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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 25

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## How the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Plans to Participate in the National Eucharistic Congress

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

For the first time in almost a century, the Catholic Church in the United States will host a National Eucharistic Congress. Discerned and approved by the nation's bishops and overseen by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, of which Bishop Rhoades is an active member, the event will take place next summer in Indianapolis.

At a time when many parishes have seen a decline in regular Mass attendance and active participation in the Catholic faith, the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress seeks to revive and rekindle a fervor for the faith.

As the movement's official website, [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org), states: "In an age marked by division and doubt, the Holy Spirit is inviting the United States to find unity and renewal through a grassroots National Eucharistic Revival. This movement – discerned and approved by the bishops of the U.S. – is critical to rekindling a living faith in the hearts of Catholics across America, unleashing a new missionary chapter at this pivotal moment in Church history."

A 2019 Pew Research study of self-described Catholics across the country found that approximately one-third believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Additionally, because of the pandemic, during which many became accustomed to watching Mass online, significant numbers of the faithful have not returned to Mass.

With a mission "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist" and a vision "to inspire a movement of Catholics across the United States who are healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival

Provided by the USCCB

Eucharist," as stated on the Congress website, the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress runs from July 17 to 21, 2024. Some 80,000 Catholics, adults and children alike, are expected to participate in the event's speaker sessions, Mass, adoration opportunities, and other faith-based activities.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is actively working with its parishes to make this opportunity possible for as many parishioners who hope to attend.

Chris Langford is coordinating the diocese's overall effort to work with its individuals and families who would like to attend the National Eucharistic Congress. "The response and engagement of our pastors, parishes, and faithful has been truly gratifying," he said of the effort to date.

He anticipates that the close proximity between the diocese and Indianapolis will generate a tremendous response from its members to attend. "And

looking forward, there is a lot of excitement and anticipation for the National Eucharistic Congress, right in our own backyard, so to speak," Langford said. "Yet a full year before the event, hundreds from our diocese have already purchased passes to the Congress."

To facilitate as many local parish members to attend as possible, the diocese has reserved a block of 400 passes and 400 hotel rooms that can be purchased at a discounted rate. These discounted passes can be purchased from the diocese at [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist](http://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist).

Members of the diocese have already claimed half of the passes and many of the hotel rooms have already been accounted for. "More than half of the 400 discount passes have already been purchased, so the faithful are encouraged to purchase from the remaining available passes while they last," Langford said. "The

passes are transferrable, so someone else could use them if the original user is no longer able to attend."

The passes provide access to all Congress events across the five days, but do not include food, lodging, or transportation. Single day passes are not offered. To be eligible for a discounted hotel rate, one must have purchased their pass(es) from the diocese.

For questions about the Congress, email [info.revival@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:info.revival@diocesefwsb.org).

"The National Eucharistic Revival has already been a tremendous blessing in our diocese," said Langford. "We are eagerly looking forward to a really large participation from our faithful and to the life-changing impact the Congress will impart to the souls in our diocese and across the country."

For a detailed schedule of National Eucharistic Congress events, visit [eucharisticcongress.org/schedule#schedule](http://eucharisticcongress.org/schedule#schedule).



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# Beauty Leads Students to Christ at University of Saint Francis Summer Camp

BY ERIC PEAT

While society continues to inundate the youth of today with its own interpretations of beauty, a group of high schoolers in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is embracing beauty as the Church promotes it: an opportunity to experience the presence of our Lord.

Beauty Will Save the World was a five-day summer camp hosted from July 9 to July 13 at the University of Saint Francis campus in Fort Wayne. Funded through a Lilly Grant seven years ago, the camp invited high school students to encounter Christ through five core themes: Beauty of Creation, Beauty of Art, Beauty of the Body and Sexuality, Beauty of Vocation, and Beauty of Worship. Each day revolved around a different one of these themes, with engaging talks and related activities, such as a nature hike or a concert. The camp provided students with breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day, while also allotting ample time for prayer, recreation, entertainment, and community.

Named after a line from Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "The Idiot," Beauty Will Save the World's Catholic perspective on the concept of beauty left an impression on many students attending the camp for the first time.

"I really liked the talk on the beauty of the body because I think it's such an important topic in our culture," said Josie Loeffler, a first-time attendee from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. "In the secular world, it's such a big thing, and it's really important to know the Church's stance and position on it, that your body is a good thing and a gift given by God."

For other campers, like William MacDonald of St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne, the experience of last year's camp prompted them to return with their friends. "This year was absolutely amazing," said MacDonald, "because they had adoration almost daily, they had daily Mass, we prayed Liturgy of the Hours every morning, and it was just so beautiful how deep the talks were into theology and philosophy and how they connected everything so well to beauty itself."

Campers were able to dive deeper into these connections amongst themselves through designed social opportunities throughout the week. Megan Quigley, Camp Coordinator and Assistant Director of the Assisi Program for Discipleship



Photos by Eric Peat

Bishop Rhoades blesses rosaries following Mass at the conclusion of camp at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne on Thursday, July 13.

and Leadership, said that this time was consciously built into the schedule to help foster a sense of communion among the camp attendees, many of whom were experiencing a college atmosphere for the first time.

"I think just being on campus, living in the dorms, eating in a dining hall, having time to discuss the things they've learned in informal ways – there's a lot of learning that happens there," said Quigley. "As we were kind of preparing the camp and getting our camp counselors ready, we told them to encourage those informal moments of community and conversation because there's beauty in fellowship. That was kind of the hidden sixth theme of the camp in a way. There's nothing that can replace just being here and entering into college life, and we hope it gives them a taste of how exciting and joyful academic study can be and what it's like to be part of a community of learners."

The camp concluded on Thursday, July 13, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades at the St. Francis Chapel, and a picnic on the chapel lawn, both of which parents and families were invited to attend. Bishop Rhoades began by commenting on the theme of beauty and how it is reflected in Holy Mass itself.

"I'm happy to celebrate this liturgy at the end of this camp, in which you have reflected on the concept of beauty and how beauty will save the world," Bishop Rhoades said to the



Bishop Rhoades preaches on how God can bring good from evil during Mass at the conclusion of camp at the University of Saint Francis.

camp attendees. "The beauty of God is witnessed in so many ways. We see the beauty of God in the holy liturgy that we celebrate, in the beauty of the sacraments, the beauty of the saints. He calls all of us in whatever state of life that we are in to experience His beauty and the beauty of holiness."

During his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the first reading's story of Joseph, which Bishop Rhoades referred to as "my favorite story in the whole Old Testament, since I was a kid." His excellency stated that among the many lessons to be learned from this story is the reality that God can bring good out of evil.

"We can ask, 'Why do bad things happen?' Look at

Joseph – he was thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, put into prison, all these terrible things," said Bishop Rhoades. "Yet, if it wasn't for that, those hundreds of thousands of people wouldn't have been saved [from famine]. This was all part of God's plan. God allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery, but look at the good that resulted from it. Joseph became the number two man in Egypt. He was reunited with his brothers and his father. We can call this God's providence."

"So, what can we do?" asked Bishop Rhoades in conclusion. "Don't give up. Don't just stand there. Trust that this is all part of God's plan, that good can come out of this. And when we do, our life – even if it entails bad things or sufferings or hardships – will always have hope."

For Camp Director and Assistant Professor of Theology Dr. Robert Koerpel, his hope is that this five-day experience will help campers gain a new appreciation for the role that beauty plays in the Catholic Church.

"We live in a time, I suppose, where now more than ever, we need to kind of recover this part of our tradition," said Dr. Koerpel. "We need to recover a sense of beauty. And so, I think, given the cultural context of the world we're living in, beauty is a very apt theme, especially for high schoolers. They're bombarded with images on a daily basis. And so, we try to give them a sense of what real beauty is and the depths of beauty."



# Pope Appoints Hundreds to Attend Synod of Bishops on Synodality

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has appointed more than 450 participants, including dozens of religious men and women and laypeople from around the world, to attend the first general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality in October.

And that list is not even complete, Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops, told reporters at a Vatican news conference Wednesday, July 7. More names are going to be added to the list of nonvoting members, such as experts and representatives of non-Catholic Christian communities, he said.

For now, the list of voting members is complete, numbering 363 cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and lay men and women – a first in the history of the synod. Pope Francis made significant changes to who can be a voting member of the synod on synodality and he gave women the right to vote in the synod.

Out of the 364 members who can vote, which includes the pope, 54 are women – either lay or religious; the number of cardinals appointed as members also is 54.

More than a quarter of all the voting members, that is 26.4 percent, are not bishops, according to the 21-page list of the appointments released on Wednesday, July 7 by the Vatican.

Those the pope appointed to take part in the Oct. 4-29 synod include 169 cardinals or bishops representing national bishops' conferences; 20 cardinals or bishops representing Eastern Catholic churches; five cardinals or bishops representing regional federations of bishops' conferences; and 20 heads of Vatican dicasteries, which includes one layman, Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication.

The bishops appointed to attend from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are: Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas; Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

The pope also appointed five religious men and five religious women to represent the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General.



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

**Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary-General of the synod, speaks to reporters after presenting the working document for the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican press office on Tuesday, June 20.**

There are an additional 50 papally appointed members, the majority of whom are cardinals and bishops, but they include 11 priests, religious and one layman and one laywoman. Those from the United States include: Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington; Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego; Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston; Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle; and Jesuit Father James Martin.

Another novelty is a large group of non-bishop voting members who represent the "continental assemblies" and are named "witnesses of the synodal process." There are 10 members in each group divided by continent: Africa; North America; Latin America; Asia; Eastern Churches and the Middle East; Europe; and Oceania, for a total of 70 individuals who are all priests, religious, or lay men and women.

The group for North America includes: Richard Coll, Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the USCCB in Washington; Cynthia Bailey Manns, the Adult Learning Director at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community in Minnesota; Catherine Clifford, a Theology Professor and expert on the Second Vatican Council; Canadian Sister Chantal Desmarais, a Sister of Charity of St. Mary; Father Iván Montelongo of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas; and Sister Leticia Salazar, Chancellor of the Diocese of San Bernardino, California.

Among the 16 who are part of the synod's ordinary council include: U.S. Cardinal

Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey; Canadian Cardinal Gérald C. Lacroix of Québec; and Australian Archbishop Anthony C. Fisher of Sydney.

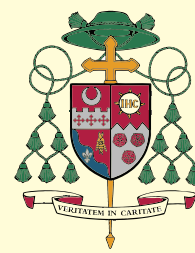
Nine members will serve as delegate presidents of the assembly and they include: Bishop Flores of Brownsville; Coptic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak; one priest, Italian Father Giuseppe Bonfrate; one nun, Mexican Sister of St. Joseph Maria de los Dolores Palencia; and one consecrated laywoman, Momoko Nishimura of Japan. Pope Francis will serve as President and Cardinal Mario Grech as the synod's Secretary-General.

The list of nonvoting members is not complete, Cardinal Grech said.

That list released on Wednesday, July 7, included two spiritual assistants: British Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe and Italian Benedictine Mother Maria Ignazia Angelini. All synod participants will be expected to attend a three-day retreat before the synod begins in early October.

All of the 57 nonvoting "experts and facilitators" listed as of Wednesday, July 7, are priests and religious and lay men and women. They include: U.S. Sister Maria Cimperman, who is a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart; Jesuit Father David McCallum; and Australian theologian Tracey Rowland.

The theme of the synod is: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," and synod members will be called upon to continue to carry forward a "process of spiritual discernment" that was begun in 2021 and continue with a second synod assembly in 2024.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, July 17: 5:30 p.m. – Redeemer Radio Mass and Bocce Event, St. Joe Farm, Granger  
Wednesday, July 19: 3 p.m. – Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Institute Board, Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Wayne  
Thursday, July 20: 8:30 a.m. – Meeting of Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington  
Thursday, July 20: Noon – Mass at Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington  
Sunday, July 23: 11 a.m. – Mass, St. Joseph Church, Roanoke  
Wednesday, July 26 to Saturday, July 29 – Retreat in Fatima, Portugal  
Sunday, July 30 – Mass with Diocesan Pilgrims, Fatima Portugal  
Monday, July 31 – Mass with Diocesan Pilgrims, Santarem, Portugal  
Tuesday, Aug. 1 to Tuesday, Aug. 8 – World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal



## Deacon Assignment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignment.

**Deacon Michael P. Forbes**, to diaconal ministry at Saint Monica Parish, Mishawaka and to judge on the Diocesan Tribunal, effective July 15, 2023.



