

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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School Choice Expansion Nears Launch, Extends to Almost All Families

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

As the dramatic expansion to school choice in Indiana is set to take effect on Saturday, July 1, an educational effort is underway across the state: spreading the word that nearly all Hoosier families now qualify for the program.

School choice eligibility will now extend to 97 percent of Indiana families following the state legislature's recent passage of near-universal school choice as part of the next two-year budget. But educators and advocates say there is a learning curve to overcome, as too many parents either have not heard about the changes or do not believe that they apply to their children.

"This is a pivotal moment for families in Indiana, nearly all of whom now will have the opportunity to send their children to the school that best meets their needs," said John Elcesser, Executive Director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, which represents the state's more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana's 175 Catholic schools. "But we are finding that there is still a large part of the population that isn't aware

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Today's Catholic file photo

As school choice eligibility in Indiana will now extend to 97 percent of families in the 2023-2024 school year, parent listening sessions will be held throughout the state and the diocese to explain options that will be available once the application window opens on Saturday, July 1.

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The Eucharist Is the Reason; Celebrating as a Community on Corpus Christi

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

"The Eucharist is the reason!" In celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Father Andrew Budzinski, Pastor of St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne, reiterated the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church before leading his parish in procession to the edge of their parish boundary on Sunday, June 11.

Father Budzinski emphasized, "The Eucharist is the most important thing we have.

St. John Vianney said, 'If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.' It is precious because it is actually His Real Presence, the Body and Blood of Jesus; He says so Himself in today's Gospel."

He reminded the congregation that the current Eucharistic Revival is in response to a 2019 poll which revealed only one-third of surveyed Catholics knew and believed in the Eucharist. Encouragingly, when Father Budzinski surveyed the parish last year with the same question, he found that more than three-quarters of the

faithful at St. John the Baptist identified and believed in the authentic Catholic teaching on the Eucharist. His efforts to lead parishioners in formation and devotion remain on-going.

He exclaimed, "Not everyone in today's Gospel believe that it's Jesus' flesh and blood even though they hear it straight from His mouth. They ask, 'How can this man give us His flesh to eat?' Let's ask ourselves the same question. Or another way of asking it: 'Is it really His flesh or not?' Those are the only two possibilities, right? It is either really His flesh or it's

just a symbol. However, Jesus says nothing about it being a symbol. Rather, He said five more times that it is His flesh and blood!"

He continued, "What happens next is very important. The Gospel goes on to say that many of His disciples said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it?' And as a result, many returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him. The disciples take Jesus literally when He says 'Eat My flesh and drink My blood.' They, in

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SCHOOL CHOICE, from page 1

of this historic expansion to school choice in Indiana or how it applies to their families."

Upon its passage in late April, Governor Eric Holcomb hailed Indiana's biennial budget as one with "generational impact." Approximately half of the \$44.5 billion budget will support K-12 education statewide, with \$2.3 billion in new funding that includes the expansion in school choice eligibility.

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

The far-reaching changes in scope require what Elcesser calls a "paradigm shift" in the way that people think of school choice in Indiana.

"Initially, when school choice was first introduced in our state in 2011, the focus was on providing choice for families who couldn't afford it," Elcesser said. "But over the past 12 years of the program, the focus has now shifted to allowing all taxpayers the ability to use a small percentage of their tax dollars to exercise private school choice."

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

"Both of my children went to Catholic schools K-12, and

throughout those years I paid both tuition and taxes," said Elcesser, a former Catholic school principal and superintendent. "The public school system is essential to our state, as it educates the vast majority of our students. I will always feel a responsibility as a citizen to support our public school system. But I also support the idea that I can spend a small percentage of my tax dollars on private school choice."

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

Those pathways included requiring a student to have spent two semesters in a public school or to live in a school district with a grade of "F" as determined by the state. In addition to removing those and other conditions, the newly passed budget extended school choice access to all kindergartners. Until now, a kindergartner had to meet certain guidelines to qualify, such as an older sibling participating in a choice program.

"The ICC is inspired by the commitment and work of John Elcesser and the INPEA to give more families the opportunity to attain the education that is best for their children," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "The ICC also commends the Indiana General Assembly for giving

more Hoosier families the option for choice."

Now, the key is educating families across the state about the options that will be available to nearly all of them when the application window opens on Saturday, July 1.

A Big Information Gap

The Institute for Quality Education (IQE), another school choice ally, is in the midst of hosting more than 200 parent information sessions across the state between now and the start of the school year.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, these include sessions in both English and Spanish. The events in Spanish will be held at Emmanuel Assembly in Fort Wayne on Sunday, June 25, at 10 a.m. and at Ebenezer Church in Fort Wayne on Sunday, June 25, at 1 p.m. The events in English will be held at New Vision Christian Academy in Mishawaka on Thursday, July 20, at 6 p.m., KinderCare South Bend in South Bend on Thursday, July 20, at 6 p.m., Young Mothers of America in Fort Wayne on Saturday, July 22, at 1 p.m., and Emmaus Lutheran in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, August 2, at 6 p.m.

"The push this summer and throughout the coming school year needs to be communicating that nearly every Indiana family now qualifies for school choice," said Betsy Wiley, Executive Director of the IQE and a long-time leader in school choice efforts in Indiana. "We know there's a big information gap." Wiley pointed to a study

recently conducted by IQE and partner organization EdChoice, which revealed that 60 percent of Indiana parents who expressed interest in exploring different educational options didn't know that they qualified for school choice.

She encourages parents to visit myschooloptions.org for more information and resources, including an online school finder, or to reach out to schools of interest directly to find out more about next steps.

A Great Gift

Throughout the state, school administrators are reaching out to both current and prospective families to make them aware that they more than likely now qualify for school choice.

"This recent school choice expansion is a great gift from our state," said Rob Bridges, President of Cathedral High School, an independent Catholic high school in Indianapolis. "Coming from Michigan, which was once ranked last among states for the likelihood of getting school choice, and then coming to Indiana where it was already happening, was a sight to behold."

Bridges, who also serves on the board of INPEA, has a long-time interest in school choice that dates to his doctoral work at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. There, he completed his dissertation on the link between school choice and Catholic identity.

"I believe that school choice is a justice issue — especially for those who need it most," said Bridges, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. "Every child in this great country has the right to the best possible education. I believe that's Catholic education, of course, and there's data to back that up. But if a child is born into an area where there aren't a lot of resources and the schools are not very good, that child is stuck in most cases unless they have other options."

Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC, also spoke to the benefits of a Catholic education that is now within reach of almost anyone who seeks it.

"This expansion of educational choice will allow more Catholic families to fully exercise their 'right to a Christian education' articulated by the Code of Canon Law," Mingus said. "Freed from financial constraints, these families will have the option to send their children to Catholic schools where they will be formed in the mysteries of our faith and the virtues needed for faithful citizenship."

For more information and ways to get involved with the ICC and its mission, visit indianacc.org.

To learn more about school choice or the advocacy efforts of the INPEA, visit inpea.org.

For additional information about school choice, visit myschooloptions.org.

Choice Scholarship Program Income Guidelines
2023-2024 School Year

Choice Scholarship Program Income Limits by Household Size	
Household Size	400% of Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility
	Annual Household Income Limit ¹
1	\$107,892.00
2	\$145,928.00
3	\$183,964.00
4	\$222,000.00
5	\$260,036.00
6	\$298,072.00
7	\$336,108.00
8	\$374,144.00
9	\$412,180.00
10	\$450,216.00

¹Add \$38,036 for each additional family member.

Indiana Choice Legislation Adds Options for Diocesan Families

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

“Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom,” said Saint John Paul II.

In Indiana, the School Choice expansion for 2023 allows the pursuit of a quality Catholic education for grades K-12 even easier.

“Our Catholic schools have a holistic approach to education, and our teachers play a subsidiary role with parents to educate their children. Whether or not you are Catholic, an estimated 97 percent of families now qualify for a faith-based education that teaches students values and morals while helping them excel spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically. Our goals are to help students develop a relationship with Jesus Christ within His mystical body, the Church, grow disciples, help students to fulfill their destinies, and the ultimate goal is to help students reach heaven, which is a tremendous value proposition,” said Joseph Brettnacher, Ph.D., Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

One change to the program is that families no longer have to participate in the Choice Scholarship pathways or tracks to qualify.

“The elimination of the Choice Scholarship pathways/tracks means parents have one less hurdle in their way. Now there are two criteria to qualify instead of three. You must meet the income requirements at or below 400 percent Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL), which means a family of four



Eric Peat

Indiana's School Choice expansion, which begins with the 2023-2024 school year, will allow more families to choose Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the education of their children.

can earn up to \$222,000 and qualify. Finally, they must live in Indiana,” said Brettnacher. “Kindergarten students can receive a Choice Scholarship if they meet the above two requirements and reach five-years-old by Oct. 1. Also, schools can use the Indiana — School Scholarship Tax Credit for PreK tuition as an allowable expense (age four by August 1) for accredited PreKs that are part of an accredited school program. Many more families can choose a Catholic school education if it suits their child.”

The new income qualification includes a significant increase in financial eligibility from 300 percent FRL to 400 percent FRL for the Choice Scholarship or the School Scholarship, where donors send their contributions to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). A donor giving \$1,000 to an SGO receives a \$500 (50 percent) state income tax reduction. The

\$1,000 goes to the SGO, while the donor receives the state tax credit. For the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, it is called the Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana or SGONEI.

Indiana Choice legislation has allowed many families the opportunity to afford a Catholic education and continues to impact the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“More families residing in Indiana can afford a Catholic education if it best fits their child’s needs. A family does not have to be Catholic to go to our schools. With the School Choice Expansions and the School Scholarship Tax Credit, we should see an increase in enrollment in most, if not all, of our schools,” said Brettnacher.

To learn more about the availability of Catholic Schools in the area and their scholarship options, visit diocesefwsb.org/schools/.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, June 26 to Friday, June 30: Annual Priests Retreat, Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park
Saturday, July 1: 6 p.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne
Sunday, July 9: 11 a.m. – Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend



Forty Hours Devotion

Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

JUNE

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, Fort Wayne: Aug. 27-29
St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart: Aug. 27-29

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

Myths and Facts about School Choice

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

Although school choice was introduced in Indiana more than a decade ago, it continues to generate questions and debate. Here are some common misperceptions about school choice — along with the corresponding facts — provided by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA).

MYTH: School choice drains money from public schools.

REALITY: School choice programs across the country have been proven to save state governments millions — even billions — of dollars. When

a student attends a non-public school using a Choice Scholarship (voucher), state governments do not have to pay the public school the full cost for providing an education for that student. In Indiana, the average voucher amount in the 2021-2022 school year was \$5,439, while state funding for public schools amounted to \$7,968 per student. Public schools receive local taxes for their operations, yet non-public schools do not receive those funds. Public schools also retain their local funding even if students transfer to a non-public school.

MYTH: Choice does not lead to better academic out-

comes for students.

REALITY: Across Indiana, as students continue to recover from COVID-19 learning losses, non-public school students outperformed their public-school peers on the 2022 I-LEARN state assessment. The National Assessment of Education Progress, more commonly known as the Nation’s Report Card, shows that nationally, Catholic school students have higher test scores in reading and math than their public-school peers in grades 4 and 8, the year that the assessment is administered.

MYTH: School choice only benefits non-public schools.

REALITY: The state of

Indiana recognizes that parents should choose the school that provides the best educational opportunities and is the best overall fit for their children. In Indiana, the money flows to the student, not to the school. Families can choose to send their children to alternative public schools, charter schools, or non-public schools.

MYTH: School choice programs allow for discrimination.

REALITY: Nine out of 10 empirical studies reveal that choice programs lead to less segregation in schools. In Indiana, the population of students receiving vouchers is more diverse (43 percent minority) compared to tradi-

tional public-school students (32 percent minority).

MYTH: School choice programs violate separation between church and state.

REALITY: In 2013, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled unanimously that school choice does not violate Indiana’s Constitution. Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that appropriately designed private school choice programs are fully Constitutional.

For a complete list of school choice myths and facts, as well as additional information, visit inpea.org.

Adore Jesus' Real Presence in The Eucharist, Pope Tells U.S. Catholics During Papal Audience that Included Bishop Rhoades

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics need to recover a sense of awe and adoration before the Eucharist, knowing that it is “the real and loving presence of the Lord,” Pope Francis told members of the committees organizing the National Eucharistic Revival and the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States.

Jesus spoke of Himself as “the living bread which came down from heaven, the true bread that gives life to the world,” the pope told the group on Monday, June 19, just three days after leaving the hospital following abdominal surgery.

“This morning, while I was celebrating the Eucharist, I thought about this a lot because it is what gives us life,” the pope said. “Indeed,

the Eucharist is God’s response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life because in the Eucharist, Christ Himself is truly in our midst to nourish, console, and sustain us on our journey.”

Pope Francis walked into the library using his cane instead of a wheelchair. And although he sat when he read his prepared text — and added spontaneous comments — he stood to bless the four-foot-tall monstrance, paten, and chalice that will be used during the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 17 to July 21, 2024.

The group was led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, Chair of the U.S. Bishops’ Advisory Group for the National Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year process aimed at renew-



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis speaks to members of the organizing committees of the U.S. National Eucharistic Congress and Eucharistic Revival in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on Monday, June 19. The group was led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

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ing and strengthening faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and Chair of the Board of Directors planning the Eucharistic Congress.

Bishop Cozzens told Catholic News Service it was “an incredible privilege” to meet the pope and experience “his love, his passion for the Eucharist, and for the work that we’re about.”

Pope Francis told the group that, unfortunately, today many Catholics “believe that the Eucharist is more a symbol than the reality of the Lord’s presence and love.”

But, he said, “it is more than a symbol; it is the real and loving presence of the Lord.”

“It is my hope, then, that the Eucharistic Congress will inspire Catholics throughout the country to discover anew the sense of wonder and awe at the Lord’s great gift of himself,” he said, “and to spend time with him in the celebration of the holy Mass and in personal prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.”

Pope Francis lamented that many people “have lost the sense of adoration. We need to regain the sense of adoring in silence, adoration. It is a prayer we have lost; few people know what this is, and you bishops need to catechize the faithful on the prayer of adoration,” he said, looking at Bishop Cozzens and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who also accompanied

the group.

The pope insisted on the link between celebrating Mass, eucharistic adoration, and sharing the Gospel with others.

“In the Eucharist, we encounter the One who gave everything for us, who sacrificed Himself in order to give us life, who loved us to the end,” he said. “We become credible witnesses to the joy and transforming beauty of the Gospel only when we recognize that the love we celebrate in this sacrament cannot be kept to ourselves but demands to be shared with all.”

“This is the sense of mission: You go, you celebrate Mass, you take Communion, you go to adoration — and afterward?” he asked.

“Afterward you go out, you go out and evangelize; Jesus makes us this way.”

“The Eucharist impels us to a strong and committed love of neighbor,” he insisted. “For we cannot truly understand or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or may have gone astray in life.”

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said those who believe in the Eucharist must reach out to and visit “the elderly, who are the wisdom of a people, and the sick, who take the form of the suffering Jesus.”

Pope Francis prayed that the

National Eucharistic Congress would “bear fruit in guiding men and women throughout your nation to the Lord who, by His presence among us, rekindles hope and renews life.”

In an interview with CNS following the papal audience, Bishop Cozzens said the ongoing process of the Synod of Bishops on synodality and the Eucharistic Revival are related since, in the listening sessions for the synod, many Catholics expressed concern about a lack of belief in the real presence and about declining Mass attendance.

“We’re probably at an all-time low in the United States in terms of the percentage of Catholics who are actually going to Mass every Sunday,” he said, which is “a huge concern that came forward in the synod process.”

The listening sessions also pleaded with the bishops to work for the unity of the church in the country and draw everyone together around the sacrament of unity, and communion is the best way to do that, he said. “So, I would argue that the synodal process helped us build the whole thing.”

“The Eucharist is the source of our life in the Church,” the bishop said. “It’s the beating heart of the Church where we receive the life of Christ as the body of Christ.”

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Fort Wayne-South Bend Delegation Meets Pope Francis



Photos provided by Vatican Media

Bishop Rhoades, two diocesan priests, a diocesan seminarian, and a group of Fort Wayne-South Bend pilgrims individually meet Pope Francis on Friday, June 19, following an audience with him as he spoke to members of the committees organizing the National Eucharistic Revival and the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States. Members of the group include (top row, left to right) Father Paolo Degasperi, Father Mark Hellinger, and seminarian Patrick Ernst, as well as (middle row, left to right) Mathew and Sharon Edmonds, Connie and Michael Joines, Melissa and Jason Shanks, and (bottom row) Bishop Rhoades.

