there was another Vincentian working in this diocese. When he moved

out of this diocese for his doctoral studies, I was given the opportunity to pursue my vocation here," notes Father Rathappillil. "I have been working in different parishes for the last 13 years. When Father David Carkenord retired from active priestly life in 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Waterloo, Bishop Rhoades appointed me as the pastor here."

Father Rathappillil's time at the historic church has been filled with many memorable moments. The recent pandemic has left a deep impact on people around the world and was an impactful experience for the man of faith.

"By the grace of God, I am one of the survivors of that horrifying COVID pandemic in 2020," said Father Rathappillil, who believes he got a second chance at life because of all the love and care given by the parishioners. "When I was in isolation, I experienced God's love and care through many of the members of this community and the paternal understanding of our Bishop Rhoades for which I am so grateful."

No job comes without hurdles, and filling the shoes of a beloved shepherd was the biggest obstacle for Father



Photo Provided by Father Rathappillil

Father Vincent Joseph Rathappillil, Pastor at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo, will be moving on this summer to one of the Vincentian Congregation communities in the New Jersey or New York area.

Rathappillil.

"I succeeded Father Carkenord, who had been the pastor of this parish for about 30 years," notes Father Rathappillil, who was the first international priest in this parish. "It was a challenge for me to create a space for me in the hearts of the faithful here because the faithful of this parish were used to 'Father Dave's style' of running the parish."

Eventually, the community connected, and he was able to incorporate his style to create a loving spiritual journey for the members of the congregation.

"As a religious, I was taught not to be satisfied with doing the minimum in priestly ministry and also to be available to the flock all day," said Father Rathappillil about what he hoped to bring to the community. "I have been faithful to these since I became a priest."

His time at St. Michael the Archangel is coming to an end though, and Father Rathappillil said it has been a wonderful few years. "I will definitely miss this beautiful and serene rural atmosphere, an open swath of land that has few homes or other buildings, and not very many people. As I grew up in an agricultural ambience like this back in Kerala, India, it was easy for

me to adjust to this noiseless situation. Sometimes a charming small town is always more inspiring than a glamorous big city. Above all, I will miss the sincere love and appreciative attitude of the people here."

Not only is Father Rathappillil's time in Waterloo coming to an end, but so is his time in Indiana, as he will move to a new location in the summer. "As per the rules of our congregation, normally a member is not allowed to stay outside of the religious community for more than 10 years. I have been out of the community for about 13 years. Therefore, it is important for me to get back to the community. Our province has several communities in the New Jersey and New York areas. I will be with one of the communities by June 20, 2023."

Jessica said, "Motherhood is more than childbearing. Womanhood is more than how our physical body functions. Fruitfulness is more than a large number of children. I think all mothers, and all women for that matter, should focus on true motherhood and fruitfulness." She wrote two years ago on her blog on the feast of the Holy Family to explain what she means with a verse used to give her a sorrowful twinge every time she heard it: "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home..." Ps 128.

"I used to think that I was not a fruitful vine because I could not bear children for my husband. But in the past year or so, I have begun to see that being fruitful is not limited to what my reproductive system can or cannot do. I, and all women, are so much more than our physical bodies. Real fruitfulness comes from our thoughts, words, and deeds — in my home and also for my fellow man. When I heard this verse today, these words stuck out to me, 'recesses of your home.' 'It doesn't say 'in prominent places' but 'recesses.' Is this not the Little Way? All of the 'behind the scenes' actions we do as women makes us fruitful. Sweeping the floor, making meals, doing our jobs

well, getting everything ready for the next day, and all the everyday works of mercy that we do — these are the things that make women truly fruitful. You don't have to be married. You don't have to be a mother. You, as a woman, are fruitful when you do these things for your family, classroom, co-workers, neighbors, and fellow man. May we as women all see that our fruitfulness is not limited to the physical but truly comes from performing acts of mercy in the everyday."