## Priest Assignments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments.

**Reverend Cameron Cortens, CSC**, as part-time Priest Chaplain at Marian High School, Mishawaka, effective July 1, 2023.

**Reverend David Smith, CSC**, as part-time Priest Chaplain at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, effective July 1, 2023.

## SUMMER PRINT SCHEDULE

**July 30: Digital Issue**

**Aug. 6: Print Issue**

**Aug. 13: Digital Issue**

**Aug. 20: Print Issue**

**Aug. 27: Digital Issue**





## Forty Hours Devotion



### Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

#### JULY

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. 13-15

St. John the Baptist, New Haven: Aug. 20-22

Queen of Peace, Mishawaka: Aug. 20-22

St. Bernard, Wabash: Aug. 20-22

St. Monica, Mishawaka: Aug. 27-29

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne: Aug. 27-29

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

#### SEPTEMBER

Corpus Christi, South Bend: Sept. 8-10

St. Michael the Archangel, Waterloo: Sept. 10-12

Immaculate Conception, Kendallville: Sept. 10-12

St. Mary of the Lake, Culver: Sept. 10-12

St. Patrick, Fort Wayne: Sept. 10-12

For the complete schedule, visit [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist](http://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist).

# Mark Freund Appointed Principal of Marian High School

BY NICOLE HAHN

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has appointed Mark Freund as the new Principal of Marian High School in Mishawaka effective on Monday, July 17.

Freund, who served most recently as the Executive Director of the Office for Lasallian Education at the Christian Brothers Conference in Washington, D.C., will take over for Mark Kirzeder, who gave notice earlier this year that he wanted to return to teaching. He will return to the faculty at Marian as a Physics Teacher and Technology Director. A search committee for Kirzeder's replacement was formed in February.

Mark Kirzeder said, "I am deeply grateful to the Marian Family and Bishop Rhoades for the opportunity to serve Marian High School as Principal these past nine years. Marian is blessed to have someone of Mark Freund's caliber to lead Marian spiritually and academically. We pray in gratitude, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, that the good Lord has sent the right person to lead Marian."

Mark Freund has experi-



MARK FREUND

ence in teaching history, social studies, and computer science at a college prep school, where he was also the Administrative Technology Coordinator and Director of Speech and Debate. He has served as Principal in Catholic high schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Florida. He has a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, a master's degree in Education, and completed courses in Catholic School Management, and Education Technology and Online Instruction, among other studies.

Bishop Rhoades shared, "I am very pleased that Mark

has accepted the position of Principal at Marian High School. His extensive experience as Principal in several Catholic schools is a major benefit to Marian. He has also expressed his commitment to the Catholic identity, mission, and strong academic program at Marian. I look forward to watching Mark use his Catholic faith and professionalism to help Marian continue to expand and thrive."

Freund has also served in professional roles that include Regional Associate of the National Catholic Education Association, a member of the National Catholic Forensic League, and the National Speech and Debate Association.

"I am so honored that Bishop Rhoades has asked me to be the next principal at Marian High School," Freund said. "I believe education can play a powerful role in forming young people and their preparation for a life of faith, service, and intellectual growth. I look forward to working with the team at Marian as we strive to continue to Learn, Serve, and Lead."

Freund and his wife Dale have been married for 37 years. They are moving from Maryland to the South Bend side of the diocese.

# 86 Creative Founder Reaps Fruits of Vocation

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Jacob Laskowski knew that he had a talent for effective communication and a passion for sharing the truth and beauty of the Church, and since his college years working as a missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), he has seen the fruits of his vocational journey nourish his faith and the faith of others.

His brand agency 86 Creative recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its 2013 founding, today boasting a laundry list of notable services to the various ministries, nonprofits, and apostolates within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and beyond.

Laskowski said that, ultimately, "it's all about helping all of those groups and organizations know who they are better so that they can express and communicate their missions more effectively to the right audiences that they're trying to reach."

Before he founded the agency, Laskowski was a missionary for FOCUS, and he says that he has always had a passion for communications and

marketing. "When I worked with FOCUS, it was kind of a new spark to do that for the Church specifically. I did that work for FOCUS at their headquarters in Denver, and then when I moved to Fort Wayne. That's when I started 86 and realized there was a call there to do what I was doing for FOCUS, but for more ministries and apostolates in the Church."

While at first the work he was doing at 86 Creative was more secular, he began to pursue more clients within the Church. "I really just took it to the Lord to find out, 'Is this the right thing? Do I need to continue pursuing the work that I'm doing with 86? Or should I leave it and find a place for me in the Church?'"

Through ample prayer and discernment, he realized God's call for him to work for the Church through 86 Creative. "It became like a true vocation — that I knew that I was doing exactly what God had wanted me to do in my own giftedness and provide that to the Church."

"Every project I've been able to do has been more than just work. It's been a prayer and a discernment with each organi-



zation I work with, of revealing the true story that they have to share, and doing it in a creative way that they hadn't been able to do before."

Some of the agency's more well-known clients include Exodus 90, the USCCB, and Our Sunday Visitor (OSV).

"OSV, in particular, was great because they're local, so I was able to go down there a lot and have a lot of great strategic meetings with them. And the nice thing about that is that it was really exciting to be involved in their rebrand because they hadn't really had a rebrand since the start of OSV. And so, as they were transitioning from Our Sunday

Visitor to becoming more, you know, the acronym OSV, and knowing the tradition that they had with their 120-year-old brand, that was a challenge and an adventure to figure out, 'How do I communicate this effectively in a visual identity that elevates the work and the mission that OSV has done for over a century, but also bring it into the 21st century in a way that says it's still relevant today and helpful and all-encompassing?'"

He went on to say that building a symbolic logo for OSV to use that would build visual identity and brand unity across their platforms makes the organization's offerings "fit together as a family: like everything belongs."

But why is building a cohesive and clean brand important? Laskowski believes that ultimately, everyone is attracted to beauty. But, while Christians possess the "greatest story in the whole world," somewhere along the line, the Church forgot how to tell that story in a captivating and beautiful way.

"Part of the work that I get to do is bringing back that

beauty in a way that our modern culture understands."

After observing modern, popular brands and people's response to these brands, Laskowski realized that not only should the Church brand itself in a similar way, but that the Church should be the best at doing so. "We love brands. There's a lot of brand loyalty that people have to Apple or to Nike or to Netflix. Those companies obviously value how they look and how they present themselves externally. So, if those organizations care so much about it, there must be something [there]."

Laskowski's work for the Church extends beyond 86 Creative. He serves on the board of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. He also helped Father Patrick Hake to build a new brand for St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne in order to not only welcome new parishioners, but also to help people see beauty in the Church: in the liturgy, the architecture, and the truth that Catholics believe.

"There's so many more stories to tell, and I really hope I get a chance to be a part of crafting as many of them as I can."



# Scott Kreiger Appointed Principal of Bishop Luers High School

BY NICOLE HAHN

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has appointed Scott Kreiger as the new Principal of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne effective on Monday, July 17.

Kreiger, who served as Assistant Principal at Bishop Luers this past year, will take over for James Huth, who gave notice earlier this year that he will be moving into a new career opportunity. A search committee for Huth's replacement was formed in February. Huth said of his time at Bishop Luers, "Although I have very much enjoyed my time as Principal of Bishop Luers, it is time for me to move on and take my career in a new direction. Please accept my deepest gratitude for all that everyone has done for me during my tenure here. I would also like to thank my team for everything we have accomplished. I will forever remember my time here in this position."

Scott Kreiger has experience in teaching science, computer science, business, and math at the middle, high school, and college levels, as well as coaching and leadership positions in education. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Education, a master's degree in School Administration, and completed an Educational Leadership



SCOTT KREIGER

Program in 2021.

Bishop Rhoades shared, "I am very grateful that Scott accepted the position of Principal at Bishop Luers High School. His experience in educational leadership and his commitment to the Catholic identity, mission, and strong academic program at Bishop Luers have impressed me greatly. Scott's deep Catholic faith, his professionalism, and his love for education will help Bishop Luers continue to grow and flourish."

Kreiger has also served in professional roles that include President of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, Chair of the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association, and Committee Chair of ISACS Evaluation & Self-Study at

Canterbury School. He has also volunteered his time at Habitat for Humanity, The Franciscan Center, Mustard Seed Furniture Bank, and Blessings in a Backpack.

"It is a great honor to be asked by Bishop Rhoades to be the next principal at Bishop Luers High School," Kreiger said. "I am humbled and honored to accept the position. It is with great enthusiasm and dedication that I embark on this journey to serve the students, faculty, and the entire Bishop Luers community. Together, we will foster an environment of academic excellence, personal growth, and faith formation. We will continue to build upon the rich traditions and values that have shaped this institution for generations. Guided by our Catholic identity, we will foster a nurturing and inclusive environment where students feel supported and inspired to reach their fullest potential. I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next leader of Bishop Luers High School."

Kreiger and his wife Stacie have been married for 34 years. She is the Director of Clinical Services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The couple has four children and five grandchildren. They live in Fort Wayne and are parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We as Catholics have a duty to bring morality into the public forum. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) works to bring morality into the public forum by educating policy makers and politicians on Catholic Social Teaching and the impact it can have on proposed laws. While the ICC had some successes during the most recent Indiana General Assembly session with expanding school choice and curbing predatory lending, we need assistance. Those who stay informed on local and national issues can help the ICC help the Church. Signing up to receive information on matters of importance to the Church from the ICC is a small first step. After receiving information, you can prayerfully discern which matters you want to share with family and friends, or which matters move you to engage in some way with your local or national representatives or senators.

Sign up via email [icc@archindy.org](mailto:icc@archindy.org) or by calling 317-236-1458. Thank you for your consideration.



The Indiana Catholic Conference

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

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## Pence Pushes Back on False Claims about Ukraine's Religious Freedom at GOP Forum

DES MOINES, Iowa (OSV News) – Former Vice President Mike Pence had a tense exchange with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson on Friday, July 14, at an Iowa candidate forum about the war in Ukraine, shedding light on both how Republican presidential candidates are navigating increasingly conflicted views on the subject among their base, but also an oft-repeated disinformation tactic by Russian propagandists. At a conference hosted by the Family Leadership Summit, a prominent and influential evangelical group in a state home to the first contest in the presidential nomination process, Carlson argued against providing U.S. support to Ukraine to fend off Russia's invasion, sparring with Pence, who supports providing such aid. Carlson continued to push Pence on Ukraine, arguing that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is "persecuting Christians." Zelenskyy's government has taken steps to restrict Moscow-affiliated Orthodox churches under the influence of the Russian government as it seeks to fend off that country's invasion, a distinction Pence argued was an important one. "I asked the Christian leader in Kyiv if that was happening, and he assured me it was not – people were not being persecuted for their religious beliefs," Pence said, adding that "he assured me that the Zelenskyy government was protecting religious liberty" in Ukraine while combating "small elements" of a Russian Orthodox Church run by the Kremlin. OSV News in-person interviews with Orthodox and Catholic leaders in Ukraine confirmed Pence's portrayal while repudiating Carlson's characterization of Ukraine. The Ukraine's Institute for Religious Freedom also reports that at least 494 religious buildings, theological institutions, and sacred places "were wholly destroyed, damaged, or looted" by the Russian military as of Jan. 31, 2023, thanks to its invasion.