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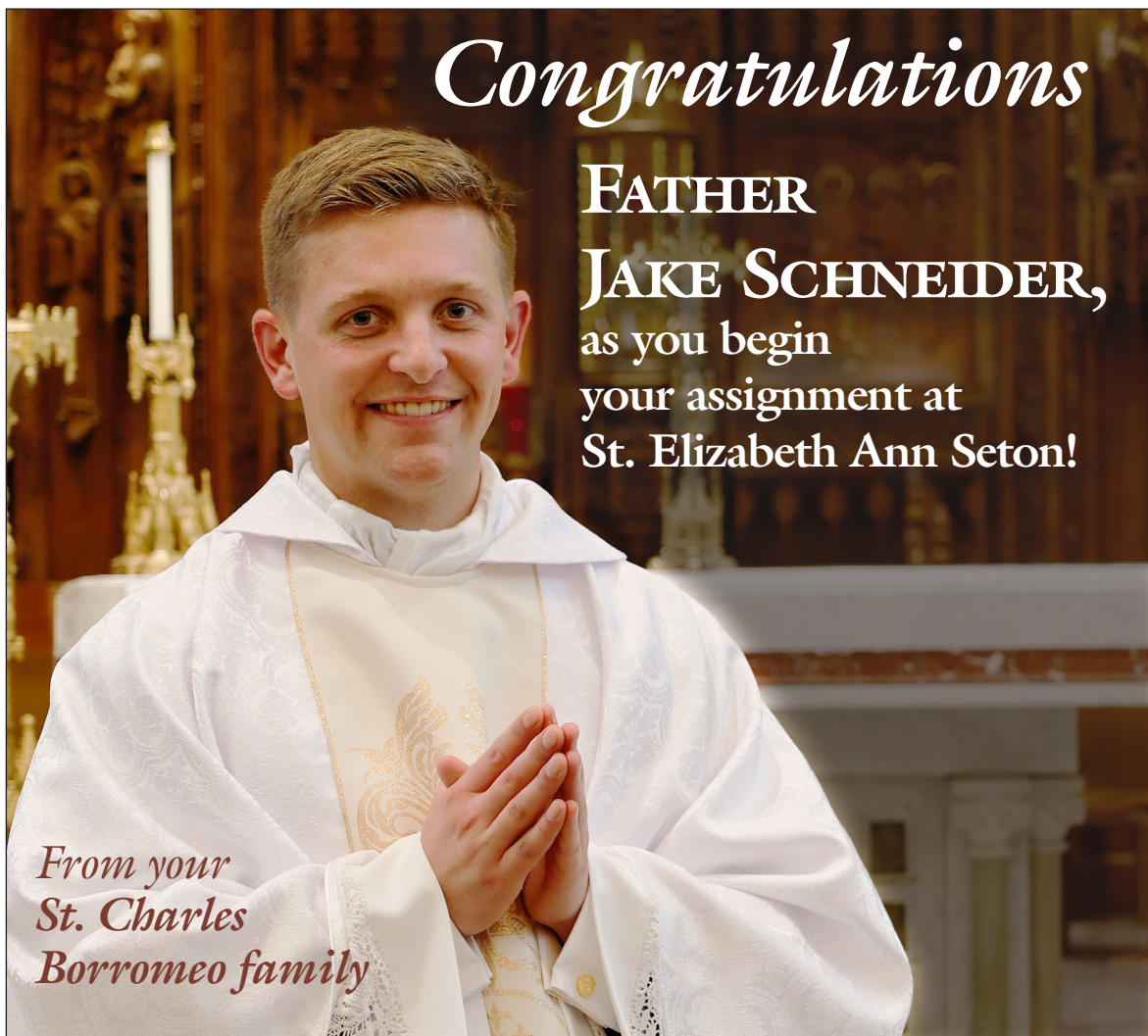


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U.S. Bishops Advance Pastoral Initiatives to Strengthen Church Amid Discussions on Eucharist, Priesthood, Synodality

ORLANDO, Florida (OSV News) — Meeting in Orlando for their spring assembly, the U.S. bishops moved ahead on some efforts to advance the Church's mission in the U.S., including new pastoral initiatives aimed at activating Catholics as missionary disciples. The gathering's June 15-16 plenary sessions proved relatively smooth, but featured moments of vigorous discussion at a few points, particularly around the formation of priests. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, gave his first address as U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President presiding over the bishops' plenary assembly. He covered a variety of issues of concern to Catholics, such as the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform and for an end to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. "We cannot fail to see the face of Christ in all of those who need our assistance, especially the poor and the vulnerable," he said. They also heard updates on World Youth Day, the global Synod on Synodality, and the Eucharistic Revival. The U.S. bishops also approved moving ahead on drafting a new pastoral statement for persons with disabilities. At the conclusion of their assembly, which took place on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the bishops prayed together the Litany of the Sacred Heart, invoking Jesus' heart repeatedly to "have mercy on us."

U.S. Bishops Overwhelmingly Approve 10-year Plan to Address Pastoral Needs of Hispanic Catholics

ORLANDO, Florida (OSV News) — The U.S. bishops approved a new National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry to multiply pastoral responses addressing the realities of close to 30 million Catholics. On Friday, June 16, with 167 supporting votes out of 171, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resoundingly approved a comprehensive 10-year plan aimed at responding to the needs of Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the U.S. and strengthening Hispanic/Latino ministries across the country at the national, local, and parish level. The last time the U.S. bishops put forth such a plan was in 1987. With an April

Pope Blesses Monstrance, Chalice, and Paten to be Used at National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis



Pope Francis blesses a four-foot-tall monstrance, a chalice, and a paten during an audience with members of the organizing committees of the U.S. National Eucharistic Congress and Eucharistic Revival in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on Monday, June 19, which included Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who also accompanied the group. The monstrance, which was made in Mexico, will hold the Eucharist during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July of 2024, and the chalice and paten will be used during the closing Mass.

Pew Research Center analysis showing a steady decline of Latino adults who self-identify as Catholic, the urgency to provide pastoral care for Hispanic/Latino Catholics is a high priority. Ahead of the vote, Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose, California, Chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, told OSV News that there was a great need to "get moving so that (the new pastoral plan) can be implemented in our dioceses and parishes." The plan directly responds to the pastoral priorities and recommendations generated through the four-year Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry (V Encuentro). The priorities listed in the plan include ongoing formation, accompaniment of families, immigration and advocacy, care for those on the periph-

eries, the promotion of vocations, and the need to engage with youth and young adults. A day before the vote took place, Detroit Auxiliary Bishop J. Arturo Cepeda, who chairs the USCCB's Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, called the plan a sign of the times that recognizes Hispanic/Latino Catholics — who account for more than 40 percent of U.S. Catholics — as "missionaries among us" that can reinvigorate the life of the Church. The pastoral plan recognizes the unique ways Hispanic Catholics engage in their faith, while calling on "pastoral leaders 'to exercise their prophetic role without fear'" and to develop or promote pastoral responses to local needs, "while also inviting the faithful to promote the common good on the national and global levels."

Sister Wilhelmina's Apparently Incorrupt Body Shows in Christ 'Death Loses Its Power and Its Sting,' says Abbess

GOWER, Missouri (OSV News) — Mother Abbess Cecilia Snell puts the number of pilgrims who in the past six weeks have flocked to her Benedictine abbey in rural Missouri between 10,000 and 15,000. It's a conservative estimate, she said, of the droves of people who, at times, have waited hours in line to see the body of the community's foundress, Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster. The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles disinterred her remains

on Friday, April 28, four years after her death at age 95, and discovered a surprising lack of decay, leading to claims of her incorruptibility and potential for canonization. Most visitors are locals, or from Kansas City or St. Louis. Some, however, have traveled from Washington state, Maine, California, and Florida, but also from as far as Canada, Colombia, and India, Mother Cecilia said. "It was her relationship with Christ on the path (to) holiness that led her to greatness before Him. She sends a message of the value of vocation, of charity, and forgiveness, even through racial barriers, and that holiness is possible in our day. Quite a few people have said, 'I knew her. This makes me realize that I can be holy too!'" Mother Cecilia said.

Knights of Columbus are Called to Take 'Co-Responsibility' for Church with 'Heart of a Father'

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (OSV News) — Knights of Columbus are called to have "the heart of a father" while taking "co-responsibility" for the mission of the Catholic Church, said Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly in a keynote address at the Knights' annual Organizational Meeting of State Deputies, which took place from June 8 to June 11 in New Haven, Connecticut. This year, the gathering, which drew upward of 70 state deputies from the U.S., Canada, and throughout the world, coincided with the Knights' June 7-9 assembly of more than 40 state chaplains. At present, the Knights count some 2 million members worldwide, with more than 16,000 local councils. "Our witness as Knights ... is more important than ever," Kelly said. "We must be witnesses to the love of God and witnesses to the heart of the Father in heaven." The Knights are set to launch new evangelization and faith formation programs, building on what Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, who attended the assembly, called the friendship that was "key in the Knights of Columbus." Kelly stressed that in all of its activities, the Knights have "(worked) side by side with our priests and bishops," caring for the vulnerable, strengthening faith, and countering religious discrimination. "This is the power of co-responsibility," said Kelly. "It's the 'how' of the Knights of Columbus. ... It's how, in each generation, we've been the 'strong right arm of the church.'"

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Two Parishes in One Procession in Warsaw in Celebration of Corpus Christi



Photos by Bob List

Approximately 300 Catholic faithful from Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw joined together on Sunday, June 11, for the Feast of Corpus Christi. The True Presence of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist was celebrated, beginning with a Holy Hour at Sacred Heart and then a procession in prayer with Sacred Heart Pastor, Father Jonathan Norton elevating the Monstrance the .8 miles to McKinley Park, where he led the faithful in the Litany of the Precious Blood and the combined choirs sang Pan de Vida. The procession then continued the .9 miles to Lucerne Park with Deacon Marco Castillo of Our Lady of Guadalupe elevating the Holy Eucharist in the Monstrance half the distance and Our Lady of Guadalupe Pastor, Father Constantino "Tino" Rocha elevating for the final leg. Father Tino then presided over the Solemn Benediction. The day ended with a shared meal at Sacred Heart.



Diocesan Pilgrims Join Bishop Rhoades for Audience with Pope Francis



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Rhoades poses with priests, a seminarian, and pilgrims from our diocese in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on Friday, June 19, before going into the Vatican Library to be part of an audience with Pope Francis as he spoke to members of the committees organizing the National Eucharistic Revival and the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States. Pictured with Bishop Rhoades from the left are Mathew and Sharon Edmonds, Father Mark Hellinger, seminarian Patrick Ernst, Father Paolo Degasperi, Melissa and Jason Shanks, and Connie and Michael Joines.

Wine and Jazz Event Helps Students through Scholarships



Nicole Hahn

On Saturday, May 20, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Thomas Dillon Council 1014 in Huntington held a Wine Around the World event at their facility to raise money for the Rob Mayo Scholarship Fund. There were wine tastings and music presented by world-renowned four-time Grammy nominated jazz musician Denny Jiosa. The event brought in more than \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. Scholarships assist Catholic graduating high school seniors and go toward their first year of college. The scholarship was created in memory of Rob Mayo, Property Manager of St. Felix Monastery, after he passed away.

Bishop Rhoades Emphasizes Support for Moms and Unborn Babies at New Women's Care Center

BY KATHLEN MURRAY

The Women's Care Center recently opened a new location on Lake Avenue in Fort Wayne and received a special blessing from Bishop Rhoades on Friday, June 2, as part of an open house. The day's event was intended to dedicate the new building and to recognize the lifesaving work that takes place there.

Since the organization's launch in 1984 under Janet Smith — a University of Notre Dame professor who wanted to provide a resource for pregnant women based on Catholic moral principles — it has since grown to offer more locations and services, now spanning across 10 states. The newest addition to the Fort Wayne franchise is particularly significant as it is located a block away from Planned Parenthood. Susan Berndt, a sidewalk counselor with Right to Life next to Planned Parenthood said, "With this location, I think we have a better chance at saving mothers and their babies. If we can get to them from right outside of Planned Parenthood, we can help save them. It's great that the Women's Care Center is so close."

The event began with Women's Care Center Vice President of Client Care, Jenny Hunsberger, thanking all of the volunteers and staff of the Fort Wayne centers for serving clients with compassion and care. She went on to give a special thanks to the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, which provided funding for the new location, Shawnee Construction for their efforts in the renovation of the building, and other vital benefactors who aided in



Photos by Katheen Murray

the center's opening.

Blessing the center, Bishop Rhoades said, "We ask you now to bless and sanctify this place which is dedicated to the wellbeing of mothers and their children, both born and unborn. Accept the offering and heartfelt desires of all who will visit and work in this place, and let your Holy angels be appointed here to bring peace. May expectant mothers be brought to the safe delivery of healthy children, and may your blessing ever rest upon all mothers who come here that they may grow in maternal love. Guard the lives that are yours, almighty God, and grant them your everlasting light through Christ."

Following the blessing, attendees were encouraged to walk through the building to view the newly constructed exam rooms, ultrasound equipment, counseling rooms, and other offerings of the new center, which include free preg-



Bishop Rhoades blesses the new Women's Care Center on Lake Avenue prior to an Open House to celebrate the opening of this third location in Fort Wayne on Friday, June 2.

nancy testing, free ultrasounds, confidential counseling, support, and education.

Stephen Jagla, a member of the Women's Care Center Foundation that supports the operations of the Women's Care Center, explained that all of the center's service offerings are aimed at "helping women have healthy pregnancies" by providing a non-judgmental and non-political environment and offering wraparound care services to support them through their pregnancies and after the baby is born. "Everything is ultimately just about loving the woman and helping them choose life, have

healthy pregnancies, and helping them to become great parents," said Jagla.

The organization helps approximately 30,000 women annually. The Fort Wayne Centers serve a multitude of zip codes across their three locations, with the highest need being in the 46806 zip code. "The highest infant mortality rate is in the 46806 zip code. I'm glad that we are now able to serve that community," stated Anne Koehl, Director of the Fort Wayne centers. "Most of these mothers are vulnerable. They have no insurance, no doctors, and are usually in a poor relationship and are very alone. A lot of the women we meet are having their first baby, so we offer them different types of classes, such as delivery and care, and parenting classes. By taking the classes, we offer them coupons to shop in our stores for baby clothes and other items."

The organization is funded solely on donations. Items they are most in need of are baby clothes, diapers, and books. Donations can be dropped off at any of their three locations, 2910 Lake Avenue, 921 West Coliseum Boulevard, or 4600 West Jefferson Boulevard. Financial donations can also be made online through the Women's Care Center website at womenscarecenter.org/fortwayne.

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The Truth About **Abortion** & **Women's Health**

Abortion does not save women's lives.

Abortion is the **direct** and **intentional** killing of a child in the womb.

Abortion is never medically necessary. It does not treat or solve any pregnancy-related complication.

Outlawing abortion will not affect treatment for miscarriage.

Treatment for miscarriage and abortion is not the same thing.

There is a complete moral and legal difference between losing a child through miscarriage and intentionally taking the life of a child.

In the tragic case of miscarriage, surgery may be necessary—and is an ethical treatment—to remove the remains of an unborn child who has already died.

While the same surgery is done to perform an abortion, abortions impose this procedure on a living child with the **intention** of ending his or her life.

Women can get the lifesaving treatments they need—without abortion.

In rare cases, and in the absence of better alternatives, life-threatening maternal health conditions may require interventions that **indirectly** and **unintentionally** lead to the death of an unborn child. **Abortion restrictions will not prevent women from receiving these treatments.**

When the lives of mother and child are in immediate danger, the goal is to fight to save both patients. **Effective treatments exist that seek to save the life of the mother and *never* to intentionally harm her unborn child.**

When a woman's life is at risk in pregnancy, preterm delivery may be used as a lifesaving medical intervention to preserve the life of both mother and child.¹

Ectopic pregnancies result when an embryo implants outside the uterus—often in the fallopian tube. Sadly, such embryos cannot survive and this condition can pose serious risks to the mother. While ectopic pregnancies sometimes resolve naturally, interventions are often necessary.

When done ethically, treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is not abortion. Ethical interventions include the removal of the damaged fallopian tube containing the embryo or, if embryo death has already occurred, medication can be used to resolve the ectopic pregnancy.

Bottom line: Abortion restrictions never prevent women from receiving life-saving treatment.²

If you or someone you know is struggling after involvement in an abortion, the Church offers confidential, compassionate help through Project Rachel Ministry. Visit www.hopeafterabortion.org for more information.

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¹ Buskmiller, C. 2018. "The ethics of interstitial and cesarean scar ectopic pregnancies: four case studies and a review of the literature". The Linacre Quarterly 85(3): 252-269.

² For further information on these topics, reference: [1] National Catholic Bioethics Center, "Medical Interventions During Pregnancy in Light of Dobbs," <https://www.ncbcenter.org/ncbc-news/bioethics-public-policy-report-august-12-2022-ezgx2>. [2] American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, "Myth vs. Fact: Correcting Misinformation on Maternal Medical Care," https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AAPLOG-Myth-v-Fact_v5.pdf.

St. John Youth Persevered, Served Through Cancer Battle

BY DENISE FEDOROW

About a year ago, the Woodiel family of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen received the devastating and completely unexpected news that their firstborn son Jack had a rare cancer.

Today, 14-year-old Jack is cancer free and he and his parents, Tom and Amanda, shared their journey of the past year and how it at times tested and strengthened their faith. Despite going through chemotherapy, Jack continued his altar server duties and continued playing basketball.

Amanda shared the timeline of Jack's diagnosis and treatment, saying that it was a routine physical exam for Jack on June 17, 2022, prior to attending Boy Scout camp.

"I would've said he was my healthiest kid. They found a tumor bigger than a golf ball in the groin area and sent us straight to the hospital for an ultrasound," she said.

Amanda called her husband Tom and then they were referred to a urologist on June 22.