Jessica stated that her life has been a roller coaster, but has expressed that her journey has also been a blessing. Finding some of her underlying medical conditions, she has taken steps to improve her health so she can be here for her family for years to come. She stated that she and Jim have drawn closer to their faith and each other with the help of the saints. Their trust in God and His Plan A for them is an example of how God will provide in His timing and way.

Using her craftsman talents that she credits her grandma for passing on to her, she has a shop with images that are on prints, stickers, clothing, and more to glorify her love of the Catholic faith and as a way to help with the adoption expenses and cost of having children. Jessica said that it all

started with a discernment in charisms that led her to further her skills. She is a self-taught graphic designer and learned how to work with clipart digitally. She says that her art is directly united with adoption because she feels there is a connection between the art and making it her own. Through the family's adoption of a different ethnic race than their own, Jessica has made it her goal for her children to see saints and the Holy Family in a different skin tone, which has only helped showcase the beauty of the Catholic faith. Her creations that she has brought forth for the world to see are often blessing students at her children's school with stickers or prints from her shop. This has been her way of evangelizing and bringing glory to God.

Jessica's shop can be found on Etsy.com under Sweet Little Ones Shop. The shop motto on Etsy is, "Home decor to beautify your home and soul." Jessica's products all honor her beautiful Catholic faith. Her blog can be found on Facebook and Instagram detailing her and Jim's journey for whom-ever else walks the path of infertility as a beacon of hope and a voice over the evil one trying to separate those into thinking they are alone, as they are not. St. Joseph, patron saint of families, pray for us.



SAINT PIUS X
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TO RENEW ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

Director of Stewardship & Engagement

Saint Pius X Parish in Granger, IN, is seeking a full-time Director of Stewardship & Engagement. The incumbent in this position serves as a member of the parish Senior Leadership Team, supervises the Stewardship and Engagement staff team, and collaborates with the entire parish staff to promote the parish mission.

Responsibilities include:

- Shape the growth of true Christian stewardship among all parishioners through prayer, service, and sacrificial giving.
- Develop and oversee engagement opportunities for all to build a deeper sense of Christian community in an evangelizing, welcoming, and inclusive environment.
- Manage the day-to-day operations of the parish's Stewardship and Engagement department.

Preferred candidate qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in an applicable field and demonstrated experience that includes program development and implementation and event planning and execution - or any equivalent combination of education or training which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, particularly presentation and relationship building abilities
- Effective organizational and analytical skills with strong attention to detail
- Proficient in computer programs (Microsoft Office and Google Suite) and traditional communication technology; willing to learn new software and programs
- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing and an active Christian steward with a thorough understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church

For the full position description, visit:

StPius.net/Employment

Qualified and interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and résumé by June 2, 2023 to:

Robby Kiley, Director of Faith Formation
rkiley@stpius.net

In Praise of Books Yet to Read

I've been looking longingly at the growing pile of books at my bedside. There's just not enough time to delve into all the wonderful things I want to read. What follows, therefore, is a little justification for my growing pile, written in the style of my beloved theological master St. Thomas Aquinas.

It would seem that Christians should not have piles of books.

First, the Gospel calls us to simplicity of life. Jesus, after all, told us to travel without a bag for the road or a second tunic (cf. Mt 10:10). Moreover, the Lord Himself certainly did not have a library, since He said, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest His head" (Lk 9:58). So, it would seem that from the witness of Scripture, we shouldn't collect them.

Second, when a stack of books grows to an extreme height, it can pose a safety hazard. Jauntily stacked books can be tripped over. And when the wrong book is carelessly pulled from the mound, the perilous structure can tumble down like a toddler marching through a Jenga tower. So, it would seem that practical reason would curb book hoarding.

Third, bibliophilia can be a source of pride. We can gaze at our carefully curated collections longingly, congratulating ourselves for not being Netflix addicted philistines. Surrounding ourselves with the greatest minds, we risk fancying ourselves belonging among

them. Thus, for the sake of preserving humility and fostering spiritual growth, we should forgo piles of books.