## Allegations Chicago Police Sexually Abused Migrants 'Disturb' Catholic Advocates

CHICAGO (OSV News) – A Catholic immigration advocate group told OSV News it is "disturbed by allegations of migrant abuse by law enforcement in Chicago." The Chicago Police Department acknowledged on Thursday, July 6, that an internal investigation is underway regarding claims one or more officers from the city's 10th

## Summer Camp Held for Children of Vatican Employees



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis poses for a photo with children in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall on Tuesday, July 18. About 250 children of Vatican employees are attending a summer program from July 3 through August 4.

District (Ogden) had sexual relations with migrants temporarily being housed in the station. The admission followed a complaint received earlier that day by the city's Civilian Office of Police Accountability. No details about the migrants – including their ages and genders – or the police officers allegedly involved in the matter have yet been released. For several weeks, migrants bused to Chicago from the U.S.-Mexico border have sought shelter in police stations, as the city has struggled to find housing for them. Anna Marie Gallagher, Executive Director of CLINIC (the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) based in Silver Spring, Maryland, told OSV News in an email that "sadly, we know all too well the dangers that vulnerable individuals face when seeking refuge in the United States." According to the United Nations International Organization for Migration, irregular migration – usually undertaken in response to violence, poverty, and natural disasters – places women, girls, and LGBTQ+ persons at disproportionately higher risk for

gender-based violence, including human trafficking. "Catholic social teaching reminds us that every life is deserving of dignity and respect," said Gallagher. "We will continue to advocate for conditions in which migrants and refugees are met with open arms, safety, and respect."

## Appeals Court Dismisses Former Guidance Counselor's Case Against Catholic School

CHICAGO (OSV News) – A federal appeals court ruled on Thursday, July 13, that a Catholic high school and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have a constitutional right to hire staff who will uphold core religious teachings. The case, *Fitzgerald v. Roncalli High School and Archdiocese of Indianapolis*, involved Shelly Fitzgerald, whose contract was not renewed because she entered a same-sex union in violation of her contract and Catholic teaching. School officials said her conduct was prohibited by the agreement

she had signed with Roncalli. Fitzgerald filed a discrimination lawsuit in 2019 against the school and the archdiocese. In September of 2022, a district court threw out the lawsuit, noting that "Roncalli entrusted Fitzgerald to teach the Catholic faith and carry out" its religious mission. She appealed her case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In the July 13 ruling, the circuit court dismissed Fitzgerald's case, saying that the district court properly granted the defendant's summary judgment on the ministerial exception that protects a religious school's hiring and firing practices from government intrusion. The ruling "is common-sense: decisions about who conveys the Catholic faith to Catholic school children are for the Church, not the government," said Joseph Davis, Counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represented the defendant. "Religious schools exist to pass on the faith to the next generation, and to do that, they need the freedom to choose leaders who are fully committed to their religious mission."

## Abuse Allegations Down, but Challenges Remain, US Bishops Say in Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Abuse allegations against Catholic clergy and religious in the U.S. declined last year, but challenges remain with protecting vulnerable adults and ensuring online safety, according to the U.S. Bishops. On Friday, July 14, the USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection released the "2022 Annual Report – Findings and Recommendations on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." USCCB President Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio said in his preface the report was "a milestone accounting of the continued efforts in the ministry of protection, healing, and accompaniment." The document – covering the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – noted that 1,998 individuals came forward with 2,704 allegations of abuse, with claims down 399 from 2021 and 1,548 from 2020. The decrease was largely due to resolutions of allegations received through lawsuits, compensation programs, and bankruptcies. Sixteen reports during the period involved current minors, with all other allegations made by adults citing abuse as minors. The secretariat said in its assessment "the year-over-year trends are encouraging as the number of current minor allegations in the U.S. remains low." However, while many dioceses and eparchies are exceeding the specific requirements of the Dallas Charter, specific challenges remain in ensuring review boards function properly, and in clarifying reporting procedures for abuse against "vulnerable adults," which are treated under the *motu proprio* "Vox Estis Lux Mundi" rather than the charter.

## 'God Protected Him': Louisiana Priest Stable After Machete Attack

MELVILLE, Louisiana (OSV News) – Father Stephen Ugwu, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Melville, Louisiana, is recovering following a July 13 attack with a machete. The priest is at a hospital being treated for lacerations to his head and body. According to local media reports, a man wielding a machete attacked the priest at the church's campus after Father Ugwu declined the man's request to perform work in exchange for food, leaving Father Ugwu with cuts on his head and body. Melville police arrested the attacker and assisted Father Ugwu, a priest from Nigeria serving the Diocese of Lafayette.



## Catholic Charities 6th Immigration Conference Focuses on Economic Impact of Immigrants

BY NICOLE KURUT

On Thursday, June 29, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted its 6th Immigration Conference. With federal immigration policies continuing to evolve, this year's conference brought together national speakers to educate attendees on these changes and the possible effects on the community.

Catholic Charities originally began the local conference to teach service providers about immigration policies that affected the local population and enhance community services. This year, employers were welcomed to learn about the economic impact immigrants bring to our community.

Kicking off the event to a packed room at the Mirro Center in Fort Wayne, Catholic Charities CEO Dan Florin shared the history of the immigration program, dating back to 2002 when the Fort Wayne office became recognized as an approved agency by the Department of Justice.

Luz Ostrognai, Director of Immigration Service at Catholic Charities, painted a picture of the work Catholic Charities does in welcoming the stranger to our community. "Our immigration department does not work for the pursuit of popularity, for glory, or fortune. There's nothing glamorous about this kind of work. Representing clients who are going through difficult times in their lives and with people who feel scared or nervous about the prospect of being removed from the country, or frustrated with the long and complex immigration processes puts increased pressure on us."

Mayor Tom Henry shared his appreciation for those who have answered this calling. "The call you all accepted to

help those who want to call the U.S. home is a tremendous calling," he remarked.

After years of research, economist and Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University, Michael Hicks debunked common myths surrounding the impact of immigration. "There is no economic study that I have seen that has shown a fiscal drain due to immigration," said Hicks. "In the U.S., \$12 billion a year in social security and \$65 million a year in state and local taxes comes from immigrant taxes. When you look at the contributions they will make to social security, though they will not be eligible to withdraw on later, and you look at their local taxes, they pretty much pay for themselves as soon as they arrive."

The all-day training event also included speakers from the National Immigrant Justice Center, Barnes and Thornburg, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC). The speakers shared an overview of the legal differences in status, work authorization, and border issues. "It is really important to have a conversation about new neighbors. We want to welcome and help rebuild their lives," said Lisa Koop, speaker for the National Immigrant Justice Center. "We as legal counselors have to tell people, 'You qualify for immigration protection – it will be a decade before we can get it to you, but we can start the process today.' That is little comfort for people looking to put down roots and watch their children graduate from high school."

The event brought professionals from across the state of Indiana. "This is the largest Immigration Conference we have held," said Ostrognai. "We look forward to hosting another next year."



Nicole Kurut

Attendees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's 6th Immigration Conference at the Mirro Center in Fort Wayne on Thursday, June 29, listen to details of the economic impact of immigrants on our community.

## Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart Celebrate Jubilees

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated the jubilees of their Sisters on Sunday, June 17, at St. Francis Woods, in Frankfort, Illinois.

The following Jubilarians have ministered in this diocese.

### 75th Jubilee

Sister Colleen Loehmer was born in Schererville, Indiana. She professed her first vows in 1951 as a

Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and has spent nearly 50 years in the field of elementary education either as a teacher, a teacher aide, or a private tutor. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne from 1962 to 1966 and 1968 to 1969 and St. Joseph School in Garrett from 1967 to 1968. In addition, she taught in other schools in Indiana, Illinois, and California. In retirement, Sister keeps in touch with the many friends she made during her years in formal ministry. She also shares her artistic gifts and holds in prayer the special intentions of many. She said she is most grateful for her vocation, for being able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion each day, and for her caring and loving Sisters in community. She would tell anyone discerning a religious vocation that it is a most wonderful and satisfying life for which Jesus promises a hundredfold in this life and life everlasting.



SISTER COLLEEN LOEHMER, OSF

### 70th Jubilees

Sister Marilyn Renninger was born in Hoagland, Indiana. She professed her first vows in 1956 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and an M.A. from DePaul University in Chicago. The first part of her professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 18 years as a teacher and principal. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as a teacher at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne from 1960 to 1967.



SISTER MARILYN RENNINGER, OSF

She was then elected to the congregation's leadership team first as a Councilor and then as the Superior General for two terms. Following that, she ministered in an Illinois parish as a Pastoral Associate and Director of Adult Education. She then moved to Belize, Central America, where she established a new parish. She now holds a weekly scripture class in preparation for the Sunday scripture readings, is the Spiritual Assistant for three Secular Franciscan Fraternities, and is on the Board of the SouthWest Inter-Faith Team. Sister has a great love for everything Franciscan and helps others to grow in this spirituality. The relationship she has with Jesus and the spiritual relationships she has with people bring her much joy. To someone discerning a religious vocation she would say, "If you feel God's call, jump in and give it everything you have."



SISTER JOSEPHINE MULCAHEY, OSF

Sister Josephine Mulcahey was born in Rockford, Illinois. She professed her first vows in 1956 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and an M.A. in Religious Studies from the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies in Religious Education in Middleburg, Virginia, and a Certificate in Pastoral Care at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago. The first part of her professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 22 years. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne from 1958 to 1962 and 1972 to 1975 and at St. Joseph School in Garrett from 1969 to 1970. She also taught at St. Michael School in Schererville, Indiana, and in a school system in Peru, Illinois. She then followed her heart and pursued the ministry of pastoral care in healthcare institutions where she has served for more than 37 years. Presently she ministers at Ascension Saint Joseph in Joliet, Illinois. She said that what brings her the most joy is being able to minister to the people that she meets as a Spiritual Care Chaplain, to listen to their problems, to share with them God's unfailing love for them, to pray with them, and to support them on their journey. She lovingly brings them Jesus, the healer and beacon of hope.

### 60th Jubilees

Sister Mary Mark Segvich was born in Chicago. She professed her first vows in 1966 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and a Master's in Science Education from Purdue University in West Lafayette. The first part of her professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 22 years. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as a teacher and principal at St. Joseph School in Garrett from 1974 to 1977 and 1981 to 1983, and at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne from 1977 to 1979. In addition, she ministered in several schools in Illinois. She was then elected to the congregation's leadership team as a Councilor for two terms. Following that, she was appointed the Superior of the Motherhouse as well as Retirement Program Director and Senior Sisters Health Care Liaison, positions she continues to hold today. Sister is loved by the senior Sisters who know that she has their best interests at heart and that she will never hesitate to go the extra mile for any one of them. She said, "A Sister's life is a joy-filled life, and a jubilee is a time to recall memories and make new memories – a time to count my blessings."



SISTER MARY MARK SEGVICH, OSF

Sister Joanne Vander Heyden was born in Hammond, Indiana. She professed her first vows in 1966 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and a Master's in Education from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne. The first part of her professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 19 years. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as a teacher at St. Joseph School in Garrett from 1979 to 1982 and St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne from 1967 to 1968 and 1982 to 1986. In 1986, Sister felt called to make a career change



SISTER JOANNE VANDER HEYDEN, OSF



# 'It's Such a Privilege': Bishop Rhoades Reflects on 40 Years of Priesthood

BY ERIC PEAT

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades can still vividly recall his own literal and figurative mountaintop experience as a student at Mount Saint Mary's College, when the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother helped pave his path to the priesthood.

"The normal college life was not very fulfilling for me, and by my sophomore year, I was thinking, 'I want something more here; I want to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ,'" remembered Bishop Rhoades. "But I wasn't sure about the priestly vocation. I was struggling a lot about marriage and celibacy. I remember thinking about it at night, not being able to fall asleep, tossing and turning because I was just so torn between the two vocations. But it was one October day, when I went up and prayed on the mountain, which was Mount Saint Mary's – it was at the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes – and I remember just handing it over to the Lord through Mary, asking, 'Please help me; I'm not really happy at what I'm doing right now, and I'm confused about what I should do.' And I continued to pray, and the thought of priesthood – there was just kind of this invasion of grace. It was the joy and the peace, which are fruits of the Holy Spirit."