Jack added, "The doctors were stumped. They didn't know what to think. They kept saying the 'vast majority of these are benign but the tumor is so big.' And they kept asking me, 'didn't you feel this?'"

Jack hadn't felt it and had no symptoms.

Tom added, "At any rate, it's a tumor and needs to be removed."

They were then referred to a pediatric urologist at Riley in Fort Wayne on July 11 and he was also stumped.

"He had his medical team look at it — they were pretty sure it was cancer," Amanda said, adding they wanted to remove it right away but Jack was due to attend Catholic summer camp in Damascus, Ohio, so they asked to have the surgery postponed a week and it was scheduled for July 29. On Aug. 9, they got the call that the test was positive, it was cancer.

The diagnosis was groin lymph node sarcoma, a rare cancer with only 500 cases annually in the United States. The next surgery was an abdominal lymph node dissection, which removed about 30 lymph nodes from the abdomen.

Amanda said the urologist called a member of his team to assist in the surgery. "The first day they could do it was Sept. 8 — the Blessed Mother's birthday — so we felt good about that. We had someone praying every half hour from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., sometimes 2-3 people per half hour."



The Woodiel family stands on the steps of their historic home. The family tried to maintain normalcy through Jack's cancer journey. Pictured in the bottom row are Mary and Irene. Eli and Joe are in the middle row. Amanda, Jack, and Tom are in the back row.

After the surgery, they were referred to who they were told was "the best doctor in the world for this type of cancer." He'd treated Lance Armstrong. He told the family that Jack would only need one day of chemotherapy and there was a 95 percent chance it wouldn't come back.

"We were so happy. We were celebrating," Amanda said. "Then we got the phone call the next day from his assistant saying that the doctor couldn't treat Jack because he was younger than 18 so they were referred to another doctor at Riley who gave them the 'unfortunate news' a week later that all children with this cancer all over the world are treated the same, no matter what and that meant 20 chemotherapy sessions over 22 weeks."

They were referred to Memorial Hospital in South Bend so it would be closer. He had an additional surgery to insert a port and had chemotherapy sessions every Wednesday from Nov. 2 through March 29. The last scan was April 12, 2023, and it was clear.

Faith Stories

Jack, who was 13 at the time of his diagnosis, (he turned 14 a few weeks later) shared how his faith sustained him. "I had a very good experience at Damascus," he said.

He said he didn't know when he went to the camp

that it was cancer for sure. His mom interjected that she tried to tell him, "But the Lord must've blocked his ears. He doesn't remember."

But Jack shared at a prayer group meeting that he was scared it was cancer. "I just put it out there that I was having surgery and the tumor might be cancer and that I was terrified and needed strength."

"Throughout the night, the most incredible thing happened. Everyone in the small group was slain by the Holy Spirit and I was knocked out," he said.

Jack explained the young people were overpowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit. "I felt a lot of peace and calm. It felt so heavy I just laid down. It was incredible. I know He's still there and He's going to be with me throughout this struggle."

He said that experience helped him be calmer on surgery day. He also shared the theme of the camp was the Eucharist, something he's been focusing on more. "He really is there, something that I don't always give credit to," he admitted. "And the connection of bodily suffering — His body suffered and my body is suffering now."

Jack is an altar server at St. John's and, except for a couple of times, he continued to serve during his chemotherapy treatments. He felt continuing to serve helped him. "I really enjoy serving at the altar, being in the action. The fact that I'm so close to the Lord and can

see everything the priest is doing, like washing his hands. Things like that helped me through as well."

His mom asked if he ever considered not serving since he lost all his hair. Jack responded only for a minute. He was given permission to wear baseball caps at Mass (he's collected 98) but he said, "In the end, I decided not to wear the baseball cap at Mass out of respect for what happens there."

Jack was also confirmed last October and he said after volunteering to answer two of the bishop's questions, Bishop Rhoades turned to Father Logan Parrish and asked, "Do you have information about the seminary for this young man?"

Jack laughed and admitted, "I have considered becoming a priest more since this happened."

Jack also served for Bishop Rhoades during the Mass at the Rekindle the Fire men's conference.

Jack was also meeting regularly with a group of boys he was confirmed with and they were a big support for him as were so many people in the parish. He said he received lots of medals and Rosaries and a relic of Blessed Carlos Acutis and Blessed Solanus Casey. He shared one time when he had a fever of 100.4 and had to go to the emergency room that he was told if the fever continued more than 24 hours, he'd need to return. He had a fever all day but when he went to bed,

"At mom's suggestion, I placed the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis under my pillow and in the morning my fever was gone."

Fighting Irish and Make a Wish

While at the hospital, Jack was asked if he was interested in becoming connected with the Notre Dame Athletics Fighting Irish Fight for Life program and he said sure. He asked about being assigned to the basketball team and he was. They were invited to a Christmas party with the Notre Dame Basketball team and they signed a document making him an honorary member.

They attended a couple of games, went to the locker room to meet players, and a couple of players visited him at the hospital. He was also assigned to the fencing team and attended the one match that is hosted at Notre Dame. They gifted him with all sorts of sports gear.

"They were just the kindest people," Amanda said.

Jack's Make a Wish request will be fulfilled this fall. He asked for an extended concrete pad for basketball and an in-ground hoop with nighttime lights.

The doctors said Jack could continue to play basketball if he felt like it. He only missed a couple games the whole season. "He showed such remarkable perseverance," Amanda said.

When asked what he attributed that perseverance to, Jack responded, "It was something I could focus on. I knew there'd be a lot of changes and I didn't want this to change."

After the first chemo treatment he had a game and Amanda wrapped him up in bandages so he wouldn't damage his port. After that, he wore a heart guard over the port. "Every time we got a new nurse they'd say, 'You're the boy who still played basketball. I heard about you!' and we realized then they didn't think he would," Amanda said.

Parents Tested

Amanda and Tom shared the difficulty of seeing their child go through cancer. Amanda said the anxiety before the diagnosis was harder. She said, "Once he was diagnosed, at least I no longer had to have the fear of getting the news that it's cancer."

"There were so many people praying. It was so humbling. I didn't feel alone very much," she added.

Amanda shared that after the first surgery, she had to bring Jack home by herself. She wanted the family of seven to stay as normal as possible. "I was determined to not let cancer steal any more of our joy than



Photos by Denise Fedorow

Altar server Jack Woodiel carries the thurible during Holy Thursday Mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen. Woodiel continued to serve during his chemotherapy treatments for a rare cancer.

necessary.”

Their son Eli had a basketball tournament in Chicago the day of Jack's surgery, so the coach took him. Tom and their son Joe went down to Indianapolis for the surgery and after Jack was in recovery, they headed to Chicago. Amanda said the ride home was rough and that Jack was in such pain that he moaned and groaned. She said it was midnight before they got home. After getting

him to bed, Amanda said she took a shower and cried, “Lord, where are you? I felt I heard Him say, ‘I am saving his life.’ I held onto that throughout the whole thing.”

As time went on, she looked for what she called ‘hugs from heaven’ by way of a card or text or gift or something outside in nature. “God was very gracious in His consolation during this time. I felt He was near even though it was hard.”

Two other quotes she held onto that were shared with her were, “Jesus said, ‘Honor me by trusting me in your days of trouble,’ and ‘This life is the only chance we have to praise God in the suffering.’”

People were there to help in a myriad of ways, giving magic DVDs and trick balls to occupy Jack during treatments, butchering a pig for meat, giving baseball hats, holding chili cook-off and trivia fundraisers, and much more.

“The true kindness and generosity of the people — the Body of Christ,” she said.

Tom admitted, “I didn’t handle it near as well as Amanda. I was a wreck some days. I stuck with my daily fasting and Rosary. I just stuck with the disciplines of my faith, but I was prone to despair some days, especially in the beginning.”

When faced with that despair, he persevered with those faith practices and kept going to work, even though his instinct was to stay home. Tom is part of a Rekindle the Fire men’s group at St. John. “They’re just a close-knit group of guys who always reached out to see how I was doing.”

He also mentioned the fundraisers held at church. “It was so amazing and very humbling.”

Tom also said he developed more of a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through



Jack Woodiel holds the certificate he received after completing chemotherapy. Next to it is his framed signed memorabilia as an honorary member of the University of Notre Dame's basketball team and a basketball that guests who attended his recent celebration party signed.

this ordeal and the Surrender Novena they did together.

Amanda said the Surrender Novena was “big for me, too.”

Tom mentioned an emotional time for him was when he stayed overnight at the hospital with Jack after a big treatment. Jack was in the bathroom doubled over with nausea and on the television, the World Series game was on and it was a Stand up 2 Cancer night.

He choked up recalling it. “I was sitting by Jack’s side, feeling totally helpless and here’s all these people in the stadium holding signs, commemorating Stand up 2 Cancer.”

Jack added when thinking of devotionals, he developed a new one to Saint Peregrine. “Before I thought, I’d never identify with that saint!”

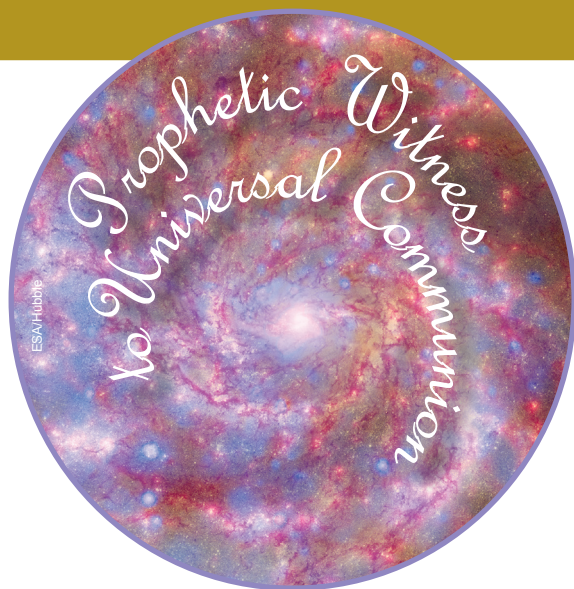
When Jack was asked whether he was able to offer up his suffering to unite it to Christ’s, he shared he read something somewhere that said, “If angels could envy us, it would be for two things — receiving the Eucharist and suffering.”

He continued, “My goal, my objective for all this was if one person, I didn’t care if I ever found out who it was, could be converted to Catholicism. Other times I’d offer it for different people.”

Jack said he was sharing that goal with his pastor, Father Royce Gregerson, who “mentioned that he had a friend who was always anti-Catholic and right about the time I started chemo, he was opening up to starting RCIA. Possibly that’s the person?”

The family is grateful for all the support they received and the prognosis for Jack is good. He’ll need scans for five years and has an approximate 90 percent chance of remaining cancer free.

Prophetic Witness to Universal Communion



75 Years

† Mary Angeleen Brill
Mary Catherine Dundon
Mary Joyce Merten
Mary Faith Parkinson
Mary Magdala Winter

70 Years

Louise Marie Benecke
Catherine Marie Brandt
Helen Bronner
Evelyn Dangel
Monica Grathwohl
M. Paulanne Gruber
Janis Haustein
Aloyse Hessburg
Mary Paul Holdmeyer
† M. Agnes Claire Krogman
Mary Alyce Lach
M. Yolanda Latessa
Grace Marie Mueller
Joyce Ploch
Carol Polzyn
† Sylvia Provost
Mary Ancilla Sakaguchi
Gladys Schmitz
M. Petrann Sieben
Dolores Marie Siebenmorgen
Mary Adelyn Vokal

Anastasia Wehner
Marion Welter

60 Years

Mary Hope Billing
Rosemary Bonk
Frances Buschell
Mary Ellen Doherty
Jean Ellman
Joyce Engle
Carol George
Joanne Hanrahan
Dana Marie Heffner
Ruth Hinderer
M. Gloria Hirai
Rose Rita Huelsmann
Mary Canisia Hyodo
M. Evangela Imamura
Susan Jordan
Nicolette Karcher
Miriam Thomas Kessens
M. Lauretta Rose Koscielniak
Dorothy Land
Rosalyce Mercurio
Reina Marie Quiroz
Barbara Rupp
Del Marie Rysavy
Shannon Marie Scallon
Lynne Schmidt

† Laura Jean Spaeth
Loriann Stanton
M. Anita Takagi
Margie Ann Thole
M. Jeannette Toyosato
JoAnn Volk
Sharon Waldoch
Jane Frances Wand
Marcia Mary Zofkie

50 Years

Dawn Achs
Catherine Bertrand
Linda Marie Bos
Jean Ersfeld
Jeanne Goessling
Patricia Gravemann
Patricia Gunn
Gayle Hurban
Madeleine Lane
Mary Ann Osborne
Janet Tanaka
Mary Martha Waligora
Karen Warren

40 Years

Anna Marie Reha
Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Uchytel

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province



† Deceased in 2023

Jubilee 2023

Holy Smokes Bourbon and Cigar Event Brings Men Together to Support A Mother's Hope

BY ANDREW JACOBS

"I played in the NFL, but football's not who I am. First and foremost, I'm a son of God." This was one of the points made by speaker Shawn Harper at this year's Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar event, a fundraiser for A Mother's Hope, a ministry that supports pregnant homeless mothers and their babies in Allen County.

A Mother's Hope was conceived in 2013 by Stasia Roth, Founder and Executive Director, at a time in which she was feeling overwhelmed by seeing the pain and suffering of so many people in the world. "I asked God to make it stop, and instead he sent me an idea and a calling. My husband John encouraged me to pursue it."

The organization began to take shape in 2015, and in 2017, the property was acquired that would become A Mother's Hope house and a major renovation was undertaken by many generous volunteers in the community at very little cost.

A Mother's Hope serves an average of 20 women and babies per year, more than 200 women and 170 babies to date. "Our residents' backgrounds vary widely," Roth said, "but they all have two things in common: they are pregnant and experiencing homelessness." The house hosts eight women at a time who follow a four-stage program. Stage 1 is the Welcome stage and lasts the first 30 days. In it, the residents receive intensive case management and counseling and take many courses that rotate throughout the year covering topics such as financial literacy, healthy relationships, parenting, and nutrition. Stage 2 is Pregnancy, and Stage 3 is Postpartum Pause, which lasts about six weeks. Stage 4 is Transitioning, when residents make final plans and preparations to leave the house. Residents can stay for up to one year after their baby is born.

Roth talked about the vision of A Mother's Hope, "It is new futures for women, children, and beyond. We know that what we are doing with these moms and their babies can have a positive ripple effect down through generations. The mission is to be a refuge for pregnant homeless women that increases their opportunities for stability, which is our real focus."

The Holy Smokes event originated with Jake Laskowski, the first male member of A Mother's Hope's



Photos by Andrew Jacobs

Attendees at the Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar fundraiser for A Mother's Hope fundraising event on Thursday, June 15, enjoy fellowship at The Charles Fort Wayne, a venue which features both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Board of Directors. "I consider myself a pretty pro-life guy," says Laskowski. "Every first Tuesday in November, I vote with this goal in mind and hope for the best. In 2017, I got an email from Stasia about A Mother's Hope. These women are pregnant and alone because the first man that should be involved in each of their lives — who was involved in the process of making a baby — decided to fail them. So, the reason A Mother's Hope has to exist is because of this masculine failure, which demands a robust, strong masculine response. I knew it was my opportunity to be more active in the pro-life cause."

Laskowski conceived of the idea for Holy Smokes to get more men involved. "It bothered me that there were not more men supporting A Mother's Hope. So, five or six years ago I conjured up this idea for a men's event with bourbon and cigars to get them more involved and it's been great to see it continue to grow."

Holy Smokes is a men's only event that centers around bourbon tasting, sampling cigars, dinner, and a talk by an engaging speaker. This year's event was held on Thursday, June 15, at The Charles Fort Wayne, and featured bourbon by Cedar Creek Carry Out, cigars by Rudy's, and a buffet dinner by The Orchid.

The speaker was Shawn Harper, former NFL offensive lineman. He spent his 7-year NFL career with the LA Rams, Tennessee Titans,



Former NFL player and now CEO, author, and speaker Shawn Harper delivers an engaging talk at the Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar fundraiser for A Mother's Hope fundraising event on Thursday, June 15, at The Charles Fort Wayne, discussing overcoming adversity, adopting a 'Play to Win' mind shift, and forming a team to win in life's endeavors.

Indianapolis Colts, and in NFL Europe. Since 2004, Harper has owned and operated his company, American Services and Protection, a security firm based in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Harper applies many of the lessons learned through football to his business and his life. He authored the book "Play to Win" and has been a motivational speaker for 25 years.

Harper had several key messages for the men attending the event. "I grew up in hardship and adversity. My mother was a maid but managed to raise six kids. I had a bad stutter and had to repeat first grade. So-called experts diagnosed me with so many learning disabilities that they told my mother I'd never be a normal kid. But she told them, 'You will not label my child.' She told me I was not disabled, but uniquely enabled."

Harper played high school football but continued to struggle while playing at a community college. "I wrote a list of reasons why I couldn't be successful, but I told myself I can be more than just successful. I can win. In that moment, my life's trajectory changed. It wasn't a mindset; it was a mind shift. I began to do what winners do. They go all in. They separate themselves by working harder than everyone else."