Finally, attachment to worldly possessions keeps us focused on this life rather than the next. We cannot take our libraries with us when we die. So as to be living even now for the kingdom, therefore, we should prepare ourselves for the eternal great library in the sky by divesting ourselves of the volumes we've accumulated here below.

On the contrary, St. Augustine writes in his "Confessions," "So was I speaking and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo! I heard from a neighboring house a voice, as of boy or girl, I know not, chanting, and oft repeating, 'Take up and read; Take up and read.'"

I answer that saying a library or any collection of books is first and foremost about the pursuit of wisdom. Scripture says, "Get wisdom, get understanding! ... Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will safeguard you" (Prv 4:5-6).

Scripture is itself a library. The word "bible" literally means "the books" in which the word of God is compiled. A Bible is itself a little library. So, it must be permissible for Christians to have libraries.

All good things must be pursued in moderation, as the Philosopher says. "Virtue is



GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OP

the golden mean between two vices, the one of excess and the other of deficiency," Aristotle writes in his "Nicomachean Ethics." Practical reason does not of itself say we ought not have a stack of books at our bedside, but only that the pile be moderated.

Pride is the root — the queen, as it were — of all vices. We should collect books of saints, aspiring to be like them. The search for wisdom, as was said above, is part and parcel to Christian life. We must, however, be on guard against wanting to be known or perceived as wise.

Finally, insofar as the books we read awaken in us the longing for the transcendent, they are admirable. Many saints have read novels or chivalric stories before a love for the word of God was awakened within them. Even after a conversion, stories that are noble and beautiful can stir up in us a desire to be with God. Therefore, books need not necessarily supplant heaven as our true goal.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

Hand-Me-Downs, Pick-Me-Ups, and 'The Creativity of Love'

It all started with a used coat. Betty Henson didn't need her fuzzy green coat anymore, so she offered it to her son, an aspiring puppeteer. Jim stuffed and stitched it, creating a round head, a dense torso and lanky limbs. He folded a deep mouth and split a ping pong ball to make the eyes.

An adorable amphibian was born: Kermit the Frog.

In 1955, Kermit debuted in "Sam and Friends," airing on WRC-TV, a local Washington, D.C. station. The frog proved remarkably expressive, thanks to Jim's decision not to stuff the head. With only his hand inside it, each movement became a subtle change of expression. Somehow, Kermit reached through the television and connected with viewers.

He would soon become a star, paving the way to the global phenomenon of "The Muppet Show" — all thanks to a mother's hand-me-down.

I've been reflecting on her gift this May, as we celebrate Mother's Day and power through a busy month held together by moms armed with snacks, schedules, and stain remover, the family's comprehensive to-do list etched into their sleep-deprived brains.

Their daily sacrifices make it all possible. Sometimes their dreams are spurred in surpris-



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ing ways, and the Church — the Body of Christ — springs into action.

That's what happened to Mindy Hoefer, a 42-year-old mom of eight who belongs to the Church of St. Pius X in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. For years, her wedding dress sat in a brown box in the closet, professionally cleaned and tucked away. Out of sight, out of mind.

It had been perfect for her June wedding — a David's Bridal "Lady Eleanor" dress with a sheer overlay and beaded floral design.

It wasn't until Mindy's oldest daughter, Eva, was preparing for her First Holy Communion that it occurred to the busy mom: perhaps her wedding dress could be made into a First Communion dress. Mindy couldn't find anyone willing to take on a project of that scope, so instead, she contributed her

CAPECCHI, page 13

Jesus Is with Us Always



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Matthew 28:16-20

In many dioceses in the United States, this weekend is the liturgical celebration of the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Other dioceses observe this weekend as the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

These reflections will refer to the biblical readings for the Feast of the Ascension.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, is from the beginning of Acts. As with the Gospel of Luke, the author addresses Theophilus. The identity of Theophilus is unclear. Was Theophilus his actual name? Perhaps it was.