This joy and peace that a young Kevin Rhoades encountered on the mountaintop led him to pursue a priestly vocation – one that has blessed countless faithful in multiple dioceses over the past four decades. On Sunday, July 9, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination. His



Photos by Eric Peat

Bishop Rhoades poses with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in his office at the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne on Thursday, July 6.

excellency has spent 19 of those years as a bishop and 13 in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, where he has shepherded his flock by teaching the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments, and continually engaging with priests, laity, and religious alike. It's been quite the adventure for a self-proclaimed introvert who once had a fear of public speaking.

"It's not easy being an introvert and being a bishop, but I think part of it is the grace I received when I was ordained 40 years ago," admitted Bishop Rhoades. "But I love what I'm doing; I love serving the Lord and the Church, so I think that's

what gives me the energy. It's something that I feel called to but also truly do enjoy, even though sometimes it's exhausting."

The journey for Bishop Rhoades began in a small town in the Coal Region of Pennsylvania. The son of Charles and Mary Rhoades, Kevin Carl Rhoades was born

on November 26, 1957, in Mahanoy City and grew up in nearby Lebanon. The Catholic faith was not only integral in his household, but it was also "the center of life" throughout the region, producing many religious vocations.

"My mother was a devout Catholic; my father wasn't Catholic," said Bishop Rhoades.

"My grandmother – my mother's mother – lived with us when I was a kid, and she was a very holy woman. She had arthritis, difficulty getting around, but she prayed the rosary, and she was just a beautiful person with a beautiful faith. So, I was raised in a very positive experience of the Catholic faith, in the home and then in school."

Bishop Rhoades loved his Catholic schooling, graduating from Lebanon Catholic High School in 1975. He was very active in school, serving as an altar boy among many other activities. "I think the seed was planted for a religious vocation, although I didn't really discern it until college," Bishop Rhoades said, when the aforementioned invasion of grace opened his eyes to the priesthood. After completing his second year at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and realizing that this desire was more than a passing whim, he entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, Pennsylvania. Two years later, he left for Rome, where he studied theology at the North American College and the Pontifical Gregorian University from 1979 to 1983.

In 1982, Bishop Rhoades was ordained to the diaconate at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City by Cardinal Terence Cooke. He was part of the first class of the North American College to be ordained in the basilica – a

## Congratulations, Bishop Rhoades!

ST. MARY OF THE  
ANNUNCIATION CHURCH  
BRISTOL, IN

Thank you for your YES 40 years ago!

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF  
*Saint Pius X*  
Catholic Church  
congratulates Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on his  
celebration of 40 years in the priesthood!





request his class had made to the administration that has ever since become the norm for diaconate ordinations at the college. "I have very fond memories of that," recalled Bishop Rhoades. "I remember some of my family was able to come over; it was just so joyful to show them Rome and to have them there. It was an overwhelming experience for them, and the joy that I had was the joy in seeing how joyful they were."

Bishop's time studying in Rome also helped him discern between becoming a diocesan priest or a religious order priest. His desire to travel and see the world made him uneasy about staying in one diocese for the rest of his life, but since it was all he had ever known, he ultimately decided to pursue the diocesan priesthood. However, his time studying in other countries, experiencing different cultures, and learning new languages "got that out of my system" and helped him feel "ready to settle down."

Kevin C. Rhoades was ordained a priest of the Harrisburg Diocese on July 9, 1983. He was assigned to St. Patrick Parish in York, Pennsylvania, where he would serve as Parochial Vicar for two years while also ministering part-time to a local Hispanic parish, Cristo Salvador. Six months later, his bishop asked him to also take care of the local migrants working in the orchard

fields. It was during this time serving the Hispanic population that Bishop Rhoades "fell in love with the culture" that he still strives to celebrate through Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"So here I was, regular assignment, one day a week at this Spanish parish, plus I was spending two days a week in Adams County serving the migrants," said Bishop Rhoades. "It's providential that I ended up being ordained a bishop on December 9, 2004, on the feast of St. Juan Diego. When I was Bishop of Harrisburg, I started a new mission for Mexican migrants in the diocese, and I called it St. Juan Diego Mission. When I was transferred to Fort Wayne, of course they were in tears, but they gave me as a parting gift this beautiful painting of Juan Diego, and it's in my chapel in my house here in Fort Wayne. This has been a thread throughout my priestly and episcopal life."

Another three years in Rome studying dogmatic theology and canon law were followed by a brief assignment as Assistant Chancellor in the Harrisburg diocesan office before he was appointed Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in 1990. He served there for five years until accepting a teaching position at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. He was named Rector of the seminary in 1997, a position he held until Pope John Paul

II appointed Kevin C. Rhoades as Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg at the age of 46.

"When I received the call in October of 2004, I was really dumbfounded; I was kind of speechless," Bishop Rhoades said of his appointment. Other than the leadership required in his rector role and his limited work in the diocesan office, Bishop Rhoades said he had no real training to be a bishop and was instead expecting to return to parish life. Despite the inevitable learning curve, he couldn't say no to his hero.

"I was one of the last bishops appointed by Pope John Paul II before he died, and he was kind of my hero, the one who I would listen to," Bishop Rhoades said, referencing his time in Rome. "I would go over to St. Peter's, go over to audiences and his Angelus talks. He really helped to form me to be a priest, because I learned so much from listening to his talks and reading his writings, that it was kind of unbelievable for me that he was the one who appointed me to be a bishop. And I was very emotional about that. When I was back in Rome the first time after being a bishop, walking down the aisle past his tomb, there were tears, because I was like, 'I served Mass for him as a seminarian, and now I'm a bishop.' I would have never imagined that. So, he was a great influence on my theological and philosophical thinking."

Other priestly models for Bishop Rhoades included Father Tony Manochio, his college priest who he asked to be his spiritual director; Monsignor Thomas Brenner, Pastor of his first priestly assignment at St. Patrick; and Father Bernie Pistone, Pastor of Cristo Salvador in York. Bishop Rhoades asked the latter two to be chaplains at his ordination, and they were at his side when Cardinal Justin Rigali ordained him a bishop in 2004.

While being a bishop in one's home diocese is not common, Bishop Rhoades found that all his previously-established connections made it easier, although the transition took some getting used to. "Some of the priests, like my high school principal or priests who I had served Mass for when I was in grade school, I'm now their bishop and their superior – that was very weird," Bishop Rhoades said. He admitted that he thought he'd be in Harrisburg for the rest of his life, but once again, change greeted him unexpectedly when Pope Benedict XVI transferred Bishop Rhoades to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend five years later.

"I knew nothing about the diocese – I knew no one here," said Bishop Rhoades. "It was difficult leaving family, it was difficult leaving my close friends, but I felt so welcomed from day one. I got to know the priests pretty quickly, and I've

been very happy here."

Since his installation on January 13, 2010, Bishop Rhoades has indeed made himself at home in the diocese and accessible to its people. Many hear his voice on Redeemer Radio via his weekly show, Truth in Charity. Others hear him answering questions at conferences or preaching at Mass. "I think that that's part of evangelization, helping people to grow in the knowledge of the faith, and hopefully that knowledge leads to love of God and a love for the Church," Bishop Rhoades said. "I kind of find that life-giving. Even now, when I visit the high schools and teach or give a lecture at Notre Dame, I love doing that. That's part of my personality, but also, I'm learning when I'm preparing."

Bishop Rhoades continues learning and sharing knowledge on a plethora of committees and advisory boards across the country. Most notably, he currently serves as Chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine, where he has helped lead the charge on the National Eucharistic Revival, an effort he refers to as "the center of my intention in shepherding the diocese at this time." In fact, the themes of the Eucharist and Mary – both of which appear prominently on one side of

RHODES, page 10

*Congratulations,  
Bishop Rhoades  
on your  
40th Jubilee*



*Thank you for  
being our Shepherd.*



SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

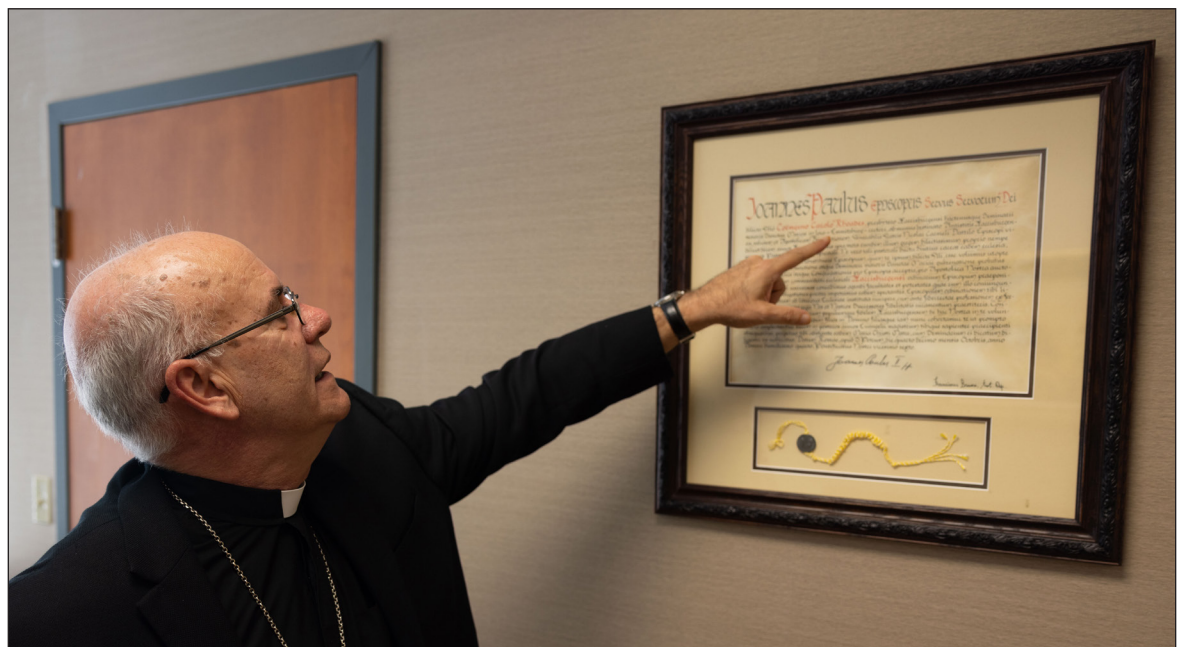


Congratulations and Blessings  
to  
Bishop Rhoades  
ON YOUR  
**40TH**  
PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARY.

Father John Eze  
and St. Patrick, Arcola  
parishioners



ST. PATRICK, PRAY FOR BISHOP RHOADES.



Eric Peat

Bishop Rhoades reads the Latin manuscript from Pope John Paul II appointing him as Bishop of the Harrisburg Diocese in Pennsylvania in 2004 in his office at the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne on Thursday, July 6.

#### RHOADES, from page 9

Bishop's coat of arms – are the two themes that he said have defined his priesthood.

"Those are the images of my priestly life, but also my life as bishop," said Bishop Rhoades. "The highlight of my time as Bishop of Harrisburg was a diocesan Marian year that I had, and I think that was the most significant thing that happened in those five years. When I was ordained a bishop, it was during the year of the Eucharist. John Paul had just issued his encyclical on the Eucharist, so my first homilies throughout the diocese were all on the theme of the Eucharist. So here we are again, almost 20 years later, and we're in a national Eucharistic Revival."