This mind shift helped Harper land a position with the Indiana Hoosiers football team, then in the NFL. "Every one of us is born a winner," Harper said, "but often life tells us we



Attendees at the Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar fundraiser for A Mother's Hope fundraising event on Thursday, June 15, at The Charles Fort Wayne enjoy a buffet dinner with food provided by The Orchard.



Attendees sample cigars at the Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar fundraiser for A Mother's Hope fundraising event on Thursday, June 15, at The Charles Fort Wayne, with cigars provided by Rudy's.



Attendees taste various types of bourbon at the Holy Smokes bourbon and cigar fundraiser for A Mother's Hope fundraising event on Thursday, June 15, at The Charles Fort Wayne, with bourbon provided by Cedar Creek Carry Out.

aren't. And winners have the humility to build a great team around them. I'm here today because I had a front line of teammates on and off the field, teachers, coaches, and others who covered for me, prayed for me, interceded for me. A Mother's Hope needs men like you as their offensive linemen, their silent warriors who can come alongside them, support them, and help them win in their cause. Organizations like this one supported my mother when she raised all six of us by herself."

Roth explained that a team of women work behind the scenes at A Mother's Hope.

"We have a staff of 17 who work tirelessly 24/7. We depend on community support, and the number one way is prayer. We try to keep our costs down, but expenses continue to rise. Our monthly and annual donors keep us going. If everyone gives even a little, and tells other people about us, it adds up. Being able to go back to the house and tell the residents that there is a group of men out there supporting them helps show them that men can be a positive in their lives."

To support A Mother's Hope, visit sites.google.com/amhfw.org/inside/.

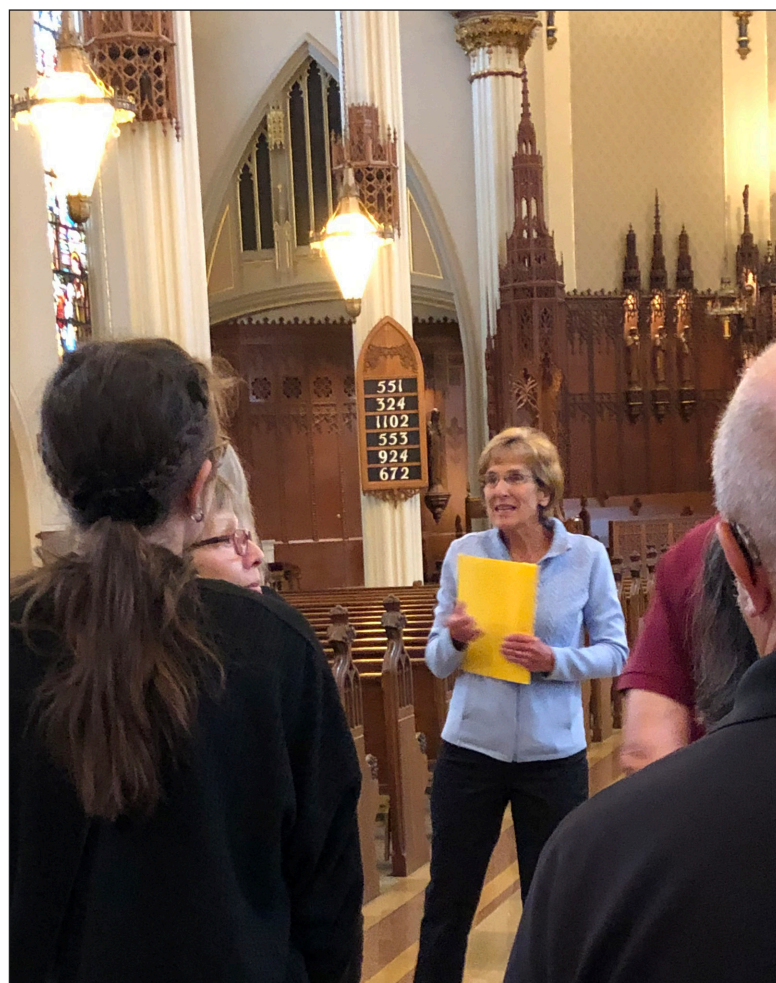
St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parishioners Take Pilgrimage within Diocese

BY ERIKA BARRON

When we think of Catholic Pilgrimages, we often think of traveling to Rome, the Holy Land, or Fatima. Some of the faithful at St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City decided, thanks to the suggestion of their Pastor, Father Louis Fowoyo, to make pilgrimages right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Along with Father Fowoyo, a group of about 20 parishioners did just that by visiting the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Diocesan Museum in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, June 7, to discover some of the rich history of Catholics in the area.

Pilgrims began their morning by taking a tour of the Cathedral, led by docent, or guide, Patty Didier, a parishioner at the Cathedral for nearly 50 years. Didier shared with the group important facts and history of the grand building. She talked about the original structure on the land, St. Augustine Church, the great lengths Father Julian Benoit went to in raising money to build the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (including trips to New Orleans and his homeland of France where he raised about \$46,000), and the close connection Father Benoit had to the Miami tribe of Native Americans. Didier continued the tour by pointing out the beautiful details of the church, such as the one-of-a-kind stained-glass windows depicting scenes from the Blessed Mother's life, the mission crucifix, the oldest object in the church which once belonged in St. Augustine, and the Immaculate Conception statue located on the facade of the Cathedral made from zinc and weighing two tons. The pilgrims followed Didier around the parish, admiring the beautiful statues, unique stations of the cross, and ornately carved reredos, taking in the history of each object. They then visited the sacristy and the crypt. Here they said a prayer, thanking God for the holy men buried there, including Father Benoit and former bishops of the diocese.

After their tour of the Cathedral, the pilgrims went next door to the Diocesan Museum where Director Kathy Imler welcomed the group and shared the history of the unique museum, carefully curated through the years by Father Philip Widman. Imler led the pilgrims on a tour, sharing the rich history of the many objects located within the museum, some of which include the croziers and mitres



Photos by Erika Barron

Docent Patty Didier leads Pilgrims from St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City on a history-filled tour of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, June 7.



Director of the Diocesan Museum, Kathy Imler, right, welcomes St. Gaspar del Bufalo pilgrims to the museum on Wednesday, June 7.

of former bishops, historic statues, relics, and even a bowl dating back to the time of Abraham. The group, many of whom had never been to the museum, took in the details and beauty of every object. After their tour, the pilgrims returned to the Cathedral to

pray the rosary and attend Mass.

The True Presence Traverses the D

DAY 1
Fort Wayne to Arcola - 10 miles



Following the opening Mass of the eight-day Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 4, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Father Stephen Felicichia of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne carries the monstrance down the nave as he leaves the church, bound for the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel next door in a solemn procession for the praying of a Eucharistic Holy Hour of Adoration.



Following behind the cross after leaving Promenade Park in Fort Wayne, the group of pilgrims walk for the first mile of the Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 4.



Pilgrims pray the rosary as the group makes its way closer to the end of the first 10.7 miles to St. Patrick's Church in Arcola.

DAY 2
Arcola to Churubusco - 12 miles



Father Stephen Felicichia carries the monstrance under the canopy as the sun shines down during day two of the eight-day Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Procession on Monday, June 5.



Pilgrims join Father Felicichia for part of the 12-mile Eucharistic Procession going from Arcola to Churubusco.

DAY 3
Churubusco to Albion - 16.5 miles



Deacon Roger Dinius from St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington leads the way on day three of the Eucharistic Procession on Tuesday, June 6.



A pilgrim helps carry the canopy that covers Father Stephen Felicichia as he carries the monstrance while the group sings and prays along the way.



Deacon Roger Dinius swings the thurible of incense ahead of the pilgrims and the monstrance during the 16.5-mile procession from Churubusco to Albion.

DAY 4
Albion to Ligonier



A new group of pilgrims sets out for the Eucharistic Procession on day four of the procession on Wednesday, June 7.



Father Felicichia holds the monstrance as he walks under the canopy.



Pilgrims process through the fields on day four of the procession, miles from Albion to Ligonier.

Diocese from Cathedral to Cathedral

13 miles



...out with Father Stephen
Eucharistic Procession on



monstrance in front of his
canopy in the procession.



Photos by Joshua Schipper
...e streets as part of the 13
...er.

DAY 5
Ligonier to Goshen - 20 miles



Day five of the eight-day Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Procession is the longest for Father Felicichia and the pilgrims as they cover 20 miles on Thursday, June 8.



A cross is held high leading Father Felicichia through the procession from Ligonier to Goshen.



Photos by Joshua Schipper
Pilgrims follow the monstrance through the streets as the sun shines down during the procession.

DAY 6
Goshen to Elkhart - 12 miles



Father Felicichia leads day six of the Eucharistic Procession on Friday, June 9, following Mass at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.



Dozens of pilgrims join the 12-mile route from Goshen to Elkhart to take part in the procession.



Father Felicichia carries the monstrance with no canopy cover during part of the Eucharistic Procession on day six.



Photos by Joshua Schipper
Faithful from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend felt called to take part in at least some of the Eucharistic Procession.

DAY 7
Elkhart to Mishawaka - 9 miles



Father Stephen Felicichia leads pilgrims out to begin day seven of the procession on Saturday, June 10, after celebrating Mass at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart.



Father Felicichia leads the pilgrims across Prairie Street as he carries the monstrance under canopy during the 9-mile procession from Elkhart to Mishawaka.



Participants carry a cross and candles ahead of the monstrance as they process through neighborhoods on the pilgrimage.



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski
Some pilgrims wore special shirts to show their participation in the Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

DAY 8 Mishawaka to South Bend - 8 miles



Father Stephen Felicichia is surrounded by pilgrims as part of the eighth and final day of the Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 11.



Four Sisters carry the canopy above Father Felicichia during the final eight-miles on the last day of the procession from Mishawaka to South Bend.



Father Felicichia arrives with the monstrance at the final destination of St. Matthew Cathedral.

Celebration with Bishop Rhoades Ends Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

“Together we walk the road to Emmaus side by side with the risen Christ. We hope everyone who walked a mile or the whole journey was rejuvenated in Christ and is set on fire to change your community,” said Will Peterson of Modern Catholic Pilgrim and organizer of the eight-day Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage from Fort Wayne to South Bend from June 4 to June 11.

The faithful from across the diocese had the chance to come together in faith, feel a strong sense of community and belonging, witness hospitality from people along the journey, and view God’s beauty in nature in a special Eucharistic Procession held in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage set for the summer of 2024 across the United States as part of the National Eucharistic Revival.

“Last Sunday, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, after Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Father Stephen Felicichia carried the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a group of the faithful, to St. Patrick Church in Arcola, thus beginning a Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic procession and pilgrimage. This past week, people joined the procession as it moved then from Arcola to Churubusco, then on to Albion, Ligonier, Goshen, Elkhart, Mishawaka, and ending the 100-mile trek this morning here at St. Matthew Cathedral on this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, Corpus Christi,” said Bishop Rhoades at the closing Mass in South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades continued, “Father Stephen and all who processed with him the whole 100 miles or part of those miles walked with the Lord through streets, on sidewalks and fields, stopping at parish churches each night, celebrating Mass and Adoration daily, reaching the end of the pilgrimage here today on this feast when the Church celebrates with special devotion the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist. I pray that this cross-diocesan pilgrimage, which has been a pilot preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimages next July, will bring many blessings to our diocese. A week from tomorrow, Bishop Andrew Cozzens and I will be meeting with Pope Francis in Rome, God-willing if the Holy Father recovers well from his recent surgery, where he will bless the monstrance that will be used at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis next July.”

The journey had a core group of four people with as many as 80 people who would join from time to time along the way. Some came to Mass and walked a few miles, while others joined at different points of the route.

“Seeing people go down to their knees in their front yard as we walk by and then go to the parish was impactful,” said Peterson. “The hospitality of people in the diocese has been tremendous.”

Each day, the core team walked



Joshua Schipper

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass to end the eight-day Cross-Diocesan Eucharistic Procession at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 11.

their specified distance with other pilgrims. At the end of the day, they had the chance to enjoy delicious meals provided by parishes and parishioners, celebrate in prayer through Mass, and rest at parish sites or in the homes of generous participants. A big concern, and at times a big obstacle of the trip, was the route. So, every evening, the planning team would scout the route and make sure it was obstacle free and safe for the walkers. Sometimes, tweaks to the route were needed to ensure a safe terrain for pilgrims.

Participants joined the pilgrimage for many different reasons, some with family and friends and others walked solo. Many could only participate in part of the journey because of work or family commitments but spent as much time as possible in prayer and adoration of the Eucharist.

Eric Bradley joined the group at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart with his three-year-old son Luke. His 13-year-old son did the 12-mile walk from St. John the Evangelist in Goshen the day before, inspiring dad to join. “It’s good to take Jesus to the streets,” said Bradley. “My son said it was very moving.”

Anne Oliva, a Queen of Peace parishioner who attended the evening Mass at her church, found herself called to be part of the last mile of the journey. She and her daughter Catherine joined the 1.2-mile Solemn Procession that began at Veterans Memorial Park and ended at St. Matthew Cathedral. “I think it’s important to have a public procession about the Eucharist,” said Anne.

Catherine agreed and said, “It’s so important for us to make that public witness.” She was unable to attend more of the pilgrimage because of work commitments but had a wonderful evangelization moment as a result of the group passing her workplace and having the opportunity to explain to a colleague why people were walking past the building.

“I hope people get a strengthening of our faith and a deeper meaning of our faith, that we are not alone, and that God is always with us,” said Anne. She said that she is so happy

the diocese is doing something like this with the community. She noted that in older times, people went on pilgrimages to pray for safety during times of war and division. With all the tough times happening in our world, she feels this is something society needs. “Maybe this will add protection to our area,” said Anne.

During the homily at Mass, Bishop Rhoades shared, “When we are properly disposed and open our hearts to the graces of Holy Communion, we are transformed into what we receive. Nourished by the Eucharist, the capacity of our souls to love, even to love our enemies and to forgive injuries, grows. It is not an accident that Christ gave the ‘new commandment’ to love one another as He has loved us, right after giving the disciples their first Holy Communion.”

He continued, “At Mass, we meet Jesus on Calvary. And we are joined to His sacrifice of love for the redemption of the world. We unite our lives, our praise, sufferings, prayers, and works with those of Christ and His total offering of Himself. Then, in Holy Communion, we receive His Body given up for us and His Blood poured out for us. We enter into profound communion with Jesus who nourishes and strengthens us to live in His love and to bear witness to His love in the world. We do this not only as individuals but also as His Body, the Church, bound together by the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist that makes us one body in Christ. It is no wonder that Saint Augustine, before the greatness of this mystery, exclaimed: ‘O sacrament of devotion! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!’”

Bishop Rhoades ended his homily by saying, “My brothers and sisters, this is how Jesus builds up His Church — through the Eucharist. He transforms us into unity with Himself and with one another. On this Solemnity of Corpus Christi, we give thanks for the great gift of this new manna from heaven. May we always receive Holy Communion with humility, properly disposed, with reverence and adoration, and with love and devotion.”

For All the Fathers

During the month of June, we celebrate Father's Day, when we honor all fathers. In honor of Father's Day, we at Today's Catholic asked our readers to share a memory about how their dad practiced his Catholic faith, how he taught them to be faithful, or why his Catholic faith was so important to them. We hope you enjoy these beautiful stories!



William Thomas

Grand Pap was my mentor as I grew up in a small home, built by the labor of my father's hands on the far corner of Grand Pap's farm. From the time I began to walk, I followed a path from our kitchen door up the hill to Grand Pap's farmhouse and barn. I remember as a child that I couldn't wait to see Grand Pap on a daily basis. He had a magnetism about him that kept drawing me back. He was a very prayerful man who attended daily Mass and received Holy Communion. Grandma Mary died when I was five years old and I have only faint recollections of her snapping off ends of green beans from Grand Pap's Garden. She passed away during her sleep in her own bed at home during a three-foot snowstorm on Nov. 30, 1950. She was laid out in her own home for three days where many came to pay their respects. After her burial, I had Grand Pap's undivided attention for the final six years of his life. Grand Pap taught me farming and the love of animals as there were dogs, cats, chickens, pigs, goats, and cows for milking on the farm. He labored long hours each day feeding the animals, milking cows, and cleaning the pens where they stayed when they were not grazing. Summer meant working in the vegetable gardens as well as the apple, cherry, peach, pear, and plum orchards. Grand Pap had a small grape vineyard as well, along with a beautiful flower garden of roses, peonies, and irises that reeked a heavenly aroma when picked and put

into vases in his home. I loved working alongside Grand Pap, who always found time for me when I was around to pester him.

At Easter, Grand Pap always prepared cigar boxes of candy with marshmallow peeps for all 13 of his grandkids. At Christmas, he managed to have a stocking filled with fruit and candy for each of his grandchildren. As children, we idolized him and felt his undivided love for each of us. As we grew, he encouraged us spiritually as we sat each Sunday in the first two pews of St. Agnes Church in Bull Run, where everyone knew not to sit in these pews as they were reserved for the entire Thomas clan. Everyone in our parish knew and seemed to love Grand Pap, who never spoke poorly of anyone and was always offering a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He taught me the importance of being a servant and how to love my fellow man as well as how to pray for and respect the dead. St. Agnes Cemetery in Bull Run is filled with my ancestors, and each Memorial Day weekend, I went with Grand Pap to the Duquesne Nursery to buy flowers for the graves. We went from grave to grave where we would plant a flower and pray for their soul. This routine went on for years, and each time Grand Pap would tell stories of the life of the deceased family member for whom we were praying.