Perhaps it was not. Theophilus is also a title, meaning "friend of God."

In any case, this initial form of address recalls that Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are inseparably linked. Acts simply continues the story first given in the Gospel. It is important to remember this.

As the New Testament was compiled into one set of Scriptures, and especially as the Church accepted John's Gospel as the authentic Word of God, the Gospel of John was inserted between Luke and Acts so as not to divide the four Gospels.

However, this process upset the perception of seeing Acts as the continuation of Luke.

Important in this reading is the identification given the Apostles, eleven in number since the defection and then suicide of Judas. Acts clearly states that the Lord chose the Apostles. His selection was not insignificant or casual. It was done with the very power of the Holy Spirit.

They still need the wisdom of Jesus. They are confused

about salvation and about the Savior. Will Jesus restore Israel to its old earthly might? Jesus clarifies what salvation means.

He also clarified the place of baptism. Finally, Jesus ascends to heaven. The story ends on an evangelistic note. An angel tells the Apostles, staring into the sky, to look around them and carry onward the Gospel.

For its second reading, the Church offers a passage from the Epistle to the Ephesians.

This reading is a prayer that all Christians might find true wisdom in Christ, the only source of truth.

St. Matthew's Gospel provides the last reading. This reading too identifies the dignity of the Apostles. They are with Jesus. Seeing Jesus, gloriously alive after the Crucifixion, the Apostles believe. Doubts are gone.

The Lord then commissions them to go into the world, excepting no place or anyone, and to bring all into God's family by baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This passage not only underscores the role of

the Apostles, and of the task of the Apostles to continue to proclaim God's mercy, but it reveals the Holy Trinity.

Reflection

The site in Jerusalem believed by the first Christians, and still venerated as the site of the Lord's Ascension, is only a small chapel, surprisingly. It is no grand basilica, but it commemorates a momentous event. Jesus bodily ascended into heaven.

At that moment, also wonderfully, the Lord reassured us, and the disciples at the time, that we never would be alone. He always will be with us.

Indeed, The Gospel of Matthew concludes with Christ's reassurance, "I am with you always, until the end of the age."

No human life is free of difficulty and distress. Conditions surrounding everyone can be vexing. Look at the Ukrainians. Look at people enduring chronic illnesses. Look at the poor.

The Lord's words are consoling and they are real. Jesus

is with us in the strength of grace, in the hope of eternity with God. He is with us in the Church, begun by the Apostles after the Ascension. He is with us in the Sacraments and in the Eucharist.

Before ascending, Jesus empowered the Apostles and then sent them.

He empowers us and sends us to refresh our worlds, confident that we are called, blessed, and gifted.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9
Eph 1:17-23 Mt 28:16-20

Monday: Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-7
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27 Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31 Ps 114:5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

More Than Ever, We Need Diocesan News Media

When my wife bought a Subaru a few years ago, we not only got a car. We also received a company magazine called "Drive." Subaru is trying to use a "membership magazine" to build a relationship with us as well as sell us more stuff. We usually toss the magazine in our recycling bin.

I thought of this recently when I saw a diocesan ad recruiting a newspaper editor. The job was clearly meant to be part of the public relations office, and the job description was to "highlight the good works of the diocese and its partners and to obtain positive coverage of diocesan programs, services, and events."

Now dioceses, like corporations, do want and need public relations efforts, especially after the past two decades of allegations and controversies. And diocesan officials can be forgiven for wanting "good news" and positive stories after the hammering they've gotten.

As the Church celebrates World Communications Day on May 21, however, I would argue that developing "membership magazines" is an incomplete assessment of what the People of God need — indeed, of what the Church needs.