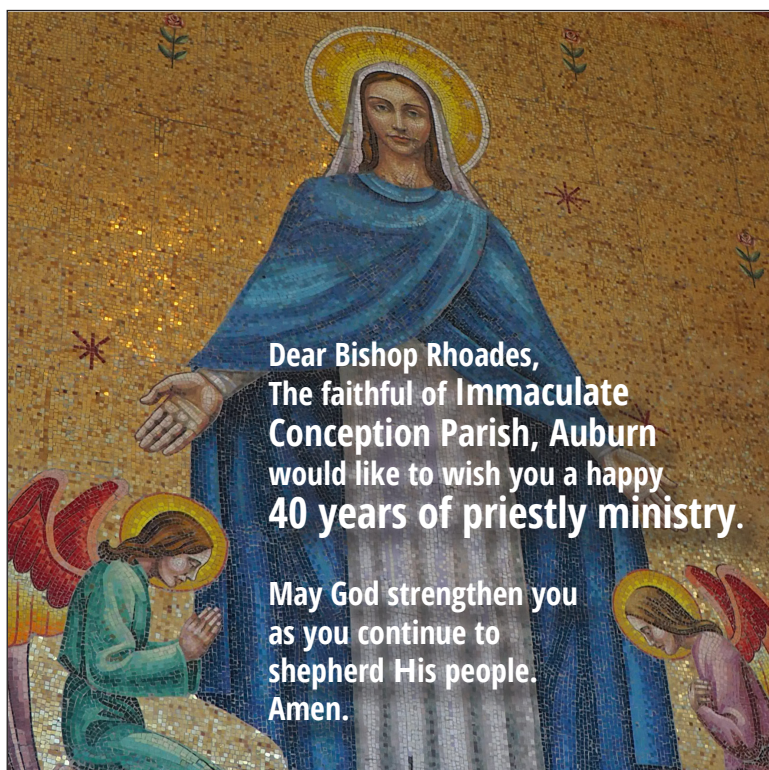
As Bishop Rhoades reflected on the past four decades, he recalled particular events that

stood out. In addition to priesthood ordinations, parish and school visits, and World Youth Day pilgrimages – of which he is days away from embarking on his fourth as shepherd of our diocese – he referenced the renewal of Fort Wayne-South Bend's Marian consecration in 2014, when he was "blown away" by the level of participation, and last year's Corpus Christi procession in Warsaw to kick off the Eucharistic Revival, which "really was very moving." It's the faithful of the diocese who Bishop Rhoades said have not only left a mark, but who have also sustained him through the valleys after the mountaintop experiences fade.

"It's such a privilege to be a priest and a bishop," said his excellency. "And hopefully, despite my own personal weaknesses, I hope that my service

to the Lord and the Church has borne fruit and will continue to bear fruit. I really rely on the prayers of the faithful, the people. I really think that's what keeps me going: the graces that come from the prayers of the people, and I am so grateful for all of the support and prayers of the people of our diocese and the Diocese of Harrisburg, because for me, they're like the salt of the earth, and that's what encourages me as well – the strong faith that I see in the people who are really living the faith, going to church, serving the poor, and practicing works of mercy. There are a lot of saintly people who I've had the privilege to meet here in our diocese."

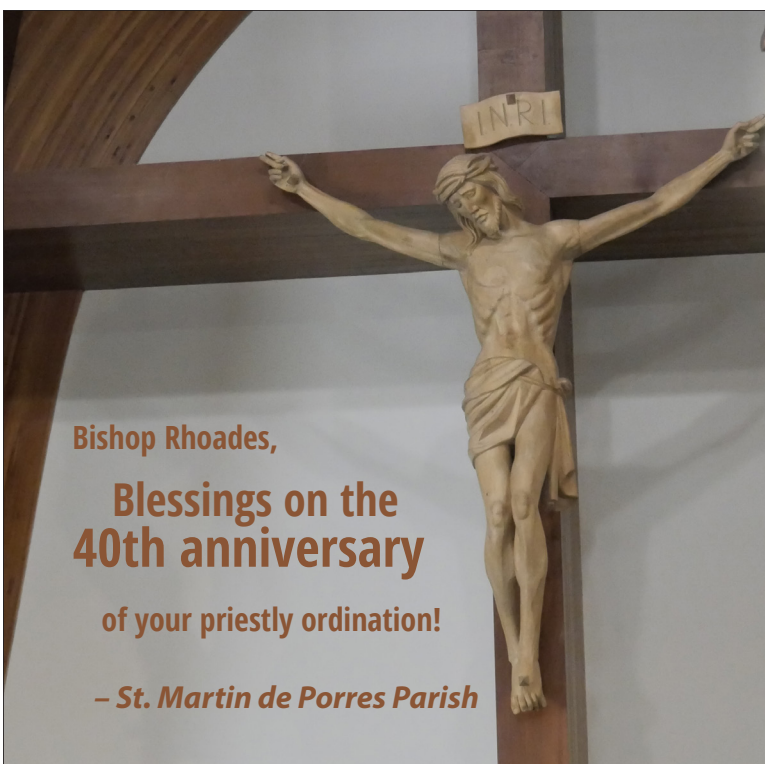
The privilege has truly been ours, Bishop Rhoades. Congratulations on 40 years as a priest and bishop, and may God bless you on your jubilee!



Dear Bishop Rhoades,  
The faithful of Immaculate  
Conception Parish, Auburn  
would like to wish you a happy  
**40 years of priestly ministry.**

May God strengthen you  
as you continue to  
shepherd His people.  
Amen.

TRUTH IN CHARITY PODCAST  
[redeemerradio.com/askbishop](http://redeemerradio.com/askbishop)



Bishop Rhoades,  
**Blessings on the  
40th anniversary**  
of your priestly ordination!

– St. Martin de Porres Parish



CONGRATULATIONS,  
BISHOP RHOADES!



Thank you for being our spiritual leader.  
Blessings on your 40th Jubilee!

*I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10)*



# Father Daniel Durkin Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Father Daniel Durkin celebrated his 50th jubilee with a big party on Tuesday, June 27, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne. He said he enjoyed a special program and party with approximately 150 people in attendance.

Father Durkin said big influences in his vocation to the priesthood were family members who were priests, like his uncle, Monsignor Thomas Durkin, and he said, "a number of my cousins were Precious Blood priests."

Even though he's retired, he continues to serve in a number of ways as he is able. Longtime friend and health care representative Pam Allmandinger, said he sometimes concelebrates Mass at St. Elizabeth, hears confessions, takes Communion to the nursing homes, and offers counseling to those who need to talk.

According to a previous article in Today's Catholic by Jodi Marlin, Father Durkin's formation began at what was once Our Lady of the Lake seminary on Lake Wawasee in Syracuse when he was in high school. He went on to attend St. Gregory's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, and finished his formal education at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Father Durkin was ordained on May 26, 1973.

After his ordination, he was first assigned to Holy Family Parish in South Bend and then



FATHER DANIEL DURKIN

to St. Jude Parish in South Bend. The first church he pastored was at St. Joseph and St. Catherine in Roanoke.

According to Marlin's story, Father Durkin was quoted as saying, "It was during my time in Roanoke that I worked with Monsignor Robert Schulte to create the training program for the permanent diaconate ministry in the diocese."

He also brought the Christ Renews His Parish program to St. Joseph, according to Allmandinger, who said she thought it was the second parish in the diocese to have the program. Allmandinger shared that a participant in that program gave a testimonial to Father Durkin saying he was on the wrong road and when he went to the Christ Renews retreat, "It completely turned his life around and he was so grateful to Father Dan," she said.

His next assignment was St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla where he oversaw the construction of a necessary school expansion. He was then assigned to St. Henry and Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne, until Sacred Heart was designated as a personal parish where the Latin Mass is celebrated.

Father Durkin said it pleased him to serve at Sacred Heart because his uncle, Monsignor Durkin, started the parish.

Allmandinger shared that Father Durkin once told her that bringing the Lord to people in the Eucharist and helping people enter the Church were so rewarding to him as a priest. She also shared another program that Father Durkin brought to St. Joseph that made a big impact – he started a Day of Recollection or Renewal for seniors.

She shared that her mother was a senior who would cry, wishing she could participate in the Christ Renews His Parish retreats. When Allmandinger told Father Durkin this, he came up with the idea for the Day of Recollection for the seniors in nursing homes. He would celebrate Mass, offer the Anointing of the Sick, they'd have dinner, and a speaker was brought in – someone who'd traveled to the Holy Land, for example.

"He did that every year for 10 years," Allmandinger said. "He'd bring the seniors in for a Christmas party too. Seeing those seniors participating in the Day of Renewal was just phenomenal."

Allmandinger also shared that for his jubilee celebration, Father Durkin received several letters from parishioners at St. Joseph, including one from a young girl sharing how much it meant to her that he administered her First Holy

Communion and Confirmation and that he was always there as a friend. She said his response after reading the letters was, "We need to have another party!"

"We are all very fond of him," Allmandinger said.



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# Father Robert D'Souza Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Father Robert D'Souza let Jesus engineer his life, and it made all the difference in the world.

The oldest of Joseph Benjamin and Marcelin D'Souza's nine children, Father D'Souza thought he would become an engineer after high school. His plans changed when he accepted an invitation from his parish priest in Kirem, India. The priest took Father D'Souza to a local home where a man lay dying. After administration of Sacraments and prayer, the pair left, but the spiritual impact of that visit remained with Father D'Souza. Shortly after, a retreat helped Father D'Souza make a decision about his vocation, and on March 19, 1973, after much training and schooling, he was ordained by the late Archbishop Albert V. D'Souza.

As a newly-ordained priest, Father D'Souza spent two years at his first appointment about 50 miles outside of Calcutta. An area where only Bengali was spoken, Father D'Souza practiced and taught the faith. "My first appointment to the priesthood was tough, where everything was new to me," he said. Despite the challenges, he

liked his work. "I liked going to the villages, celebrating Mass, and teaching Catechism to the people."

New challenges awaited Father D'Souza at his next appointment. Transferred to Calcutta and a parish where 60 percent of the population lived in the slums, Father D'Souza soon found himself the leader of a facility of 300 orphan boys ages five to 20 who were either just from prison, found on the streets by Mother Teresa, or similarly delivered from destitution. After six months of running the institution, he saw the difficulty of caring for the basic needs, like food and education, for the large group of boys.

Father D'Souza sought assistance from St. Mother Teresa, who co-founded the organization. The saint promised financial support for his programming, but the meeting paid bigger dividends in Father D'Souza's life. She told him to pray each day in front of the Blessed Sacrament and ask Mary for guidance in his struggles. "I still follow her advice strictly and I am happy to tell that her advice helped me to live happily," he said. With these stresses and then recovery from a motorcycle accident, Father D'Souza found himself ready for a change, and



FATHER ROBERT D'SOUZA

in 1985 spent a year working at *The Herald* as the Assistant Editor and Circulation Manager of that Indian Diocesan publication.

Missing the life of a parish priest, Father D'Souza requested a return to such a role and soon found himself at Sacred Heart (India) Parish in 1986. As priest and dean of the Asansol region, he held many responsibilities. Father D'Souza said his "main trust was to educate the poor children and pastorally reach out." Alongside the multiple schools and convents of St. Mother

Teresa's in the area was a leper colony in which 800 men, women, and children lived. "Every Sunday," he said, "I used to say Mass to these lepers, the most enriching days of my ministry."

While enriching, it was not permanent. Five years later, St. Antony's School became his home. With 1500 students, he said, "It was very strenuous and demanding. After five years in the school, I asked for a sabbatical year." That bishop's refusal of time for rest blessed our diocese.

Describing her as "my good friend," Father D'Souza was offered a role in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese by Bishop D'Arcy at St. Mother Teresa's recommendation. As an Associate Pastor at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, and Chaplain for Parkview and St. Joseph Hospitals, he said, "I did only the pastoral ministry celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and visiting the hospitals and nursing homes every day. Here I was spiritually enriched and touched the lives of people. These were the best days of my priesthood."

After retiring, Father D'Souza took a 2020 trip home to India. Covid kept him from returning to the United States. Now at home in India with his

family, Father D'Souza lives with 15 members of his family. "There is [a] lot of fun, frolic, and joy. Every evening at 8:30, we pray together, say the Rosary, read the Scripture, and sing the hymn to Our Lady," he said. "That keeps us together. I am glad to be back with my own people and my family here in India."