I became an altar server at Mass when I was nine years old, and in those days, we had to learn the Latin prayers and responses that were very difficult for me. I attended daily Mass with Grand Pap even on Saturdays when most young boys were either sleeping in or out causing trouble in the neighborhood. Grand Pap formed an image in my mind at a very young age of what a Catholic Christian man truly is. He was a pillar of strength and wisdom that I so idolized. I wanted to be just like him. Grand Pap died of lung cancer in April of 1956 at the age of 76, most likely from the cigars he smoked and the dust in the air from regularly cleaning five chicken coops. His death was devastating to me. At the age of 11, my hero and mentor was gone forever, but his memory still lingers on in my mind and heart. Today, I am the Paw Paw of five grandkids whom I love dearly. I hope that when they think about me, they feel the same love and respect that I have for my Grand Pap."

— David C. Thomas

Paul Ueber

"My father, Paul Ueber, was very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Every night, there were exact times that he would pray for certain people and have them pray at that same time. For Jesus said if two or more are gathered in my name, there I am. Dad went to daily Mass and said the rosary daily. Our home was filled with statues and holy pictures. Every day in Lent, we gathered in the living room to pray the rosary together.

He showed me much about charity and alms giving. Dad was a dentist here in Fort Wayne. He had a large practice mostly due to the fact he charged so little. All the priests and sisters were free of charge. I remember a time my mother asked him to raise his prices, that we were having trouble making ends meet and his response was, 'the Lord will provide.' And somehow that always came true. The first 'bill' for the month to be paid would always be for the church. I remember him also saying, 'I want to make a living not a killing.' There were so many examples of his faith throughout my childhood. One that comes to mind recently was an old classmate of mine recalling at our high school reunion about the time her home flooded and who was at the door but their dentist with a huge pot of homemade chili. That was dad.

Fifteen years ago, my father passed from cancer. I was able to care for him at home. Sadly, I had drifted from the faith. Seeing the way he handled the pain from his illness, offering it up and not complaining, really stirred something in me. This is what it is all about. To love Jesus, God. To make it through the trials and to heaven.

Several weeks after dad passed, my brother John told me that he would have this recurring nightly dream at 3 a.m. of dad standing before the gates of heaven, being judged by some man to get in. The man was telling dad all the bad things he has done during his life and why he shouldn't enter. At dad's side was Mary advocating for him, saying 'Yes, but he has done this...' and so forth. Then dad would turn to my brother and say in the dream, 'John, you got to help me.' My brother would wake up and get up and pray the rosary. John said this went on for about two weeks straight. Finally, John said he spoke back to dad in

the dream, 'Hurry up and get in, I'm not getting any sleep.' The next night, he saw dad in a dream and told him thanks, everything was all right.

I know that dad's love and devotion to the Blessed Mother saved his soul. I know that it has turned mine around. Thank you, Lord, for my father."

— Karla Ueber

Tony Pesa

"My father practiced his Catholic faith in many ways, including making Sunday Mass his first priority. My dad had a stack of prayer cards from deceased friends and relatives that he prayed daily to secure their release from purgatory. Whether it was his health or financial issues, he was always certain that God would take care of him. He never complained about his many struggles but was an example of taking up our cross each day. Even as he was dying, he said his body was no longer working and he asked to see a priest, not a healthcare professional."

— The Owens Family



Ralph H. Smith

"My Dad was an 'Old World' kind of guy born in 1899, yet he was a modern intellectual thinker, respected by all he met. Growing up on the east side of Fort Wayne, he started out as a member of St. Mary's Parish and attended their grade school. Later, when St. John The Baptist opened, he and my mother, Sally, became members. Dad always believed that the 'best Catholics' went to early Mass and so for him that was a 6 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral, even though he would still go to church with my mother at St. John's later in the day. That continued until I came around in 1948, and then he just went to one

Mass each Sunday as a family. The 20th Century held many threats and challenges for families, but each were faced with perseverance, faith, and prayer. Dad and mom faced the Depression, which found dad unemployed for nearly a year. Then came along World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. Each of these were coped with by the family in prayer, led by my father. I know that starting in the Depression, the family said the rosary daily after dinner. That continued until he died in 1971. I hated it as a kid because it meant that I could not go out to play after dinner like the other kids in the neighborhood, at least until after rosary was over.

I'd suppose that the proof is in the pudding, as they say. All three of us kids were sent to Catholic grade schools and high schools. Sally (Ueber) went to Central Catholic and then St. Francis College. Shirley (Bertels) went to the convent high school at Mount Alverno and then to Loyola. I went to Bishop Luers and then Indiana University. It was the '70s' after all. My dad got the bonus reward when my sister Shirley, at age 14, entered the convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration to become a nun. Somewhere along the line, dad was given a poem on a card entitled 'I'm the Daddy of a Nun.' He loved that, considering it his greatest accomplishment. Sister Stephen Ann stayed faithful to that vocation for 21 years and left the sisterhood only after dad passed on. Although Shirley has passed on too, each of us kids remain faithful Catholics to this day. We all looked to our dad as our Guiding Light. That he was because he represented the Holy Spirit to us."

— Steve Smith

George M. Tschida

"One great memory I have of my father is walking to and from Our Lady of Hungary Church in South Bend. My sister and I were always given a 'second sermon.' This is when dad shared life skills with us. We didn't like it at the time but now know he had our undivided attention and shared his wisdom that I now appreciate."

— Judy Tschida Burmeister

FATHERS, from page 17



Donald Buchanan

"My dad, Donald 'Buck' Buchanan, was not raised a Catholic, but converted when he married my mom, Valeria. He chose St. Jude as his Confirmation Saint. Even as a very young child, I remember my family going to weekly Mass and we attended Catholic schools until we moved to Columbia City. Once we were in Columbia City and attended CCD classes at St. Paul of the Cross, we sometimes went to different Masses. My dad really liked our priest, Fr. Zenz, and he became an active member of the church because of him. When lay people were introduced as readers of the scripture during the Mass, dad was one of the first readers in our parish. He also was an active participant of the Men's Retreat program for the diocese. I remember him kneeling at the end of the bed to say his nightly prayers."

— Richard Buchanan



Tony Tippmann

"I think I was 19. I came to my dad one evening, venting to him about a tricky situation regarding friends. I was so upset and stressed. I will never forget him looking straight at me and saying, 'So, did you pray about it?' I said, 'I did.' He then said, 'So, what is the problem?' Point blank. He continued to ask, 'Do you think this is something God can't handle? If you prayed about it, you need to trust God that He will take care of it, and He will.' He explained that when we pray to God for help, then go right on worrying about

the issue (as if praying to Him wasn't going to get us anywhere), that is not truly trusting in Him. I thought about this deeply. His faith in God was solid. He and my mom gave us rules which I now know were to protect our souls. More importantly, he explained to us 'why' he did. I realize how hard it must have been to give us some of these rules and guidance. Like there were times I thought he was being so unfair! Now I am grateful beyond measure that he did not just take the easy way out and say, 'Whatever you want.' Looking back, some of those things would have been toxic to my soul. He also gave us the tools to receive God's graces that we so desperately needed throughout life's struggles. He had us say the family rosary almost every night. He went to daily Mass, and every time, he'd ask if we'd like to go with him. We would maybe go here and there, but more often, had many reasons we couldn't go. I now go to Mass every day and treasure it dearly. He would take accountability for his wrong-doings (which I know was not easy for him) and most Saturdays would go to confession (again encouraging us to go if we could). He could have justified, or 'smoothed over' his faults, but he didn't. His example was so impactful! He died of cancer in October of 2007, and even through the suffering, we learned from him how offering our sufferings up to God can be so redemptive. He always taught us to offer our struggles and suffering up to God for the salvation of souls and the conversion of sinners. I thank you Lord for giving us a dad as wonderful as him!"

— Martha Cavacini



George Crowe

"Our Dad, George Crowe, exemplifies a true Servant Leader. His love of God and neighbor and his strong faith has inspired and deepened not only our faith, but his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and more than 500 youth from St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church. Prior to his retirement as Youth Minister, dad spent

more than 30 years sharing his love of Christ with energy and enthusiasm, taking youth on trips to see Pope John Paul II and sleeping on church basement floors in Kentucky while on mission trips to serve those in need. He taught us family is much more than living under one roof. Through prayer, laughter, and building people up, dad makes everyone his family, with all Praise be to God."

— Michael Rethlake



Marshall Didier

"I owe much of my success in life to the lessons I learned from my parents. My father Marshall Didier was an amazing businessman and an incredible example of faithful leadership, and I miss the opportunity to seek his advice every day. I started working in our family business at a young age so I had an early opportunity to learn from the example he set of integrating his faith into how he conducted his business. He was adamant about keeping the Lord's Day sacred and he fought against the modern temptation to keep his stores open on Sunday. Anyone in retail, especially those working in small businesses, know how hard you must work to stay in business, but his family knew he would be there with us at least one day of the week. He and Agnes, my mom, were married 48 years until her death. They raised 12 children to pray the rosary and practice the faith in our daily lives. Dad sang in the Cathedral choir for more than six decades, and many of his children followed the example that he set by singing in the choir as well or serving during church as altar servers or lectors. He taught us to treat everyone with respect and to see everyone through Jesus's eyes. I am so thankful for his witness."

— Tom Didier



Charles Foster

My dad, Charles Foster, was a devout Catholic, who passed along the faith, especially showing his family — my mother Eileen, my sister Cheryl, and me — his love for God, and for us, day by day, in ways large and small. He was also a moral man of the world. Early on, dad learned that it was important, perhaps even necessary, to have a sense of humor. And he shared that humor with us. Here is one episode. It was Christmastime (I was 8 or 9 years old), and our tree and crèche were up. Dad and I were alone in the house while Mom and Cheryl were out shopping. Then Dad got an idea, and he asked me to help him make a tiny, television set for the Nativity scene. And so, down to the basement we went. He found a very small wood block and tapped in four nails, partway, into the 'bottom' of it, for the legs. As for the screen, we were a bit stumped until we thought of my comic books, and one in particular that had the individual cartoon characters featured on the cover, each on his own small 'TV screen.' Then, using my surgical skills (honed from playing the "Operation" game), I removed the picture (Donald Duck, I think), pasted it on the wood block, drew in the volume and channel dials, and voilà ... a TV set for the first Christmas! Now, our crèche had the usual set-up, with Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable, and the angel, shepherd, Three Kings, and most of the animals 'outside.' At first, we placed the TV set with just Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. I don't remember which one of us had the next thought — perhaps it was simultaneous inspiration — but we then gathered all of the figures, except for Jesus, to one side of the stable, 'watching TV,' with the Infant left alone on the other side. When the women folk returned, mom's single-word reaction was 'Charlie!' Both dad and I were laughing, but we intuitively knew that enough was enough. The toy TV set was 'retired,' but everything was okay because we were pretty sure that mom and Cheryl privately enjoyed 'their boys'

having their fun. Of course, this little humorous moment also had another message, which I now think was dad's intention all along: Is Jesus getting lost in the age of television? And what about today, and the age of the internet and social media? The family that prays together, stays together. And the family that has a healthy, hearty sense of humor is a family that is especially blessed. Thank you, dad. I look forward to being reunited with you and mom and Cheryl in the next life. Until then, please pray for us. No joke."

— George Foster

Donald Carpenter

"I was raised Methodist by two amazing Christian parents. They are the backbone of my belief in God and love of doing for those less fortunate. My parents taught us by example. There weren't discussions about doing certain things. We children saw every day our parents living a life of prayer and doing everything they could to help and inspire those in need. I couldn't wait to be old enough to help others like they did. We learned God first, mama second, then us children from actions — never words. Likewise, we never heard anyone referred to as someone from a different religious group or ethnic background. My parents had many friends of all faiths and ethnicities. They were just 'friends.' We were raised to honor God, parents, everyone! I became Catholic in my late 20s, something my parents supported, and I am trying to make them proud by doing good works. Mom and dad are my reason for being so close to God. Thank you, God, for blessing me with the most amazing parents you could find."

— Linda Carpenter Berger



Jerome Henry Sr.

"Jerome Henry Sr. was a legendary social worker in our community. He was so proud of his tenure at Catholic Charities and was a role model for his faith. His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"

— Jerome Henry Jr.



William Milliken

"I am writing this to show what an inspiration my dad had in my life growing up. My dad, William Milliken, showed me the path to become a Christian Catholic, to love our Heavenly Father, to honor God with all my heart, and thank God for His loving mother, our Blessed Mother Mary. Our dad was a convert. He converted when he married the love of his life, our mother, Julia, on July 17, 1943, at St. Monica Parish in Mishawaka. Our dad became a faithful Christian Catholic. He prayed to God to save his wife and first-born child, a son. Our mother, a nurse, had an eclamptic pregnancy and became blind a few weeks before she had a C-Section to bring their son Bob into the world. Both were critical and Bob was Baptized, and our mother was given the Last Rites. The doctor said she would not have any more children. God blessed all three. Our dad fathered six children with our mother, two boys and four girls (two of which were twins. Bob is the oldest. I am the oldest girl named Mary, then came Bill, the twins followed three years later with Jean the oldest of the two and Janet the youngest of the two. Three years later came the last daughter, Beth Ann). Never underestimate the power of God. Dad loved his faith, making sure he set the example of Sunday Mass and keeping the Holy Days of Obligation, with Mass to start the day. He played a big part in our Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and timely visits to Confession. Dad prayed the rosary and held Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin close to his heart. He became intrigued with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dad would ask the priest he took instruction from about Our Lady. Dad began to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary asking for guidance from her Son. He learned that praying the rosary gave him graces and that started the daily rosary with my dad. We always said the rosary after supper during Lent.

Dad was also active in St. Monica Parish ushering every Sunday or Saturday evenings.

He also was an usher at the Notre Dame football games. Dad made sure when the boys played sports, he was involved in their sports such as coaching basketball at St. Monica. Through his example and teaching during practices, he taught the boys to be proud of their Catholic upbringing on the court and show good sportsmanship whether you win or lose. Dad went to Mass every day during Lent when he wasn't working early hours and went to Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, taking all of us with him. Our dad inspired us to understand the importance of practicing our faith and gave us a spiritual path to follow. Dad gave the example to go to daily Mass during Lent. I continued following this practice every year until I started working. After a Catholic grade school education, he and mom sacrificed much to send us to a Catholic high school, two to St. Joseph High School and three to Marian High School. I finished two years at Mishawaka High School and my brother Bill went all four years at Mishawaka High School.

I am truly blessed by his example of his faith. His faith drew me close to Our Lady and helped me attend daily Mass during my later years of working and after retiring. This had become my daily morning ritual along with the rosary to this day. At St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka, we all are blessed with daily 7 a.m. Mass, Confession after Mass every day, and a Holy Hour following 7 a.m. Mass. I not only thank my dad for my spiritual Christian Catholic upbringing, but also my mother, who was very instrumental in my Catholic life."

— Mary Dorbin

Ralph Stein

"My Dad and mom made sure we had everything we needed. They often went without so we could 'have.' We went to church every weekend and Holy Day. They also made sure we had a Catholic education. As a family, we went to church every Sunday and ate supper together every evening. We always prayed beforehand.

Even when we were at the lake, we attended Mass as a family at a small Catholic church. As we went through some of our sacraments, my dad took pictures and even some home movies of us. My parents always worked together as a team. We spent our summers at the lake and dad would always go swimming with us. My twin brother Pat and I are the youngest of seven. My dad would get up with us in the middle of the night if we were sick or scared. He always heard us first. When I was 11, my sister was 21 and had gotten married and moved away. I was so used to sharing a room with her that I would get scared of the noises I heard when I was alone. I would open my parents' bedroom door and ask if my dad was awake and talk with him, as he was a light sleeper. He would also calm my fears when I would hear the scurrying of my brother's hamster in my room, whenever he had escaped his cage.

Health insurance was very important to him, and he made sure we had it. When we were born, he got us life insurance policies from The Catholic Order of Foresters. He built our lake cottage himself. One hour north of Fort Wayne, it had a cement floor, an attic, and two bedrooms, located on Big Turkey Lake. We had a wood burning stove, and he always kept the fire going to keep us warm.

He would always wear a dress hat to church, a big one that looked like a cowboy hat. Once, when I was too little to take Communion, dad went up to receive and left his hat on the pew. Thinking he needed his hat, I called after him. 'Dad! You forgot your hat!' After several times, he finally turned around and scolded me.

Our church had cement walls along the grass and I would always ask him to hold my hand as I walked along them. If I was not out playing when he got home from work, I would go down to the basement where he was washing up and talk with him. When he was done, I would ask him to help me jump up the stairs. He would hold me under my arms and help me jump up to the next step. As my sister was a little more independent, I was always 'Daddy's Little Girl.' He always drove us wherever we needed to go. He built me a playhouse in our backyard and hung a chalk board for us to write on in the basement. On the weekend, he and my mom would can food together. On the way up to the lake, dad would buy corn from a local farmer. The kids would clean it and mom would fix it for supper. Dad also used to build sandcastles with us. When I was little, we would play cards with him, and we always played croquet as a family. Dad would take me on boat rides too.