There are many threats facing the Church, from ersatz diocesan news efforts that are really fronts for partisan political agendas, to a stressed secular media that has a shrinking number of journalists, especially religion journalists. Their reports are often sloppy, shallow, or incomplete. And the polarization that infects both Church and state also infects the third estate, making it harder for a Catholic voice to be heard unless it is found to be ideologically agreeable.

But the greatest threat may be a lack of institutional faith in the value of Catholic news

media and the courage to support it at the local level.

Secular and Catholic local newspapers are both closing at a breathtaking pace. What's left are "news deserts" where those seeking information are driven to national news organizations or whatever they find on the Internet — sources with agendas often quite different from those of the diocese.

Whether it's "culture wars" or just "culture confusion," Catholics often find themselves on the front lines but disarmed, lacking both information and formation.

What they need is solid, trustworthy, courageous journalism that gets the story right, be the news good or bad. Catholic journalism that does its job well will develop a relationship of trust between the diocese and its people, between the Church and its people, providing the information necessary to withstand the bad and celebrate the good. Propaganda only suffices in a bubble, its recipients unwilling or unable to engage the world.

One advocate for such journalism is Pope Francis. Earlier this year, he told Catholic journalists that theirs "is a noble profession: to convey the truth."

The pope told his own Vatican journalists in 2021 that for a news organization to be effective, "it is necessary to make sure everyone has enough freedom to work, that they have the ability to take risks and not go and ask permission, always permission ... this is paralyzing."

To make Church communications effective, the people responsible for that communication must have the trust of, and access to, church leaders. If every story needs to be vetted at the top, if only good news is allowed to be told, readers will get the message quickly enough. These are strategies



GREG ERLANDSON

AMID THE FRAY

for breaking the back of local Catholic media.

Diocesan newspapers, once the pride of the U.S. Catholic Church, are struggling. When they disappear, all that is left are the press releases most Catholics never read. On issues like gender debates, immigration, guns, or the entire panoply of right-to-life issues, the Catholic voice is increasingly muted exactly when it should not be. And positive efforts at engagement, from synods to Eucharist revivals, need a healthy media to inform and mobilize as well.

Catholic journalism is in crisis, but crisis always signifies opportunities. Some dioceses are closing their news media, but others are investing more in their multimedia efforts.

Independent but church-affiliated organizations are also investing more in newsgathering. Our Sunday Visitor, for example, stepped in to fill a vacuum left by the bishops' closure of the domestic offices of Catholic News Service.

On this World Communications Day, it is worth saluting those diocesan news efforts that continue to do their job despite shrinking staff and shrinking resources. They strive to be both the voice and the ears of the local church, helping to make all of us more informed and better formed.

Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic Publisher, Editor, and Journalist.

CAPECCHI, from page 12

wedding veil for Eva's big day.

Life marched on, but Mindy never forgot her vision to give the old dress a new purpose.

Last year at their parish fundraiser, Mindy's name was drawn in a raffle. She could pick one item from the live auction before it began.

Mindy recalled that a parishioner named Debbie had donated an alterations certificate and that her daughter, Cecilia, would be making her First Holy Communion the following spring.

Mindy made her choice.

Debbie was more than receptive to the idea. The two women discovered "a unity in dream and desire to draw my daughters closer to Jesus through the

dress," Mindy said. "The Holy Spirit's involvement became abundantly clear."

As Debbie worked, the dress proved to be "a vehicle for evangelization," Mindy said, sparking conversations with friends, neighbors, and grandchildren about its special purpose.

Twenty years after Mindy wore her wedding dress, it was worn for another sacrament: Cecilia's First Communion.

God blesses our faith-filled efforts. He multiplies our generosity — finding the seamstress, making the way. He simply asks us to set things into motion.

Pope Francis expressed this during Lent of 2020, early into the Covid-19 quarantine. He preached, "This is what we

need today: the creativity of love."

What some might call magic or luck — the winning of a raffle, the work of needle and thread, the transformation of an old green coat — has a more apt name. The creativity of love.