Their unmediated communication models solid advice Father D'Souza offers. "The world is changing every day and we are bombarded with new culture and technologies. Use them in a more positive way than for the pleasures of your life. Today, cell phones are the big killer of persons and families. Parents, advise your children to use them for the good. Media can make your life and destroy life, too. It all depends, so use it for the goodness."

Using that life that he handed over to Jesus continues to engineer goodness in the hearts of countless others.

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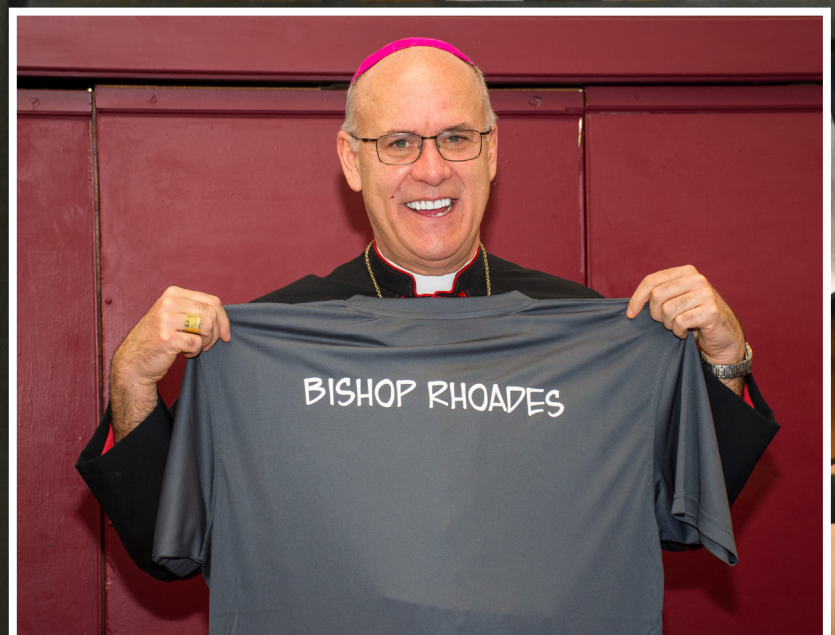


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Ad Multos Annos!**





# Father Wilson Corzo Celebrates 25 Years of Priesthood

BY DENISE FEDOROW

**F**ather Wilson Corzo, Pastor of Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend, said his vocation to the priesthood began as a young teen.

He recalled that he was about 14 years old when a priest came to his school – the Director of Vocations – and he spoke to each class. That was when Father Corzo first felt he was called to the priesthood. The priest invited the young men if they were interested in entering the seminary to speak to him afterward. Father Corzo did speak to him after school, stayed in touch, and after completing 9th grade, he entered the minor seminary.

He lived at the minor seminary in Colombia, his native country, for the rest of his high school years and then entered the seminary. He was ordained on December 12, 1998, and served a year and a half as a parish priest and also as chaplain at a hospital run by the Dominican sisters.

He came to the United States in July of 2000. He served as Parochial Vicar at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart for eight years, then was installed as Pastor at St. Patrick in Ligonier, where he served 14 years, including one year also serving at Blessed Sacrament in Albion. He was called to Our Lady of Hungary last summer.

Father Corzo spoke about the most meaningful part of being a priest. “Celebrating the Eucharist for me is the most special – celebrating all the sacraments, but especially the Eucharist. Not everybody has the gift to be able to transform



FATHER WILSON CORZO

bread and wine into the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. That’s the most special.”

Father Corzo said that throughout his 25 years as a priest, he’s had “generally good experiences at all the parishes. They’ve been very good communities and people.”

He said there aren’t any plans yet to celebrate his 25th jubilee, but said maybe he’d like to celebrate Mass and have a meal with the community at Our Lady of Hungary. He said he would also wish to go back and do the same with the community at St. Patrick, where he served the longest.

Father Corzo encourages young men to “think about the vocation of priesthood. It’s very nice, the ministry of priesthood, to be able to celebrate the sacraments and it’s amazing to help so many people and the community.”

“We need more priests, so I invite young men to think about it and come to the priesthood,” said Father Corzo.

# Deacon Kevin Ranaghan: 50 Years of Being a Bridge

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

**T**o celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate, Kevin Ranaghan and his wife Dorothy went to Mass and dinner at St. Bavo, Mishawaka, where he served as deacon for 34 years before retiring four years ago. There will be another celebration of jubilarians this fall when all the deacons in the diocese get together on retreat in Donaldson. When there were only a handful of deacons, they used to gather with the diocesan priests, but the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend now has 40 deacons thanks to Bishop Kevin Rhoades. Deacon Ranaghan, who long served on the Diocesan Deacons’ Council, is grateful to Bishop Rhoades for this revival.

He still misses St. Bavo, which he calls “a lovely, wonderful part of my life and the life of my family,” but his age, health, and lack of stamina made 2019 the right time to step down. The Ranaghans had long maintained their membership at Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, but now find St. Joseph, South Bend, more accessible. Two of their daughters and their families are also St. Joe members, and the Ranaghans enjoy experiencing life in such a vibrant parish.

Deacon Ranaghan remains available to “pinch hit” as requested, especially in any way that fosters ecumenism and evangelism. A recent highlight was assisting in the Mass of Thanksgiving for newly-ordained Father Zane Langenbrunner, a son of St. Bavo. Father Langenbrunner noted that the deacon had known him since before he was born.



DEACON KEVIN RANAGHAN

Deacon Ranaghan, who holds a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, was trained by the Apostolic Institute, formed in the late 1960s to explore two big ideas: forming Christian communities and developing new forms of ministry in the Catholic Church. Its founders were very interested in base communities formed among the poor in Latin America, as well as in the re-emergence of the diaconate around the time of Vatican II. Before long, they were designing a course of studies to prepare men for this new form of Church leadership. Monsignor John Szabo, Pastor of Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend, had been instrumental in bringing the Cursillo movement to Notre Dame and South Bend. He became “our champion,” according to Deacon Ranaghan. Encouraged by Monsignor Szabo, Bishop Leo Pursley was willing to give it a try; he wound up ordaining three classes of deacons in three years. Most were sent to serve in diocesan parishes.

Initially assigned to Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, Deacon Ranaghan then spent several years serving the national and international charismatic renewal. He wound up at St. Bavo because of a conversation in the Bronx. New York, between his mother Irene and her neighbor, who told Irene that her nephew, Father Paul Bueter, needed help after returning from Panama to be Pastor at St. Bavo. “My son’s a deacon,” she said, “and he isn’t currently assigned to a parish.” The rest is history.

The last few years, the Ranaghans have done very little traveling. They’ve moved out of a large house where they loved to offer hospitality. Much of their leisure time is spent in doctors’ offices, but they remain eager “to share the Gospel, life in Christ, and the beauty of the Church.”

“Over the past 50 years since I was ordained, it’s been wonderful to watch more and more members fully participating in the life of the Church. Deacons – who now number over 19,000 in the United States – have played an important role, something like a bridge between clergy and laity, but all the baptized are working together to build the kingdom of God, each with our unique gifts and ministries,” reflected Deacon Ranaghan. “That’s very promising for the future.”

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For information at the national level, go to [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org).



# Nudged by the Holy Spirit to Become a Deacon

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

At 91, macular degeneration makes it difficult for Deacon Eugene Egendoerfer to see, but he still prays morning and evening prayer even though he has to hold his breviary 4" from an LED light. He clearly remembers the moment when the Holy Spirit nudged him to explore becoming a deacon. He and his wife Winnie were leaving a midweek Cursillo gathering in Houston, Texas, where a priest had mentioned that their diocese planned to begin training men for this new role recently reopened by Vatican II. "You should look into that," she told him, and he nodded. "That's exactly what I was thinking."

Gene and 32 other men began their studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, but after a year, he lost his electrical engineering job and decided to move back to Mishawaka, where the Egendoerfers rejoined Queen of Peace Parish. He figured that move probably meant he wasn't called to the diaconate after all. But before long he learned that the Apostolic Institute was about to begin a program in our diocese for the same purpose. Bishop Leo Pursley ordained that first class of five men on June 29, 1973, which was not only the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles, but that year was also the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Two of those first deacons, Deacon Andrew Plodowski and Deacon Theodore Krizman, have died. Deacon Egendoerfer currently lives with his daughter in South Carolina. Retired Deacons Paul DeCelles and Kevin Ranaghan are still in South Bend.

Both Deacon Egendoerfer and Deacon Krizman were initially assigned to Queen of Peace in Mishawaka. When the pastor asked how they



DEACON EUGENE EGENDOERFER

wanted to serve, Krizman's first response was, "Put us on the preaching schedule." A job transfer eventually took Krizman to North Carolina, but for the next 25 years, Egendoerfer preached a homily every other week at every one of four weekend Masses. Prayerfully preparing those homilies was a priority despite the demands of work and family. When he was working weekdays in Morris, Illinois, he prepared some of those sermons in the bathroom so he wouldn't bother his roommate.

Pat Feehly, active at Queen of Peace for many years, stays in contact with Deacon Egendoerfer. She remembers the two deacons coming to her home to ask her husband Jim's permission for his wife to attend charismatic prayer meetings in the parish. Jim assented but insisted he wouldn't be joining her. However, it wasn't long before he was dropping off their children for Pat to babysit along with others so he could attend a Life in the Spirit seminar. That may have had something to do with the fact that Pat sprinkled holy water in Jim's coffee, but she attributes it to the manly influence of the deacons. The Feehlys and the Egendoerfers became close friends. Pat remembers Gene

as an excellent cook who kept in shape by swimming every morning.

Besides preaching, Deacon Egendoerfer did a lot of visiting, including consoling and praying with families who had suffered tragic losses.

In 1999, the Egendoerfers moved to Parrish, Florida, where Deacon Egendoerfer began serving at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church. The pastor told him deacons in that diocese weren't allowed to preach, so he wound up baptizing more than 100 babies and working in prison ministry along with his wife Winnie. Every week, they spent a whole day in the prison getting to know people there for everything from murder to traffic violations. Winnie quickly established rapport with the female prisoners by admiring one's "jewelry" (handcuffs and leg irons).

In 2011, he moved to Easley, South Carolina, with his daughter for part of the year, returning to Florida for the other half and alternating his ministry for several years between Parrish and the Catholic Church of St. Luke in Easley, a mission of Holy Cross Church in Pickens, South Carolina. Although the bishop said deacons were supposed to retire at age 80, the pastor ignored that mandate, since Deacon Egendoerfer was still technically a deacon of the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. At age 82, he finally retired from active ministry.

To observe the 50th anniversary of Deacon Egendoerfer's ordination, his parish in Easley held a special Mass at which the pastor spoke about the responsibilities of a deacon and presented him with a framed commemoration from Pope Francis. A reception followed. Since Egendoerfer is hard of hearing, his daughter made sure the ceremony was recorded for him to listen to later.

Besides his seven years in prison ministry, a highlight Deacon Egendoerfer recalls from his ministry was serving at the closing Mass of a charismatic conference in the University of Notre Dame stadium, vesting and then coming through the tunnel to the platform on the 50-yard line.

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# New Altar at Oratory of the Holy Family Dedicated

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Last summer, Bishop Rhoades visited the Our Lady, Patroness of America Center in Rome City, with the hope to dedicate a new altar for the celebration of Holy Mass. While he was able to formally rename the chapel "Oratory of the Holy Family" and permanently reserve the Blessed Sacrament there, during installation of the altar stone, it became seriously damaged and needed to be completely replaced.

While this was an unfortunate delay, President Al Langsenkamp remained hopeful and saw God's providence at work even in the tragedy. He said then, "We are excited that Bishop Rhoades will be coming back to do another Mass!"