My dad worked on build-ings around town as a welder. Due to working near asbestos, he contracted emphysema, and

during the last four years of his life, he was on oxygen. During that time, my brother died in a car accident. My grandfather had purchased many plots in the Catholic Cemetery and my dad, mom, and brother are all buried there, alongside our other relatives. Our family attended Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, where I still am a member. We attended school there, I was married there, and Dad's funeral was held there.

He died on Palm Sunday, 1988, at Parkview Hospital. Around 3 a.m., they called over to St. Jude and the priest came. Mom apologized for waking him up during the middle of the night. I was able to tell my dad I loved him. I remember him especially this time of year as his birthday is around Father's Day. He was good to my mom and his children, and because of that, we were good to our parents and to each other."

— Patricia Latham



Roy Simon

"My Dad, Roy Simon, was a great example for myself and my six siblings. He and my mom were longtime members of St. John The Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. He was a convert joining the Catholic Church through the influence of his chaplain priest during WWII. He (and my mom) was devoted to the practice of our Catholic faith. Dad put us all through 12 years of Catholic education. He taught us all through his disciplined practice of his faith and led us in our faith by his example.

He roused all of my siblings on Sunday mornings making sure that we as a family got to Mass on time. As children, he took us monthly to Saturday afternoon Confession. He was a devoted member of the Holy Name Society. He would commit to his regular turn for Eucharistic Adoration taking us to the Cathedral for 6 a.m. Sunday Mass followed by an hour of Adoration at the adjoining chapel. He was always active in service to our church. (He and my mom over several years chaired the annual fish fry at St. John's. We were all recruited to help!)

He was also a longtime volunteer in his retirement at the St. Vincent De Paul thrift store and was honored with their 'Top Hat' award for his service.

All of this being said, he was a faithful and loving father who instilled in all of us our dedication and service to our Catholic faith."

— John Simon



Ken Castleman

"Our faithful Father, Ken Castleman, is spiritual in his Catholic faith, and we have shared memories of how he has taught us to be faithful.

Our dad practiced his Catholic faith by being the breadwinner for our family. He worked more than one job to put food on the table. Even though he worked nights, he was always up to take us to 7:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday as a family. Our dad's Catholic faith is so important to him. He shares as a kid attending early morning Mass. He lives his life as a servant to others before himself, the true foundation of our Catholic faith. He continues to think of other people before himself after years and years of sacrifice and heartache. He made sure his six children attended 12 years of Catholic school. He finds time for God daily with his several rosaries a day and additional prayers all while having a busy life. Our dad is closest to our Lord and Savior with all his suffering which makes him a better person while he finds comfort in his family and our Lord.

Growing up, when driving in the car, dad would join mom in leading us in prayer for safe travels or if traveling a long distance, he would assist mom in saying the rosary. To this day, dad can be found resting in his chair with the rosary in hand and still saying the rosary on his car rides.

Thank you for loving others before yourself. May He continue to show you the pathway to fulfillment and happiness. We love you so much and wish you the best day as we celebrate together this Father's Day!"

— Melissa, Robert, Amy, Ann Marie, Dan, and Diana

Love for Jesus and His Church Guided Father James Shafer Though 48 Years of Priesthood

BY ANDREW JACOBS

Pope St. John Paul II had a saying when he spoke to priests and seminarians: "Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion of your life." For Father James Shafer, this quote has provided guidance throughout his 48 years of service to the priesthood.

Father Shafer was born and raised in Garrett, Indiana, and attended St. Joseph Church and St. Joseph School there. His devoutly Catholic home was the foundation of his vocation. "My mom had a great devotion to Mary and the Rosary, and a great respect for priests and religious. If church was open for Mass or other service, there was never a doubt, we just went."

Father Shafer said his first calling to the priesthood was in fourth grade as a student under Sister Coletta Hennessey. "She loved being a nun. She was full of vim and vigor, and so happy! She came in every day and asked, 'Which of you boys is going to become a priest?' and we all raised our hand!"

After completing eighth grade at St. Joseph School, Father Shafer attended Our Lady of the Lake Seminary on Lake Wawasee. There he completed four years of high school and had just begun his first year of minor seminary when his mother passed away. "I was 17 and she died, and everything collapsed. I went home and basically said, 'I don't want to do this anymore.'"

During this time, Father Shafer worked a few jobs, taught school for a bit, then was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he spent one year at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, then a year in Saigon, Vietnam, where he was a clerk. "Officers don't know this, but clerks run the Army. We were 'in the know' on everything!"

During his time in Vietnam, he again began thinking about the priesthood. "As much as I may have wanted to at times, I couldn't shake it and just 'get on with my life.' It didn't work that way. So, I kept a diary about what I was doing in Vietnam, and where I was going with my life, and a lot of reflecting and praying. It became clear to me that by the time I left Vietnam, it seemed like a possibility that the priesthood was where God wanted me."

Writing to a priest back home, Father Shafer expressed his potential interest in seminary. He was put in contact with the vocations director and shortly afterward was on his way to visit three seminar-



Photos Provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Father James Shafer meets his "hero for the priesthood," Pope John Paul II, at the Vatican in Rome in 2001.

ies, choosing St. Gregory's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, to complete his final two years of minor seminary. He then completed four years of major seminary at Mount St. Mary's of the West in Cincinnati.

In 1975, Father Shafer graduated from seminary and was ordained a priest of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. "Our ordination class was called 'Five for God' and we went around giving slide shows to all the schools to promote vocations."

His first assignment began in 1975 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne as an Associate Pastor under Father Ed Hessian, who Father Shafer describes as, "My hero! I couldn't have asked for a better first pastor to serve under." During that time, Father Shafer also taught Religion at Bishop Dwenger High School.

In 1980, Father Shafer moved to St. Joseph's Parish in Fort Wayne as an Associate Pastor under Father Gene Koors. In 1981, he transferred back to Bishop Dwenger High School as its full-time Chaplain, Religion Department Head, and teaching Religion to seniors.

After six years at Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop John M. D'Arcy installed Father Shafer as Pastor at St. Bavo in Mishawaka, where he served for 13 years. In 2000, he became Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, where he remained for 16 years.

Finally, in 2016, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades installed Father Shafer as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Garrett, bring-



Father James Shafer talks with fellow priests at his ordination in 1975 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.



Father James Shafer and Father Timothy Wrozek pose for a photo at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Auction in 2015.

ing him full circle, back to the place where his vocation to the priesthood first took root. After seven years as Pastor of St.

Joseph's Parish and a total of 48 years of faithful service to the priesthood, Father Shafer will retire on June 20, 2023.

The priesthood has blessed Father Shafer in many ways. "I've had so many beautiful experiences with people — when they're dying, getting married, and other key moments. It's a reward, a gift, to see people get closer to God."

"When you are ordained, you think you have it all figured out but you learn otherwise. You come out of seminary with all that theology, but when you think about it, you end up using very little of it and instead, you are interacting with people. At first, I was surprised by how deep people were in their spiritual lives. I expected that of myself, because I was ordained a priest and studied all those years and had all that guidance and spiritual direction. But people were starving for God, and they were like sponges, wanting to soak it up."

Reflecting about his life as a priest, Father Shafer considered his favorite part. "There isn't even a debate. My favorite part has been celebrating the Eucharist. My second favorite is hearing confessions, being an instrument of His mercy. It's a gift from God."

Father Shafer is looking forward to retirement. "I'm staying in Garrett and moving into an apartment. I really only have the first day planned. I'm going to get up in the morning, whenever I get up — no alarm — and have breakfast. Then I'm going back to bed!"

His plans include travel, particularly to places in Ohio and Pennsylvania where his ancestors lived so he can work on his hobby of genealogy study, and "finally reading some of the books I've wanted to read for a long time." If he's able, he'd also like to help at the parishes so he can keep in touch with the people he's met through the years.

Of the wisdom and spiritual counsel that have helped shape and direct Father Shafer's priesthood, one especially stands out. "In my third year as priest, John Paul II became pope. He has been my hero and inspiration for priesthood. He had a favorite quote he used all the time when he addressed groups of priests and seminarians: 'Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion — the driving force — of your life.' This has guided me more than anything else over my years as a priest. As a priest, when you go into your ministry with that kind of an attitude, I think you inspire other people to do that without even saying it. And it works whether you are a priest or a layperson!"

Living Out Faith Life as a Soldier

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

The role of a soldier has many layers. A soldier provides support in military operations like combat, assists with training operations, and aids communities during humanitarian or disaster relief. Father Julius Okojie, Pastor of St. Thérèse, Little Flower Church in South Bend, provides a different type of military support to soldiers as a spiritual advocate.

"I am the Chaplain for the 472nd Chemical Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve located in Chicago, Illinois," said Father Okojie. "We are a CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) unit. I am responsible for ensuring that my soldiers' First Amendment rights are respected and protected. I perform religious services as approved by my endorsing ecclesiastical authority, the Archdiocese for Military Services USA, and provide for those religious needs that are outside my competence and endorsement. In this role, I advise the commander on religion and religious matters and assist in building my soldiers' spiritual readiness and resilience."

Father Okojie is currently on drills with his team and appreciates the opportunity to work with his unit. It is a chance for him to reconnect with his spiritual journey while assisting others with theirs.

"I am currently at my annual training, and it has been like drinking from a fire hose.



Photos provided by Father Julius Okojie

Father Julius Okojie is Pastor of St. Thérèse, Little Flower Church in South Bend, and Chaplain for the 472nd Chemical Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve located in Chicago.

Although demanding, it's been really rewarding being with soldiers, being that sign of the Divine presence and supporting them so they can accomplish their tasks," noted Father Okojie. "I just re-read the Book of Esther and reflected upon the story. One phrase that immediately spoke to me was 'for such a time as this' (4:14). I feel the Lord put me here for a moment such as this. Even if I succeed in helping just one soldier, that's whom the Lord put me here for, at this time. But there's been more than one soldier so

far."

Father Okojie's participation with the armed forces began just a few years after he arrived in the country. He was called to serve a unique sector of the community and excitedly answered the call.

"A year or two after arriving in the United States, I started to receive requests from recruiters to be a military chaplain and I kept ignoring them because I wanted to focus on my education. But when I was done with my program, I began to consider this request a little more



Soldiers of the 472nd Chemical Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve located in Chicago are gathered for prayer.



Father Julius Okojie celebrates Mass for the 472nd Chemical Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve located in Chicago.

intentionally. At first, I saw it as an opportunity to fulfill my childhood ambition of joining the Army. I also saw it as an opportunity to minister in a different setting than the parish, to those who sacrifice so much to guarantee our freedoms, but who are often very underserved. So, I sought the permission of my ecclesiastical superiors, and it was granted. The rest is now history," said Father Okojie.

Regular training assignments are required to be part of the regiment.

"Training in the Army is mission determined. However, as a Troop Program Unit (TPU) Soldier, I drill with my unit one weekend every month, and annual training in the summer," noted Okojie. "As a chaplain, there are additional trainings to help me be effective and competent on my job so that I can adequately serve my soldiers."

Father Okojie finds this

ministry opportunity a chance to learn about other faiths and integrate his Catholic beliefs into his work with the soldiers.

"The Army is mindful of the plurality of religions but also respects the religious preference of every soldier, the chaplains included. As a Catholic priest, I celebrate the Holy Mass and offer Bible Study to my soldiers. I also provide spiritual counseling and mentoring, and these draw largely on my Catholic identity and background, while at the same time being respectful of the religion or lack thereof of whoever I minister to," said Father Okojie.

Okojie said he feels blessed by this opportunity and has no plans to end his service at this time. As long as he stays healthy and gets approval from his superiors, he plans to continue to serve as he is needed.

"This is totally in God's hands," said Father Okojie.



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World Youth Day Pilgrims Gather for Final Meeting

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Pilgrims leaving for World Youth Day taking place in Lisbon, Portugal, gathered for a final meeting at Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw on Wednesday, June 7, before their departure at the end of next month. Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass, and representatives from travel agency Verso Ministries provided pilgrims with practical information to prepare for their journey.

During his homily at Mass, Bishop Rhoades unpacked the old testament story of Tobit by first defining the term “deuterocanonical,” which refers to a particular set of books in the Bible. He said that, while protestants later removed these books, the early Christians would have used a collection of scripture that included the deuterocanonical books called the Septuagint.

“Tobit was such a good man. He was a very, very faithful Jew. He observed God’s law, and a lot of the people had abandoned God’s law. And when they were deported to Nineveh, a lot of them started worshipping false Gods — but not Tobit. He was very faithful, very pious, and he was always practicing the works of mercy: helping the poor and really living his faith.”

One of the corporal works of mercy, Bishop Rhoades said, is burying the dead.

“And so, sometimes, some of his fellow Israelites were being killed, and one, in particular, was strangled to death, and he went out to bury him. Ok, so what’s the big deal? Well, he was putting his life in danger because the rulers didn’t like that he was helping his own people.”

Bishop Rhoades continued to explain the troubles in which Tobit found himself, as well as



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Pilgrims meet with chaperones, priests, and travel guides on Wednesday, June 7, for the final time before leaving at the end of July for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

another figure in this deuterocanonical book, Sarah. When they began to lose hope, both Tobit and Sarah turned to God in their hopelessness.

“God heard their prayers. And he sent the Archangel Raphael. This reading says that the prayers of Tobit and Sarah, far apart, were heard in the glorious justice of almighty God. And Raphael was sent to heal them both.”

He said that, while a fictional story, this Old Testament story is used to convey the message of God’s providence, and that sometimes God allows bad things to happen.

“They turn to God in prayer... God allows suffering to happen in our lives sometimes, and we can’t figure out, ‘Why, Lord?’ But so many people can testify that in the end it can be a blessing for us ... So the message is to trust in God’s providence and to be patient, to pray, and never lose hope. Never lose hope.”

Following Mass, the World Youth Day pilgrims gathered for a Portuguese dinner, and to hear tips from their travel agents. Representatives from the agency started by unpacking the trip day-by-day, noting a visit to the Fatima apparition site, papal welcome, and a night where pilgrims will sleep in a field under the stars.

Bishop Rhoades added a few words following the presentation.

“This is the largest group of priests we will have ever had on World Youth Day for our diocese. Usually we have maybe five or six priests, and I really wanted priests to come so that you can



get to know some of the priests on a more personal level.”

Touching on the universality of the Catholic faith, he encouraged pilgrims to “get to know one another, even people from other parishes, other schools that you don’t know. This is an opportunity to get to know others, and people from other countries. You know, when you’re out there, you’re going to get opportunities to go up to people — don’t be too shy. It’s great to talk to them about their faith and share with people from different countries if you have a common language or sometimes you kind of use sign language to communicate. But that’s a beautiful part of World Youth Day. You get a broader experience of the Catholic Church, both in our own diocese, but then beyond.”




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Saint Joseph High School Girls Tennis, Bellia Finish as State Runner-Ups for Team, Individual Titles

BY ERIC PEAT

Although a third straight trip to the Girls Tennis State Finals for Saint Joseph High School ended the same way the first two did — with a defeat at the hands of the Carmel Greyhounds — it helped cement the Indians as one of the premier programs in the state.

In a battle of hardcourt heavyweights, Carmel outlasted Saint Joseph 3-2 in the IHSAA State Championship match at Center Grove High School in Greenwood on Saturday, June 3. Straight-set victories by Molly Bellia at No. 1 singles and Anni Amalnathan at No. 3 singles helped the Indians offset losses at both doubles spots, setting up a winner-take-all matchup at No. 2 singles. Despite winning the first set and holding a 3-0 advantage in the second, Saint Joseph's Ashi Amalnathan fell to Carmel's Elyse Nelson in three sets (5-7, 6-3, 6-4) to give the Greyhounds the title.

"It was a great season," reflected Indians head coach Bill Mountford, whose team endured a "crazy" travel schedule facing elite opponents all year. "I think the experience of playing tough competition and traveling is good for the team to experience, and having people enjoy the long van rides and the conversations helped us gel as a team. You'll remember those things much longer than you're going to remember the different matches."

A return trip to state looked anything but certain when the season started. Bellia, Saint Joseph's top player who won an individual state singles title two years ago as a freshman, began the spring sidelined with stress fractures in her feet. The Indians were forced to shift their lineup for the first several weeks of the season and struggled to a 2-3 start.

"When she was out with two stress fractures, the idea that she would make it back and go undefeated and make it to the final match at State — I would not have predicted that," said Mountford. "It's a real testament to her work, her rehab, and how good of a player she is."

"I really didn't know what was going to happen," Bellia admitted of her injury. "It definitely gave me a heightened appreciation for the sport and the opportunity to play with my team."

After Bellia's return, the Indians found their groove and plowed through their competition, highlighted by a 3-2 victory over top-ranked Carmel on the Greyhounds' home court on Friday, May 12. Despite their #1 ranking entering postseason



play and undefeated record with Bellia on the court, Mountford and company knew they'd likely have to top Carmel again to win a state title. "Yes, we did beat them, and I'd rather play them a second time having beaten them already," said Mountford. "But until you take down the defending champs in the tournament, you're not the favorite."

Saint Joseph swept its way into the State Finals, posting 5-0 wins against every opponent in the sectional, regional, and semi-state rounds of the tournament. The Indians then had to knock off a pair of undefeated teams, 21-0 Jasper in the quarterfinals and 27-0 Franklin Community in the semifinals, to advance to the championship match.