So go ahead with your meager offerings. Give up your scraps, your bad jokes, your early mornings. Reheat the leftovers and say a prayer. Offer up your off-key songs and your lumpy body, your half-baked ideas and your overcooked ham. Toss it all into the Strega Nona pot and trust the creativity of love.

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 21, 2023

Acts 1: 1-11 / Matthew 28:16-20

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THEOPHILUS	CHOSEN	FORTY
WATER	RESTORE	ISRAEL
SEASONS	POWER	SIGHT
TWO MEN	ELEVEN	MOUNTAIN
JESUS	DOUBTED	ON EARTH
THEREFORE	NATIONS	THE NAME
HOLY SPIRIT	COMMANDED	ALWAYS

FROM SIGHT

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

EPHRAEM

FEAST JUNE 9

C. 306-373



Known to Syrian Christians as "the harp of the Holy Ghost," this Mesopotamian from Nisibia was baptized at 18 and may have accompanied his bishop to the Council of Nicaea in 325. He served as head of the cathedral school and left Nisibia only after it became Persian. In 363, he moved to a cave overlooking Edessa but preached frequently in the city and wrote many poems, hymns, and biblical commentaries; he organized a choir of women to sing his hymns during liturgies. About 370, he visited St. Basil in Caesarea. The winter before his death, he earned praise for managing relief supplies during a severe famine in Edessa. Ephraem is the only Syrian father declared a doctor of the Church.



Provided by Bishop Rhoades

Bishop Rhoades gave the Commencement Address at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati on Sunday, May 14. Following graduation, Bishop Rhoades is seen here posing for a photo with Father Anthony Brausch, Rector; Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; and Deacon Ryan Timossi, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who received his Master of Divinity degree during the graduation.



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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.

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., con-

cluding 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.

Mystery Play of Jonah and the Whale with the Notre Dame Children's Choir

SOUTH BEND — The Notre Dame Children's Choir presents the premiere of a newly commissioned work, The Mystery Play of Jonah and the Whale, at its annual NDCC Community Festival at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 7195 Cleveland Rd., on Saturday, May 20, from 6:30-8 p.m. Featuring more than 150 singers in seven choirs, the program educates children in the area for free. The concert is free and open to the public. Contact Suze Villano at 574-631-3384 or ndcchoir@nd.edu.

Catholic in Recovery Meetings Begin at St. Pius X

GRANGER — Catholic in Recovery meetings will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 5, in the church basement of St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd. The meetings provide healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Mary Baldus, 89, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception

Gerald Joley, 81, St. Jude

John Didion, 65, St. Vincent de Paul

South Bend

Roberta Bottei, 61, Christ the King

Jack Taghon, 83, Holy Cross

Joseph Dant, 71, St. Adalbert

Wabash

Don Greenlee, 81, St. Bernard

Warsaw

Jack Horney, 98, Sacred Heart

Margaret Whitely, 67, Sacred Heart

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.

SUBMIT EVENTS at
TodaysCatholic.org/event

Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected.

ZOOM Belonging 'Schools' Meeting: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

VIRTUAL — Connect with parents of children with disabilities either currently in or wishing to attend Catholic schools in the diocese. Conversations at these meetings are shared with the Catholic Schools Office's SpED Committee on how to support those involved. Meetings are offered at both 1 and 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. Anyone is welcome to attend. To get the


zoom link (new each month), contact Allison Sturm at 260-414-5960 or email asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Called and Gifted Workshop for Young Adults

SOUTH BEND — God has called you to a unique mission in life. Discover your spiritual gifts to reveal that call. Join fellow young adults (18-30s) in a workshop on Friday, June 9, which includes video presentations, small group discussion, and a spiritual gifts inventory at St. Therese Little Flower Church - Upper Room, 54191 Ironwood Rd. Cost is \$25. Registration is required at ablazemission.org/gifted. Contact Sean Allen at 858-354-9006 or sallen@ablazemission.org.