A year later, these expectations have been fulfilled as Bishop Rhoades returned to the Oratory on Saturday, July 15, and successfully dedicated the new altar and blessed a new ambo. Designed by local liturgical architect Phillip Breckler and constructed by Larry Campbell of Te Deum LLC, the altar depicts iconic symbols of the Holy Family and now holds relics of St. Agnes and St. Gallicanus.

The Mass for the Dedication of an Altar had special readings reflecting the sacred character of the event. In his homily, Bishop Rhoades exclaimed, "In the first reading from the book of Maccabees, we heard the account of the dedication



Photos provided by Our Lady, Patroness of America Center

**Bishop Kevin Rhoades consecrates the new altar at the Oratory of the Holy Family in Rome City on Saturday, July 15. The ritual requires pouring sacred chrism onto the corners and center of the altar, which the bishop then spreads over the surface with his hands.**

of the new altar in the temple of Jerusalem after it had been attacked, pillaged, and turned into a pagan shrine. The books of the law had been torn up and burned and any Jews found practicing their religion were tortured and executed. Faithful Jews revolted and fought back, as Judas Maccabeus formed and led a Jewish army. Even though they were greatly outnumbered, they defeated Antiochus Epiphanes and his forces, recapture Jerusalem, rebuild the city, and purify the temple. For eight days, the faithful Jewish people 'celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.'"

Emphasizing the similar jubilation felt on this day, Bishop Rhoades continued, "What we began last summer here at the Our Lady, Patroness of America



**Bishop Rhoades places the altar stone into the new altar at the Oratory of the Holy Family in Rome City on Saturday, July 15. The stone covers the first-class relics of St. Agnes and St. Gallicanus.**

Center with the rededication of this Oratory and its dedication to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is completed today with this celebration of the dedication of this beautiful new altar. While the Jews celebrated the dedication of the Jerusalem temple, how much greater must be our joy in knowing that on the altar I will dedicate, an infinitely greater sacrifice will be offered; not burnt offerings of animals or crops, but the sacrifice of the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ and the Church. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass fulfills the meaning of the sacrifices that were offered on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. On this altar and on the altars of Catholic churches and oratories throughout the world, Christ's sacrifice is made present for our salvation and for that of the whole world."

He emphasized that "Pope Benedict once said, 'Christ's presence is a dynamic presence that takes hold of us to make us His, to liken us to Him. He attracts us with the force of His love, bringing us out of ourselves to be united with Him, making us one with Him.' This is what happens at every Mass. The real presence of Christ makes us His temple, His house, and all together we form His Church."

Bishop spoke further about the uniqueness of this particular liturgy, saying, "I will consecrate the altar with sacred chrism. This is quite unusual because chrism is usually used at the consecration of persons, not things. We were anointed with sacred chrism when baptized and confirmed. Priests and bishops are anointed with chrism at their ordination. When I consecrate this altar, I invite you to think about your own consecration. What does it mean to be consecrated? It means to be 'set apart.' This altar will be set apart for divine worship, nothing else will be done on it, it cannot be used for any other purpose other than for the offering of the Lord's sacrifice. When we were consecrated, we were set apart for the service of God and the

building up of His Kingdom. This demands our continual conversion, a sacrificial dying to ourselves so that we belong more and more to God. This is the path of holiness, the journey of our Christian life: living our baptismal consecration."

The true Christian life is the life of discipleship. It's the life that the Blessed Virgin Mary teaches and shows us. Her life and St. Joseph's life mirrored their divine Son's own loving self-oblation in obedience to the will of the Father. In imitating the Holy Family, we discover true freedom and joy, which draws others to the Lord and His Church. I pray that the pilgrims who come here to this Oratory and who worship at this altar will experience the love and joy of the Lord!"

At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Rhoades blessed hundreds of lilies for visitors to take with them. At its origins, the Rome City property served as a sanitarium to treat infectious diseases and was operated by Sisters of the Precious Blood, who sought to bring healing to the bodies and souls of their patients. The inclusion of relics in the new altar from St. Agnes, known for her purity as a virgin martyr, and St. Gallicanus, who founded a hospital and cared for the sick, seem particularly appropriate for this chapel.

Remarking on the day, Al Langsenkamp exclaimed, "Pilgrims at The Our Lady, Patroness of America Center have once again been given a great gift by Bishop Rhoades! Dedicating this proper and permanent Altar of Sacrifice will bring even greater reverence to celebrating the Holy Eucharist in the Oratory of the Holy Family."

Following Mass, a reception was held to celebrate the special day with the more than 400 visitors in attendance.

Of the many in attendance was Parker Zurbuch, accompanied by his wife Maria and young son Kolbe. Zurbuch had previously lived on the property as a novice with the former Franciscan Friars Minor. At that time, much of the property required extensive repairs and rehabilitation due to damage, misuse, and neglect from those who ran the property decades earlier. The renovations, which have since been completed by Langsenkamp, Property Manager Larry Young, and many others, have been tremendous improvements. Zurbuch shared, "I thought today was a wonderful example of how God uses His people to restore what has been broken. He restored humanity through Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, and He has restored the Oratory in Rome City for His glory and the glory of the Immaculate!"

## Ad Multos Annos

St. Joseph Parish and St. Joseph School - Hessen Cassel

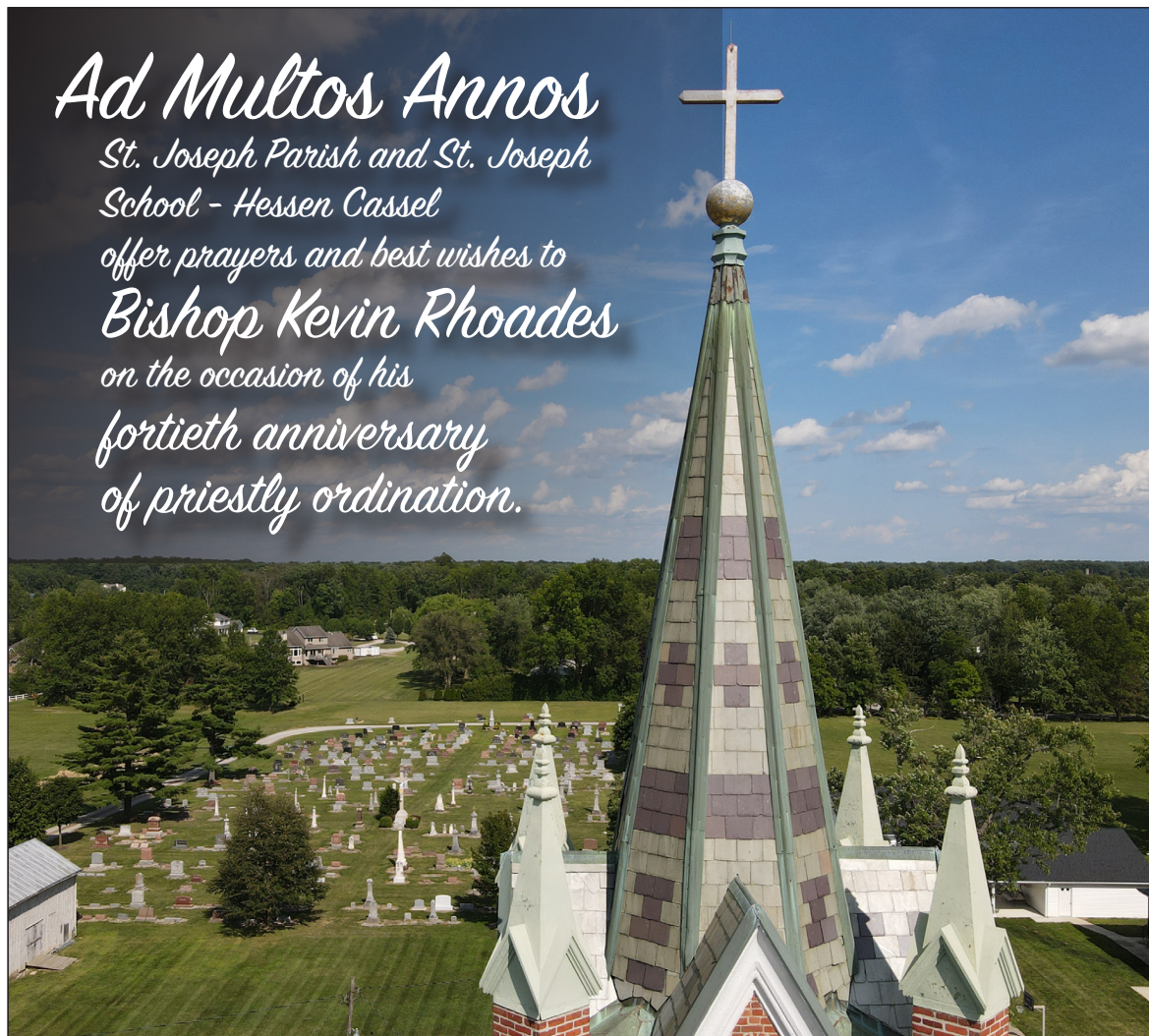
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**Bishop Kevin Rhoades**

on the occasion of his

fortieth anniversary

of priestly ordination.





# Agencies, Parishes, Schools Awarded St. Mary's Heritage Fund Grants

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has awarded grants totaling \$231,330 from the St. Mary's Heritage Fund to parishes, schools, and agencies across the diocese.

The \$3 million endowment fund was established in 1997 for St. Mary Mother of God Parish to help provide financial assistance to the poor and needy throughout the diocese. It was created through the collaboration and planning of the late St. Mary Pastor, Father Tom O'Connor, and St. Mary Mother of God parishioners, using money received from fire insurance on the historic downtown Fort Wayne church. The church burned in 1993 and a new church was erected on the same site.

Upon the approval of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the following entities were awarded grants for 2023.

## Agencies

Women's Care Center — \$3,360 for Family Focus: Moms and Babies 2023  
A Mother's Hope — \$10,000 for Maternity Housing Program for pregnant women experiencing homelessness  
The Rose Home, Inc. — \$6,200 for Resident Assistance Fund  
Clinica Madre de Dios — \$5,000 for free medical care  
Catholic Charities of FWSB, Inc. — \$10,000 for Hope to Healing Mental Health Counseling



Matthew 25, Inc. — \$10,000 for medications for uninsured and low-income individuals  
Christ Child Society, Fort Wayne — \$2,000 for Koats for Kids

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph Co. — \$5,000 for Sweet Dreams Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne — \$10,000 for Care Van Ministry

Saint Anne Communities — \$20,000 for charity cases at Victory Noll

Wellspring Interfaith Social — \$7,500 for food and hygiene items for low-income families

Christ Child Society, South Bend — \$2,250 for Clothing Center inventory support

St. Joseph Missions — \$5,000 for Women's Shelter for



Today's Catholic file photos

single homeless women  
St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc. — \$6,000 for increasing access in rural communities with mobile clinic program

## Parishes

St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel — \$3,500 for the parish food bank

St. Therese, Fort Wayne — \$8,520 for Faith and Organization

St. Henry — \$12,000 for gym lighting

St. Patrick, Fort Wayne — \$5,000 for school subsidy

St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart — \$2,500 for Totus Tuus

## Schools

Marian High School — \$10,000 for financial aid for minority students

Marian High School — \$20,000 for new school bus

Marian High School — \$10,000 for Hard as Nails ministry for sophomore retreat

Holy Family, South Bend — \$10,000 for tuition assistance

St. John the Baptist, South Bend — \$7,500 for pre-k tuition assistance

Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne — \$10,000 for tuition assistance/bus transportation fees

St. Joseph, Fort Wayne — \$10,000 for transportation

St. Joseph, Fort Wayne — \$20,000 for English Language Learner Program



Holy Family Parish

## St. Bernard in Wabash to Bring Backpacks to Local Youth Center

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

St. Bernard Parish in Wabash is helping to enhance learning opportunities for area youth by teaming up with The Access Youth Center, a center that facilitates a safe, family-friendly environment for the community's youth between the ages of eight and 18 through programming and activities, to collect backpacks and other school supplies for children in need as part of Project Backpack.