Against Carmel (25-2), Saint Joseph (19-4) leaned heavily on Bellia and the Amalnathan sisters, who had all been victorious during their regular-season meeting and had combined for only three losses the entire season. Bellia pulled away from Nora Perkins for a 7-5, 6-1 win, while Anni Amalnathan notched a 6-2, 7-6 decision over Grace Kim. All eyes turned to Ashi Amalnathan and Nelson, whose showdown would determine the state champion. When Nelson raised her game to force a third set, Ashi began feeling the effects of the heat and a depleted energy level.

"We play matches throughout season in 55 degrees and cool weather," explained Mountford. "Then you get to the State Finals, and it's three matches in 24 hours in 90-degree heat — three tough matches against quality opponents — and that was definitely a factor. We do our best to condition and be prepared, but it's difficult to simulate."

As Nelson claimed the victory and the Greyhounds began to celebrate, Bellia was quick to console her downtrodden team-



Saint Joseph High School Indians junior Molly Bellia finished as State Runner-Up for the individual singles title.

mate.

"She was obviously upset, but I reminded her that no one is mad at her and that she was more important as a person than any result," said Bellia of her conversation with Ashi. "It was probably hard for her to hear that at the time, but it was the truth."

Despite the loss, Mountford and company have plenty of reasons to be optimistic. The Indians will return their top four players next year, and they'll have plenty of motivation to finish the job and bring home the championship, which Bellia said is "definitely the goal." In addition, Saint Joseph has now reached the State Finals in six of the last seven tournaments, trailing only Carmel's 14 straight appearances that have netted the Greyhounds 10 state titles. Needless to say, Mountford has helped steer the program to a level of sustained success.

"We take a lot of pride in that," Mountford said of the program's success. "I would love to tell you it's me as a coach, but it's the players."

Photos Provided by Saint Joseph High School Athletic Director Stephen Anthony

The Saint Joseph High School Girls Tennis team poses for a photo after falling 3-2 to Carmel in the IHSAA State Championship match at Center Grove High School in Greenwood on Saturday, June 3.

We've been very fortunate that we've had a string of great players come to Saint Joe, and they've worked hard on their tennis games before they came here. I do my best to try to put them in the right places to be successful, but I'd be lying if I told you that it was me."

One of those great players knew her season wasn't over, even after the Indians came up short in the championship match. By virtue of her unblemished tournament record, Bellia advanced to the individual State Finals on Saturday, June 10, where she would vie for her second singles title in three years. She earned a hard-fought quarterfinal win over Lawrence North's Isabelle May, surviving a 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 marathon, before quickly dispatching Park Tudor's Caitlin Van Winkle in straight sets to reach the title match. That's where Bellia (21-0) would meet Columbus North's Kathryn Wilson (29-0) in a battle of unbeaten.

"In the first set, I didn't play as well as I wanted to," said Bellia, who would drop the first four games and watch Wilson breeze to a 6-2 victory. "But I've been in many matches like this before, and I know that just because you lose the first set, the match is not over. I had to reset and raise my game in the second set."

Bellia did just that, rebounding with a 6-4 victory to force a third and deciding set. It's this ability to rise to the challenge that most impresses Mountford about his star junior.

"In terms of tennis, there are two things that really make Molly special," said Mountford. "One is a technical thing — the way she hits the ball is different than most other kids you see. She has a topspin that causes the ball to drop quickly and makes it a difficult ball to handle. But most importantly, she is a gamer. She has that unique ability to raise her game at the appropriate time to answer the challenge. She is a great competitor."

Bellia built a 2-0 lead in the third set before Wilson ripped off five straight games to seize control, claiming both the set (6-4) and the state singles championship.

"In the third set, Kathryn played really awesome," said Bellia. "The combination of attacking with her forehand and not missing at all was a little too much for me. But I don't have any regrets, because I know I gave it one hundred percent."

Bellia truly has no reason to hang her head after amassing a 72-3 record through her junior season and advancing to the individual State Finals all three years. She credits her faith in helping her stay grounded.

"My coaches and I pray before every match I play, and it helps put in perspective how tennis fits in," said Bellia. "After losing a tough match, I think the most important thing is that I carry myself well and know that there are much more important things in life."



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The Eucharist as Remedy to Sin

Because I always sin, I should always have a remedy."

These practical words of St. Ambrose, fourth-century bishop of Milan and doctor of the Church, point us to the unique relationship of the Eucharist to sin — a relationship that the Catechism pithily sums up by saying "holy Communion separates us from sin." (CCC 1393)

At first reading, it might be tempting to dismiss this as some kind of superstitious nicety. In fact, critics and skeptics of the power of Eucharistic grace often choose such an erroneous, dismissive explanation. This can perhaps be easy to do when — like many aspects of our faith — claims can often be made without much understanding.

But when we come to truly understand the grace made available to us in the Eucharist, it makes perfect sense to call it a remedy. Again, the catechism puts it clearly: "As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity." (CCC 1394)

We know Christ is the remedy to Adam's disobedience. His way reverses Adam's way, for those who choose to follow it. As our own needed remedy, however, Christ does not wave a magic wand. He offers an invitation that is accepted when we take up His cross, when we walk His way of charity, truth, and obedience. That means that our hearts, minds, and wills must be shaped and defined by His own. This is where we can see the effective-

ness of His remedy is rooted.

Blessed James Alberione, an Italian priest, founder, and visionary, articulated the significance of adoring Christ in the Eucharist as a constitutive element to the Pauline spirituality he was inspired to establish. He explained that a daily visit with Christ in the Eucharist was essential, calling it "the meeting of our soul and of all our being with Jesus."

One of the more well-known passages in Alberione's written corpus is his use of several images to explain the reciprocal nature of that very meeting. Among these descriptions, it's particularly relevant here to consider our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist as "the patient with the Doctor of souls" or "the heart led astray who finds the Way."

We can't begin to accept the call to discipleship without understanding our relationship to Christ like this. For if we don't see ourselves in need of a remedy to sin, then it follows that we don't consider ourselves in need a savior.

But if we can begin to recognize that Jesus is truly, as He tells us, "The way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6), then we not only take up the task of following Him, but of conforming ourselves to Him. As a patient, we see in the Divine Physician the remedy for what ails us. We see in Him the way out of pointless paths our wayward hearts can lead us. As Alberione explained so clearly, in our reception of the Eucharist and in the time



GUEST
COLUMN

MICHAEL HEINLEIN

we spend with Christ in the Eucharist, we will evermore become like Him. If we want a remedy to our sin, we must allow our hearts to be made like Christ's, our minds to be formed like Christ's, and our wills to be shaped into Christ's.

All of this — truly the antidote to the poisonous effects of sin — becomes remedy to our ailments. In the Eucharist, we have the means to see to it that Christ may dwell in us, and we can live His charity, truth, and obedience in our lives. We have the means to heaven and eternal life — the remedy to the fires of hell. May we never take this for granted, and may we find frequent recourse to the Doctor who will heal our every ill.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

Ted Lasso' and 'Succession': What Makes a Good Dad?

Judging from media coverage, the press has been gaga over the HBO series "Succession." It chronicled the Roy family, a dysfunctional media brood with an oppressive, manipulative patriarch and an endless series of intrigues and betrayals.

The series' finale arrived around the same time another popular series hung up its cleats: "Ted Lasso" (Apple TV). "Ted Lasso," about an American football coach recruited to manage an English soccer team called the Richmond Greyhounds, is a three-seasons' long reflection on fatherhood, masculinity, and forgiveness.

If "Succession" is a close examination of humanity gone bad, "Ted Lasso" is refreshingly aspirational. Here's a coach who is quick to forgive even betrayal by his boss. He seeks to bring out the best in his players, preaches the power of teamwork, and sincerely believes that there are goals more important than wins and losses.

Ted, played by Jason Sudeikis, is a wounded healer. He must deal with the breakup of his marriage, separation from his son, and the lasting impact of his own father's suicide. In Lasso World, however, men are not afraid of getting help, both professionally and



AMID
THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

from their friends. The shame is not in the hurt, but in refusing to face the hurt.

There are plotlines that I could probably have lived without, and the "F-word" appears to be as common in England as "um" is in America. But "Lasso" is another contribution to what appears to be the discussion of the hour: What's wrong with men, and where are the fathers?

Everyone from Senator Josh Hawley (author of "Manhood: The Masculine Virtues America Needs") to my brother Patrick (who founded an event called "Father-Con") are weighing in on the topic. This spurt of introspection seems like something Ted Lasso could get behind.

As we have seen another Father's Day with barbecues and goofy cards, it is worth reflecting on what are the virtues of fatherhood we should be extolling.

ERLANDSON, page 25

Security Comes in Being Faithful to God



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 10:26-33

The Book of Jeremiah supplies this weekend's first reading. Jeremiah wrote at a time when life was hard for God's Chosen People.

Only briefly was life good for God's People. Their nation was unified under one ruler for a relatively short period of time, comparatively speaking. There was only one Golden Age, namely the years of the reign of David and then the time of the rule of David's son, Solomon.

After Solomon, the country divided. Weakened, often

at odds with each other, the two resulting kingdoms never attained the level of prosperity and contentment that the single nation had known under David and his son. Moreover, dismembered and quarrelling among themselves, the two Hebrew states were attractive prey for ambitious neighbors.

All this was bad enough. For prophets such as Jeremiah, the worst aspect was that the people had grown sluggish in their obedience to the Commandments and in their reverence for God. The prophets saw in this deflation in religious enthusiasm the principal threat to the future security of the people.

In other words, the people had brought bad times upon themselves.

This reading from Jeremiah reflects the sad state of affairs. It calls the people back to God. Only in being faithful to God will they regain security.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. A verse read on this weekend, namely Romans 5:12, is one of the few biblical

texts about which the Church infallibly and formally has spoken. The teaching of this verse is simple. Humans themselves brought sin and evil into the world via the sin of Adam. Jesus, and Jesus alone, brought salvation, repairing the damage inflicted by human sin.

Matthew's Gospel provides the last reading. To understand any Gospel text, it helps to recall that the Gospels were not written at the time of Jesus. None of them is a diary of the Lord's days on earth, written each day as the life of Jesus unfolded.

Rather, they are recollections of Jesus, all written many years after Jesus by persons who either knew the Lord, or who had information from others who literally had heard Jesus or had met Jesus.

Therefore, the context surrounding the writing of each Gospel is important. It is not as if an Evangelist invented what was written and put his fiction forward as the teaching of Christ. Rather, each holy writer applied what Jesus taught to events of the day in which the

Gospel was written.

Key to understanding this weekend's reading is knowledge of the peril facing the early Christians. The culture thought them to be fools, and even worse. This is why the law turned against them, and they faced persecution as a result.

So, in this text the Lord encourages the Apostles, bracing them for what they will encounter. At a time when Christians, and so many others, were accorded no respect, it must have been most uplifting to know that God treasured every hair on their heads.

Reflection:
Times have changed since the first Christians faced the hostility of their neighbors in the mighty Roman Empire. Then again, times have not changed. Thankfully, Christians today, at least in this country, have no reason to fear that the police will suddenly break down their doors to arrest them for the crime of Christianity, but the culture in which we live is boldly hostile to many of the basic ideals of the Gospel.

These readings speak to us. Just as Jeremiah warned his contemporaries that turning away from God is the doorway to disaster, certainly to eternal death, Paul reminds us that Jesus alone is the source of life and joy.

The Lord encouraged the Apostles. He encourages us to be strong. The reward will be great.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 Rom 5:12-15 Mt 10:26-33

Monday: Gn 12:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 18-20, 22 Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18 Ps 15:2-4b, 5 Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Acts 12:1-11 Ps 34:2-9 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18 Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22 Ps 128:1-5 Mt 8:1-4

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-55 Mt 8:5-17

Setting a Moral Vision as Parents

When I was recently visiting with friends, a group of young girls was playing in a neighboring yard. Every few minutes, for more than an hour, one of them would scream at the very top of her lungs. A woman in our group finally commented, "When I was a kid, if I ever screamed like that, mom would have pulled me aside and said, 'Don't you dare raise your voice like that in public!'"

In another episode more recently, I saw two young people, maybe 16-years-old, rush out of a home. A girl with pink hair and tattoos was following a guy, yelling at him and saying, "Don't get into that car! Don't even think of leaving!" As he got into the car and started to back up, she began pounding her fists on the driver side window, letting out a series of expletives. Next, she placed herself right in front of the car and began to beat the hood. Then she got up onto the hood and started to pummel the windshield, screaming a barrage of profanities. By this time, other vehicles had stopped. When the girl stepped aside from the car for a moment, the driver sped off. She took off after him, running down the road, waving her arms and yelling hysterically.

In a middle-class residential family neighborhood, I was surprised to witness such an occurrence. In discussing it with a couple of bystanders, one offered, "I guess you just chalk it up to their being teenagers." Another countered, "When I was growing up, even teens knew they couldn't engage in a spectacle like that."

Seeing it firsthand made me wonder where the parents were, and whether as a society, we are trending more and more towards "lowest common denominator" standards and behaviors. How concerned

should we be when indignation, rage, and narcissism replace civility and a common moral code? Not only are young people caught up in these concerns, but society itself seems to be grappling with them ever more broadly.

R.J. Snell gets it right when he says that we shouldn't be "complaining about kids these days, since it's not the kids who are the root of the problem: it is the duty of a coherent society, coherent religion, and coherent family structure to provide a moral horizon. This is the fault of the adults, those who refused the grave obligation to offer tradition to the young."

How is it that we sometimes fail to set a moral vision for the next generation? Kids are endowed with some of the finest hypocrisy-detecting systems in the world, and when Catholic parents, to pick a relevant example, drop off their children at the parish for Catechism, but do not themselves attend weekly Mass, the children cannot fail to notice the disconnect. Similarly, when a Catholic parent continues to live in an irregular marital situation, or picks and chooses from among the Lord's teachings, the mixed messaging pops up quickly on children's moral radar. Consistency and coherence are key parental traits for transmitting robust values to children.

Another is parental fortitude. As children are pulled sideways by schools, false ideologies, and other societal forces that undermine family life and sound parenting, setting a moral vision for one's children can be a Herculean task requiring enormous dedication. I often think back to the strength and determination of my parents as I was growing up, battling not only me as a willful teen, but also pushing



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

back against many of these broader currents and challenges around them.

While parents may sometimes deserve blame for the shortcomings of their children, many times they do not. Parenting is no easy endeavor and parents are oftentimes unsung heroes.

When young people witness their parents standing firm and practicing their faith by serving the Lord and others, they are more likely to take their own spiritual and religious identities seriously, becoming empowered to make significant sacrifices for others. They also are strengthened to be able to make intentional moral decisions and to direct their behaviors in ordered ways.

Parents who set a moral vision for themselves and their children build up the life of the family. As kids experience the joys of a family life not governed by the insatiable demands of their own desires, they can contribute to building a neighborhood and a world where narcissism and the "lowest common denominator" are replaced by goodness, generosity, right order, and peace of heart.

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

ERLANDSON, from page 24

Perhaps the first is presence. Fathers are too often absent from families, because of their own irresponsibility or inability to keep their commitments. Or because their commitments only extend as far as work. The old feminist slogan that "a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle" makes for a good T-shirt, but it falls flat when it comes to families. As my brother tells it, the absence of concerned and involved fathers contributes to the rise of children being trafficked in this country.

Dads need to be present. They also need to be loving, genuinely to care for their wives and their children. I know Christians who confess they have trouble believing in a loving God the Father because

they never experienced the kind of love that would have a father rush out to embrace his prodigal son. A father not afraid to love and able to forgive is a blessing indeed.

Dads need to be strong, of course. But this isn't just bench-press strength. It is the strength that can lead by example, that isn't afraid to admit when he's wrong, or when he needs help. It is also the strength that allows one to stick to one's convictions, to live one's faith, to stick up for the weak or the marginalized.

I think there is one more thing that "Ted Lasso" implicitly gets. Men need a team. That team may be spouse and children, but it can also be a community that supports them and holds them accountable.

We are a lonely country

the pollsters tell us. So are all the people in "Succession," I'd wager, but not Ted Lasso's Richmond Greyhounds.

As Trent Crimm, the show's skeptical Brit journalist, puts it, "If the Lasso way is wrong, it's hard to imagine being right."

Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic Publisher, Editor, and Journalist whose column appears monthly at OSV News.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for June 25, 2023

Matthew 10: 26-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: A promise that all things are seen. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

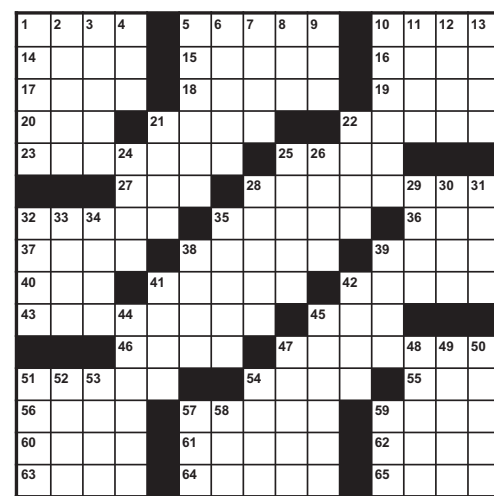
SECRET
THE LIGHT
SOUL
SPARROWS
THE HAIRS
AFRAID
ACKNOWLEDGE

WHAT I SAY
WHISPERED
DESTROY
SOLD
YOUR HEAD
EVERYONE
FATHER

DARK
BODY
BOTH
NOT ONE
COUNTED
BEFORE
DENY

SPARROWS

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



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 Catholic manager of the Yankees, Berra
- 5 First name of Pope Francis I
- 10 Senior citizens' org.
- 14 Scat queen
- 15 Eskimo boat
- 16 Rivers in Spain
- 17 Mr. Greenspan
- 18 "___ do it"
- 19 Fussies
- 20 ___ of omission
- 21 Jesus was offered this on the cross
- 22 Delineation
- 23 Tiresome
- 25 Something to cop
- 27 Matter of law
- 28 Not tricking
- 32 Mary, Stella ___
- 35 Bundle
- 36 Fascist leader?
- 37 Lyric poems
- 38 "... the day of the Lord will come like a ___ at night" (1 Thess 5:2)
- 39 Nicholas or Peter

DOWN

- 40 Federal agency that supports theater (abbr.)
- 41 Color of death's horse in Revelation
- 42 In a proper manner
- 43 Square headscarf
- 45 Prompt
- 46 Jaworski of Watergate fame
- 47 Papyrus
- 51 *Humanae* ___
- 54 Female child
- 55 Vintage auto
- 56 Having wings
- 57 The ___ of St. Monica
- 59 Lean and sinewy
- 60 Make weary
- 61 Pen
- 62 Legal asst.
- 63 Without
- 64 Vows
- 65 Cries of discovery
- 1 Biblical expanding agent
- 2 Stan's partner
- 3 Secreting organ
- 4 Writer Fleming
- 5 Fourth century pope
- 6 Auguries
- 7 "The ___ of the Ancient Mariner"
- 8 Leg
- 9 Supplement
- 10 Ark landing
- 11 Verdi opera
- 12 Something to raise
- 13 "Hey, buddy"
- 21 Luke has these with his Beatitudes
- 22 Unable to hear
- 24 Greek goddess of the rainbow
- 25 Primp
- 26 Foliage unit
- 28 Dismas, the Good ___
- 29 Learning ctr.
- 30 Catholic actress, Academy Award winner for her role in "Hud"
- 31 Bloody
- 32 Merton, for one
- 33 Chick's tail?
- 34 The back of
- 35 Catholic actor who played Peter Maurin in "Entertaining Angels"
- 38 Musical group
- 39 Stratum
- 41 Clarified butter
- 42 "Hail Mary ___ of grace..."
- 44 Poor ___ (religious order)
- 45 "___, foiled, again!"
- 47 Christmas celebrates Jesus' ___
- 48 Bathsheba's first husband
- 49 Franciscan founder of California missions
- 50 Nickname for a Catholic university
- 51 Large containers
- 52 Hip bones
- 53 Small mountain lake
- 54 Manner of walking
- 57 Number of fish Jesus had to feed the 5000

Answer key can be found on page 27

Messages from Fatima are Forever Relevant

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

"As I was crying about what to share, I really felt that the biggest thing Our Lady wanted me to share with you is that there is a special anointing on each one of your lives that she wants to talk to you about, and that she wants to draw you into her heart into a deeper relationship with her," said Rosary Comeau-Laguaite to a crowd of more than 50 devout followers of Our Lady.

She was a witness speaker at a Mary's Way meeting on Sunday, June 11, at Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka. During her talk, she shared details about her personal connection with Mary and how their close relationship and connection comforted her during the passing of her husband Josh Comeau. Through Mary's love and guidance, she has found the strength to carry on with her six children and continue her devotion to Our Lady.

At a young age, Comeau-Laguaite felt a special calling to Mary noting her name being Rosary was definitely the first step of a unique connection to Our Lady and to praying the rosary. An awakening during high school made her realize the importance of leading a prayerful life, and she spoke about her amazing and impactful trips to Medjugorje with her late husband and their family.

"In Mary's messages at Medjugorje and her messages from all her apparitions are very similar where she talks about these pillars and school of prayer. And so, it was there that I began to understand more deeply. I began to understand this invitation into her school of prayer and into just understanding the profound gift that the rosary is, understanding the importance of daily Mass, of monthly confession, and

of prayer and fasting," noted Comeau-Laguaite.

After the witness speaker, visitors had the opportunity to pray the rosary with guest speaker Jerry Horban, President of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The moment of prayer was followed by a presentation titled, "The Importance and Relevance of Fatima in Current Times."

According to The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, Inc., it was originally known as The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima. The name was changed when the organization was raised to the status of Public International Association of the Faithful, making it the global organization that speaks on behalf of the Church about Fatima. The apostolate is a Public International Association of the Faithful under the Pontifical Council for the Laity. It's the only Fatima organization in the world that speaks "in the name of the Church" and "with the authority of the Church" on Fatima. It has been positioned under The Pontifical Council for the Laity because its work is chiefly the work of the lay faithful. Their mission is to help people learn, live, and spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima in communion with the Church and in concert with The New Evangelization.

"I know it happened even though I wasn't there," said Horban to the crowd regarding Fatima apparitions. "The Fatima message is just as relevant today as it was in 1917."

Horban discussed the state of the world today, noting many shocking revelations including 65 million children being aborted in the United States, how marriage is an abolition with the acceptance of same-sex marriages, crime is up in the country, and a sense of me-ism is plaguing our country.



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

Jerry Horban, President of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, speaks about the relevance of the messages from Fatima at a Mary's Way event at Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka on Sunday, June 11, as he stands beside a display of second-class relics which are pieces of clothing the children wore.

Stats by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2007 were shared and they noted only 23 percent of the population practices their faith and goes to Mass, 68 percent believe they can be a good Catholic without going to church, 67 percent don't believe in hell, 37 percent believe it's important to follow all teachings of the church, 29 percent attend adoration, 26 percent of adults go to confession once a year, 4 percent of the population prays the rosary daily, and 8 percent prays the rosary once a week.

"Within our Catholic Church, we have to do a lot better," said Horban.

The talk included a historical overview of each child who witnessed the apparition at Fatima, sharing details about their

lives, personalities, how each received the message, and how each child lived the remainder of their time on earth following the guidance of Our Lady's message. The three were given three secrets, one being a vision of hell showing them the importance of the world changing its ways or being led to an eternity of despair.

Horban talked about how Fatima is a directive for living out the Eucharist and that Our Lady visited the site to share a message of hope and peace to the world during a bleak time in history. He noted that the core of Our Lady's communication can be expressed in three simple sentences:

Addressing the eternal order, she told us that hell exists and that souls are being lost to it

because there is no one to make reparation for their sins.

Speaking of the temporal (worldly), she said that war is a consequence of sin.

The salvation of souls and the attainment of world peace require the conversion of sinners. Mary said, "People must stop offending God because He is already so much offended." (October 13, 1917)

During the lecture, Horban also shared five requests of Our Lady of Fatima.

In the first request, Our Lady of Fatima requests that each day we offer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sacrifices demanded by the duties of your state in life along with any hardships or difficulties God brings into your life. In reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners, offer it up. Sister Lucia considered living out of this disposition the most fundamental and important everyday response to Fatima.

The second request asks for praying the rosary daily and includes doing so while meditating on the mysteries, especially for world peace.

In the third request, we are asked to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and wear the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a sign of our consecration.

The fourth request asks people to practice the Communion of Reparation on the first Saturday of the month, popularly known as the First Saturday Devotion.

In the final request, we are asked to contribute to the establishment of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world by spreading the message of Fatima to others.

To learn more about the World Apostolate of Fatima Fort Wayne-South Bend Division, visit <https://www.fatimafwsb.org>.

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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.

Queen of Angels Annual Garage Sale
FORT WAYNE — The Queen of Angels garage sale will be held on Thursday, June 29, from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, June 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, July 1, from 8 a.m. to noon in the activities center, 1500 West State Blvd.

St. Louis Annual Church Rummage Sale
NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis, 15535 Lincoln Highway East, annual rummage sale will be held on Friday, July 7, from 8:30 a.m to 6 p.m. — \$5 bag sale from 2-6 p.m.; and on Saturday, July 8, from 8:30 a.m. to noon with a \$3 bag sale all morning.

Unraveling Gender: A Christian Response to Gender Ideology
FORT WAYNE — Guest Speaker Dr. John Grabowski, author of the Book “Unraveling Gender: The Battle Over Sexual Difference” will speak on the Christian response to gender ideology on Monday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Life Center, 1502 East Wallen Rd. Babysitting is available by signing up at SaintV.org/GuestSpeaker. Contact Monica Aquila at 260-489-3537 or monicaaquila@saintv.org.

Sensory Friendly Masses Held at St. Vincent de Paul
FORT WAYNE — The Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Sensory-Friendly Masses held at St. Vincent de Paul, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., provide a safe, comfortable, and stigma-free setting for children and adults with sensory challenges, mental illness, or any kind of disability to feel engaged and experience Mass in a meaningful way. To find out more information about this Mass or if you are interested in offering a sensory-friendly Mass at your parish, contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or 260-414-5960.

Come and See Discernment Day for Young Men
WARSAW — Young men ages 16-30 who are discerning diocesan priesthood are invited to join Vocation Director Father Daniel Neizer for a day of discerning the call to diocesan priesthood on Friday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish, 125 N. Harrison St. in Warsaw. The day is free, and lunch is included. For more information and to register, visit diocesefwsb.org/discern.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne Sondra J. Hire, 82, Queen of Angels	Granger John Reed, 82, St. Pius X	Alice Szumski, 95, Holy Cross
Dennis Jamison, 70, Queen of Angels	Mishawaka Joseph Sabbe, 83, St. Bavo	Jane Dobrucki, 98, Holy Family
Martha A. Mynsberge, 95, St. Joseph	Thomas Chamberlin, 90, St. Joseph	Dorothy J. Mathia, 93, Sacred Heart of Jesus
Jean Robinson, 95, St. Joseph	Ralph Woznicki, 92, St. Joseph	Leonel Garcia, 5, St. Adalbert
Steven Strawbridge, 78, St. Jude	New Carlisle Mary Jane Liszweski, 79, St. Stanislaus Kostka	Maria de Lourdes Amaya Moreno, 76, St. Adalbert
Terry VanCamp, 80, St. Jude	New Haven Thomas J. Gorlesky, 74, St. John the Baptist	Gregory Wulle, 77, St. Joseph
Dottie Carpenter, 89, St. Mary Mother of God	South Bend Robert Urbanski, 98, Cathedral of Saint Matthew	
Robert Gabet, 64, St. Peter		
William Gephart, 65, St. Vincent de Paul		
Edward Ulshafer, Jr., 87, St. Vincent de Paul		

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ASSISTANTS, TEACHERS NEEDED

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic school is seeking a qualified candidate for **Part Time Four-Year-old Preschool teaching position**. The position is part time with a focus on classroom instruction. Looking for individuals with a strong background in early childhood education along with a desire to inspire students.

- Plan and teach lessons using the Diocesan Curriculum and State Standards along with the NAEYC
- Plan and conduct activities for a balanced program of instruction
- Attend staff meetings and serve on committees as needed.
- Establish and enforce rules for behavior
- Attend professional meetings, educational conferences, and teacher training workshops in order to maintain and improve professional competence
- Preferred qualifications include two or more years of teaching experience at the early childhood level. Teacher must have or be working towards an early childhood degree and possess excellent communication skills. An outstanding candidate will have a deep desire to work as a Catholic school educator.

We are looking for a Spanish Teacher:

- Full-time, licensed Spanish teacher
- Dedicated, committed to Catholic education
- Inspiring students in grades 3-8 to become fluent in Spanish as we prepare them for the high school programs

We need Instructional Assistants in the following grades:

- K-5 Classroom Instructional Assistants
- Work with students in small groups as well as independently
- Support Catholic education
- Collaborate with educators

Essential Skills and Resource Assistants

- Collaborate with other educators
- Work with students in small groups, independently, and individualized learning plans
- Support Catholic education

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

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CORPUS CHRISTI, from page 1

effect, say, 'No way! That's too much. We're out of here.' And they leave. And Jesus lets them leave. Now, if it were just a symbol, why would Jesus let them leave? If it were, Jesus would have said 'Wait, don't leave, you misunderstand.' But He doesn't."

Father Budzinski exclaimed, "Every year in OCIA, this is the point that convinces every non-Catholic that it really is the Body and Blood of Jesus. If it is a symbol, Jesus would not have let the disciples leave over a misunderstanding. The Eucharist is the reason they become Catholic! In 2011, I went to World Youth Day in Madrid with two million kids from around the world who knelt down in complete silence when Pope Benedict XVI brought out the monstrance for adoration. Two million kids don't kneel down in silence for a piece of bread. The Eucharist is the reason why they kneel."

Furthermore, he stated, "I gave up a wife and children to become a priest. If that's just a symbol, we priests are the stupidest people on earth. The Eucharist is the reason we make that sacrifice. This week, a young man thinking about priesthood met with the diocesan seminary admissions committee. We asked him why he wanted to be a priest. He answered, 'Because I want to say Mass and give people the Body and Blood of Jesus.' The Eucharist is the reason he is entering seminary."

"In a few weeks, our parish secretary and her fiancé will be getting married. They chose today's Gospel, the Bread of Life discourse, as the Gospel for their wedding. I asked her why and she said, 'Because without the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith, our marriage doesn't make much sense.' The Eucharist is the reason. J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, once wrote to his son about the Eucharist, 'Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. There you will find romance, glory, honor, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth.' The Eucharist is the reason."

He concluded, "Why are we here today? Because we want to live! Jesus says in the Gospel 'Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you do not have life within you.' We need Him to live; our fallen flesh and blood is too weak against sin and death. The Eucharist is the reason we are alive. And Jesus wants everyone to live. That's the reason why we are going on procession, because we can't keep the Eucharist to ourselves. He must be taken to the corners of the world! Go wherever God calls you and do whatever He says. The Eucharist is the reason."



Photos by Nathaniel Binversie

Altar servers carry a cross and candles to lead Father Andrew Budzinski, who is carrying the monstrance under canopy, through the streets during a Corpus Christi procession that began at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne on Sunday, June 11.



Homeowners along the procession route made signs, decorated other ways, and stood outside to show their appreciation for the procession going by their homes.



The procession concludes with Solemn Benediction and Divine Praises in the yard of a parishioner's home across from Foster Park.

While Corpus Christi processions have become an annual occurrence at St. John the Baptist Parish, this year, Parochial Vicar Father Paolo Degasperi brought an added personal touch to the event. Father Degasperi, who will soon become Pastor at St. John's, learned through his evening walks around the neighborhood that many parishioners live on nearby Sherwood Terrace. In anticipation of the procession, Father Degasperi contacted all of these parishioners and invited them to decorate their properties with sidewalk chalk, banners, balloons, and flower confetti to help foster Eucharistic devotion in the families and neighborhood.

After the final prayer, Father Budzinski led a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament towards the west. On their way, they passed the home of Nicholas and Adrienne Langhals, who stood outside with their three-year-old son Dominick. Adrienne shared, "This Corpus Christi procession felt different having it go right in front of our house. It also was a unique experience to witness the joy and excitement of our son. We told Dominick that we were going to decorate outside because Jesus would be coming by our house on Sunday. He asked me if it was the 'real Jesus,' and I said yes. He got very excited and told a few different people that Jesus would be coming by his house."

She added, "He loved throwing the flower petal confetti, joining in the procession, and the prayer time in front of the altar in a neighbor's yard. Also, there were several young families involved in the procession which brought so much liveliness to the celebration. We love how connected our church is to our neighborhood and it was great to see other neighbors decorate and participate in the procession, as well."

These neighbors included Hugh and Julie Baldus, who agreed that decorating their home and seeing others do so made them feel more engaged with the procession and parish. Hugh said "The thought process of how to creatively represent and honor our Lord and His Sacrament led us to meaningful soul-searching." Speaking on the procession itself, he stated, "Being a 'follower of Christ' in a literal sense is a departure from the Mass setting, and reminds us that our parish exists beyond the walls of SJB. Walking with Christ's Body and Blood is more than a gesture, it is a demonstration of our lifestyle and belief. It is a metaphor of our life's walk with Him."

A few weeks prior, St. John's led a four-and-a-half-hour rosary walk around the perimeter of their entire parish boundary to surround and immerse their people with prayers. This also offered a reminder that Catholic churches are spiritually responsible for every soul living within their boundaries, not only those who are registered and involved in the life of the parish.

The Eucharistic procession reached its end at the yard of a parishioner's home across the street from Foster Park, the western limit of St. John territory. The monstrance was placed on a table with lit candles and Father Budzinski proclaimed the Gospel account of the disciples' momentous catch of fish after Jesus' resurrection. He remarked that, "Although there were so many, the net

was not torn. The Lord sent His followers to make new disciples in every direction, with confidence that there is room enough in the Church for everyone!"

The event concluded with Solemn Benediction and the Divine Praises. As the group was far from the parish, Father Budzinski then removed the Eucharist from the luna (the glass case which holds the host within the monstrance), broke the host, and distributed communion to four altar servers who assisted in the procession.

"The Lord sent His followers

to make new disciples in every

direction, with confidence that

there is room enough in the

Church for everyone!"

FATHER ANDREW BUDZINSKI