Dr. Timone Davis to Speak at St. Mary

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Timone Davis will speak following the 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 1101 S Lafayette St., on Saturday, May 21. Dr. Davis is an assistant professor at Loyola University in Chicago. After working for the Archdiocese of Chicago as the coordinator of ReCiL - Reclaiming Christ in Life Young Adult Ministry, Davis launched PEACE centered WHOLENESS with her husband, Orlando. There is no charge.




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Refreshed to Bring Glad Tidings

BY PHIL NISWONGER

Adam Jenke of St. Paul Street Evangelization presented a refreshing and invigorating synopsis of the basics of our Catholic vocation and core of our Church's existence, which is the essential mission to evangelize (Pope Paul VI's "Evangelii Nuntiandi") at a Eucharistic Revival Evangelization Training at St. Pius X in Granger on Saturday, May 13. Approximately 50 people participated in the eight-hour program addressing the fourth pillar of the Church's worldwide Eucharistic Revival — "Missionary Sending." Every baptized Catholic is to be an evangelist.

The recommended process is to be a hospitable and friendly listener using encouraging words and understanding the person's current positions, and then sharing a personal salvation story as a witness to faith. Each participant was given a chance to practice their witness story with their group. The biblical Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are ultimately directed toward evangelization of people who are searching for the truth, for what is real, for who they are, and how they should live. It is our Catholic goal to help them find these answers through what Jesus taught and those brought forward by the authority of the Church. Ultimately, it is the Kingdom that Jesus wants to share with us now and into

eternity with the help of the Holy Spirit's inspiration and nudging.

Jenke recommended the steps of greeting the person, offering them a simple gift (a miraculous medal, rosary, or pamphlet), and talking about one's parish's activities to which they are invited.

If they are receptive to these, Jenke said, ask them if they have any prayer needs and if they would like to be prayed for and with at that time. The various table groups practiced prayer and invitation. He gave suggestions on how to greet people in certain categories like lapsed Catholics, those of other Christian faiths or of no faith, agnostic, or atheist. He also handed out corresponding pamphlets.

Jenke then gave an overview of the basic Gospel message, the Kerygma, that is intended to be more complete and, as a result, should be more successful than the examples used by our other Christian brothers and sisters. It is the hope to build even greater success. He shared detailed stories of how he responded in St. Paul's Street Evangelization ministry to the objections, challenges, and misinformation people typically have about the Catholic faith. All eight groups role-played different situations and shared their responses to all other groups.

Jenke had everyone practice a simple four-part prayer that may take less than a minute, which can include praising God, asking for forgiveness



Phil Niswonger

Adam Jenke of St. Paul Street Evangelizations presents a program to participants of the Eucharistic Revival Evangelization Training at St. Pius X Church in Granger on Saturday, May 13.

for some shortcoming, giving thanks for God's blessings, and then offering an intercessory prayer specific to the person's shared need. If a person is receptive, one can ask them about their own faith journey. In doing so, often there is an anti-Catholic objection they may have found in contemporary media, like abuse or something from a century earlier, like slavery. Often these objections are only hiding a

deeper cause of their woundedness, according to Jenke.

For the last hour, people were offered the opportunity to practice their new evangelization skills by going door to door for classic evangelization. Four teams of two or three each went out to eighteen homes. The teams passed out a sheet detailing upcoming events at the parish and offered rosaries or religious medals and pamphlets. As expected,

no one answered the door at about half of the homes. Nevertheless, many courteous receptions were received.

Jenke has worked for St. Paul Street Evangelization for more than 10 years since his conversion from the Lutheran and then Baptist churches. He and his wife have seven children. St. Paul offers partnerships, chapters, and many online and printed resources.

Pope Issues New 'Fundamental Law' for Vatican City State

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis updated the "Fundamental Law of Vatican City State," opening the possibility that laypeople can be members of its governing commission and emphasizing that the independence of the city-state is essential for the mission of the Holy See.

The previous version of the law was promulgated by St. John Paul II in 2000; his introduction to the text noted the independence of Vatican City State guaranteed "the freedom of the Apostolic See" and assured "the real and visible independence of the Roman Pontiff in the exercise of his mission in the world."

Pope Francis' revision of the law incorporates the mission into the text of the law itself.

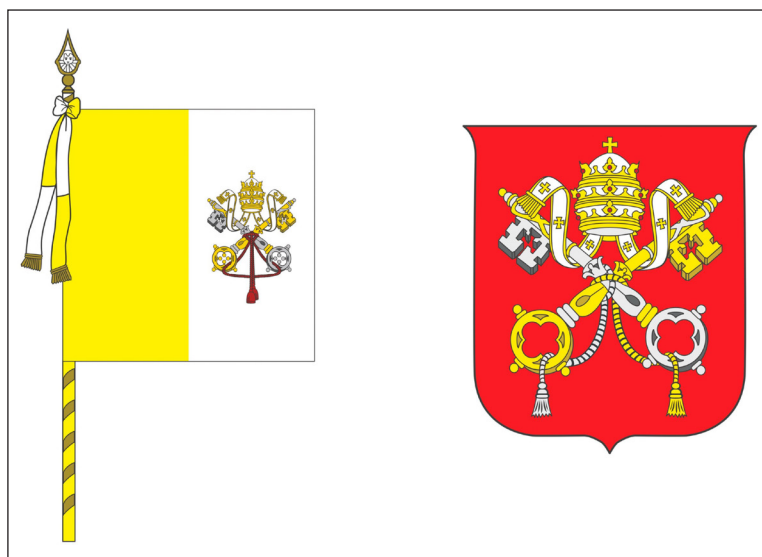
The first article states, "The Vatican City State ensures the absolute and visible independence of the Holy See for the fulfillment of its high mission

in the world and guarantees its unquestionable sovereignty in the international arena as well."

While the 2000 version of the law entrusted the legislative powers for governing Vatican City State to "a commission composed by a cardinal-president and other cardinals" nominated by the pope for a five-year term, the new law says the commission "is composed of cardinals, among whom is the president, and by other members" nominated by the pope for a five-year term.

The fundamental law also includes a description and drawings of the Vatican flag, crest, and seal — all of which remain unchanged. Unlike the pope's coat of arms, however, the independent Vatican City State's symbols feature a tiara, a symbol of temporal rule.

In 2005, Pope Benedict XVI removed the three-tiered tiara from his coat of arms. He replaced it with a miter, a symbol of his episcopal ministry, and Pope Francis main-



CNS photo/Courtesy of Vatican City State

The flag and crest of Vatican City State are described in the "fundamental law" of the tiny independent nation. Pope Francis issued a new version of the law, which was published by the Vatican on May 13.

tained that practice. Although St. Paul VI was the last pope to be crowned, it was only in 1996 — with the constitution "Universi Dominici Gregis" on the vacancy of the papacy and the election of a new pope —

that St. John Paul II officially substituted the coronation ceremony with the Mass for the inauguration of the pontificate.

Like St. John Paul's version of the fundamental law, the new version stipulates: "The

Supreme Pontiff, sovereign of Vatican City State, has the fullness of governmental power, which includes legislative, executive, and judicial power." He does, however, usually delegate that power to the governing commission and the Vatican City State courts.

Like the previous law, the new one also reserves to the pope "the power to grant amnesty, pardon, forgiveness, and to commute punishments."

Given the financial reforms enacted by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, the new law includes a changed and expanded section on budgeting and spending.

The commission governing Vatican City State is required to draw up a three-year financial plan, which it submits "directly to the Supreme Pontiff for approval."

"The budget shall ensure the balance of income and expenditures and shall be inspired by the principles of clarity, transparency, and fairness," the new law says.