St. Bernard Business Administrator, Ann Unger, who has participated as a parish staff member in Project Backpack for many years said, "We are a small community, but very much a community that still has need."

These supplies facilitate an enhanced ability to learn and grow by empowering area youth with the tools needed. "Learning becomes harder without the correct supplies, so to facilitate educational success

we must equip our kids with the tools needed to succeed," said Executive Director of The Access, Brad Bishop. "That is the tangible need Project Backpack addresses."

The partnership between St. Bernard and The Access for this school drive is an example of Christ's love and friendship. "The Access and St. Bernard partner locally through our own efforts, as well as through campus life in local schools," said Brad Bishop. "Together, our organizations can, and do, help students take the first steps into a relationship with Jesus. Project Backpack is one of our efforts to show people the love of Christ by taking care of material needs."

Last year, Project Backpack collected 500 backpacks. This year, the goal is to collect even more.

Anyone interested in donating to Project Backpack can simply drop off new backpacks and other school supplies in the large box labeled Project Backpack located in the back of St. Bernard Church. The address is 207 North Cass Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

All supplies will be distributed on Saturday, July 29, to youth in need.



## MASS FOR THE SICK AND TROUBLED

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be celebrating the Mass for the Sick and Troubled on Saturday, Aug. 19.

The Rosary will be said at 12:30 p.m. with Mass following at 1 p.m. There will be a blessing with a first class relic of

Blessed Father Solanus Casey after Mass. Hospitality gathering afterwards.

All are welcome. We have handicapped accessibility.

## PRAYING WITH FATHER SOLANUS

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# Try a Do-It-Yourself God Retreat This Summer

BY BETHANY BEEBE

*These tune ups for the soul need not cost a great deal or be overly complex. With a bit of planning, a do-it-yourself retreat can render meaningful results.*

This time of year, many people have the chance to enjoy a little extra vacation time. Using some of that time in retreat to create a closer relationship with God is an important part of the summer bucket list for many Catholics. With one's own needs, tastes, and preferences in mind, retreats can be the spiritual version of DIY house projects. These tune ups for the soul need not cost a great deal or be overly complex. With a bit of planning, a do-it-yourself retreat can render meaningful results.

## Resources

Ruth Chronister, who works at Good Shepherd Books and Gifts in Fort Wayne, said little, if any money, needs to be spent to create a meaningful retreat experience. She suggested that with the Holy Spirit as retreat guide, simply reading Scripture can be a daily retreat. Should one wish to contemplate a certain topic of theology, a concordance might help, she said.

Lectio Divinia is another way to let Scripture recharge one's soul. Each day, the Irish Jesuits guide users through patterned prayer. The first section helps users find the presence of God. Next, words highlighting freedom in Him are offered. Finding an increase in consciousness of Him follows, with a Scripture reading after that. A prompt to have conversation with Him precedes a conclusion. Found at [sacredspace.ie](https://sacredspace.ie), those preferring a paper copy can find the guide online or in the bookstore for the entire year of prayer as well.

Chronister said a great book can also be a great retreat focus. A classic page-turner is one option. Chronister likes selections such as "He and I" or "Cloud of Unknowing." In the women's section of the bookstore, she pulled a copy of "A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms," recalling that one could contemplate the life of a saint and how that might be mimicked in one's own existence. She also suggested finding an author of choice and delving into other options he or she has written. Using a Bible study guide might be another option, perhaps even focusing on one book. Those new to Bible study might look at a text from the series "Six Weeks in the Bible," she said. One of the nice parts about taking the time to get away with God on your own terms is that you define the time spent; a book written to take six weeks to enjoy might be condensed to one day for someone's one-week vacation, for example.

## Family

The joy of letting one's soul get away can be expanded to the whole family. Mike and Alicia Hernon of The Messy Family Project offer free resources with information on how a family can create a meaningful retreat. They argue four elements are essential: fun, family bonding, prayer, and teaching. An enjoyable experience will connect happy memories, family, and faith. The authors encourage parents to respond to the current

issues of one's family, recalling that no parent is perfect and God only asks us to try. From parent-modeled behavior, kids learn more about the faith and how to pray, creating special times of faith-building that will reap benefits for the rest of the child's life. The activity is an annual tradition for the Hernons, who encourage readers to invest in age-appropriate fun; they promise great yield on the work that goes into it. In their free resource, they write, "Many times, we parents don't know how to share the faith with our children. This retreat is a time for you to be intentional with your kids. You are showing them that you prioritize your relationship with them and with God. The amazing thing about family life is that it is a natural means for a relationship with God. Children's experience with the family provides a foundation, strong or weak, for their life of faith. When you strengthen family life and those bonds, you will be strengthening the faith of your children. This retreat is a combination of prayer and works. Both are important aspects of sharing faith (1)."

The Hernons have fun with their kids, but always tie in structured times of prayer and teaching about faith (1). They emphasize the importance of making everything age-appropriate. During times that one parent is with the youngest children, more serious discussions are had with the older, but kids are included in talks as soon as possible. Screens

and phones are limited, a rule they only break once in a great while with a Christian movie for younger children to make possible a specific activity for other children in the family. The Hernons write that financial investment can be as small as a new box of crayons and some paper. The important part is that a spirit of camaraderie, family bonding, and love of God be expressed in these times of joy. While the actual amount of time spent may be more on fun or "secular" activities, the takeaway is one of prayerful devotion and love of God. Tami Kiser, on Catholic Mom, gives basic directions on how to create a simple family altar (2). Such a display is a visible anchor to the fun going on during the time spent together.

## Location, Location, Location

Being in the right spot might be necessary for real estate, and it is nice to get away, but a retreat of one day or many could happen in one's own home or "secular" space like a park. Writer and speaker Deanna Bartalini describes a retreat for one, a run from one's home, that could be used as a starting point for one or more folks over the course of one day or multiple days away from the office (3).

Setting up the night before beginning her retreat, Bartalini lays out her journal and Bible, writing utensil, way to listen to music, oil diffuser or candle,

and comfortable chair, with food prepared in advance, if possible (3). At the outset of this retreat, in the special space, she first suggests reading a psalm of thanksgiving, specifically Psalm 92 and quietly reflecting on God's goodness, listening to Him. Next, she writes a prayer of thanksgiving in her journal, then enjoys a 20-minute walk outside. The walk should be without music or distraction from the beauty of nature around oneself, on returning to the retreat space, making notes about the impact of the time and anything you believe God communicated. After writing the prayer is a reading of Psalm 103, noting phrases or concepts that are especially meaningful as takeaway in the journal, remembering God's mercies as they are currently manifested. After praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, she tells readers to participate in some activity that is quiet, but joyful; a walk or visit to a favorite local coffee shop might qualify. Finally, a reading of Mark 14:3-9 gives the retreatant focus, begging a final prompt for journaling about how God honors us.

No matter the format taken for one's retreat, the time of rest is an opportunity for us to honor the One who made us and get a little closer to Him.

1. [cdn.messyfamilyproject.org/FamilyRetreatBooklet\\_8pages.pdf?inf\\_contact\\_key=61e301dc872dbd33b02a1a8dab8b2e48680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1](https://cdn.messyfamilyproject.org/FamilyRetreatBooklet_8pages.pdf?inf_contact_key=61e301dc872dbd33b02a1a8dab8b2e48680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1)
2. [catholicmom.com/articles/2013/06/11/creating-a-vacation-home-altar-for-your-summer-family-trip](https://catholicmom.com/articles/2013/06/11/creating-a-vacation-home-altar-for-your-summer-family-trip)
3. [catholicmom.com/articles/spiritual-self-care-a-diy-retreat](https://catholicmom.com/articles/spiritual-self-care-a-diy-retreat)



# Susan Richter Retires after 38 Years in Catholic Education

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

**"I**can't imagine my life if I hadn't spent 38 years in Catholic education," said Susan Richter. "I've enjoyed every minute."

After 23 years at Saint Joseph High School in Mishawaka, most as Principal, Richter taught middle school social studies at St. Matthew Cathedral School for five years before retiring at the end of this past semester.

Originally from Fort Wayne, Richter earned her B.S. in 1980 and her M.A. in 1981 from Purdue, with a double major that qualified her to teach middle and high school social studies and physical education. For 10 years, she was at Montini Catholic High School in Lombard, Illinois, not only teaching social studies at every grade level but also serving as Assistant Athletic Director for girls' sports, coaching basketball and track. Although she was raised Presbyterian and her husband Patric was raised Lutheran, they often attended Mass together in solidarity with the Montini school "family."

Patric grew up in LaPorte, so the Richters were eager to return to Indiana when a sales job opened up for Patric. Susan tried staying home with her two sons, but she missed teaching young people so much that she began subbing in both Catholic and public high schools in the South Bend area, including a semester at Clay High School. In 1995, she



Christopher Lushis

Susan Richter is seen here in 2018 at a reception given in her honor after retiring from administrative duties at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend.

accepted a position at Saint Joseph High School as Director of Student Life, responsible for attendance and discipline. Those were the duties of an assistant principal but she didn't have the academic qualifications for that title, so she enrolled in Notre Dame's ACE Program, which she described as "the best two years of education I ever had." Older than most of her fellow students, Richter loved learning so much more about the Catholic faith. In many conversations, theology teachers at Saint Joseph urged her to follow where her heart was leading. So, she was already enrolled in RCIA by

the time Bishop D'Arcy tapped her to be Principal at Saint Joseph High School. The whole family eventually joined the Church and became active at St. Joseph, South Bend.

During her tenure as Principal, Saint Joseph moved into its brand-new building, a major accomplishment. Richter calls those years the best part of her educational career, but giving her all often involved 20-hour days, until the very end of athletic contests or co-curricular activities. In fairness to her family, she decided to resign as Principal in 2018. However, she wasn't ready to retire from teaching. When

a friend told her St. Matthew Cathedral School was looking for a middle school social studies teacher, she met with the Principal, Sister Gianna Marie Webber. Before entering religious life, Sister Gianna had also been a coach and teacher, so the two hit it off right away.

Here's what the Sister Gianna Marie said about Richter, "Susan has been a Blazer for the last five years following her retirement from administration. She is passionate about education and puts her all into her work. Susan is service-oriented and desires the best for everyone she meets and serves. She is a friend, colleague, and a beautiful daughter of God."

Richter had never before taught middle school, reputedly the most challenging level, but "I like challenges," she said. She taught geography (eastern and western hemisphere, respectively) to 6th and 7th grade students and U.S. history, her specialty, to 8th-graders as well as being their homeroom teacher. "My students kept me young and made me laugh every day," culminating with teaching her the Griddy and dancing in disbelief as she watched it down the hallway just before Christmas break. She's grateful to Sister Gianna Marie and her students and their parents for the opportunity to teach at St. Matthew.

And now it's time to retire and spend quality time with her husband during their "golden years," however long or short. The Richters have

no major travel plans but look forward to spending more time in Rome, Georgia, where their son Matthew is Assistant Basketball Coach at Berry College, which has the largest campus in the United States in square miles.

Richter hopes she's been able to "plant a few seeds," every educator's job. By staying in the area, she should continue to run into former students. Some have already told her they're living by "Richterisms," the life lessons she considers more important than the content of her classes. "I've always said I teach faith first and my subject second."

For example, "I'm a big advocate of civic responsibility," she said, voting in every election. One of the lessons she learned from her own mother: Work hard, so hard that you're tired at the end of each day. She could honestly tell her students she verified that at the end of every day. Another Richterism is to do your very best, since "you get out of life what you put into it."

Richter has long made a practice of writing a letter of advice to each graduating high school senior or 8th-grader. The most important piece of advice? "Follow your passion!" For Susan Richter, that passion has been Catholic secondary education, to the benefit of her students and colleagues and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

## JUBILEES, from page 7

and moved to healthcare where she ministered as a Pastoral Care Chaplain. For 28 years, she provided a spiritual and comforting presence to patients at United Samaritan Medical Center in Danville, Illinois, who were often dealing with life-changing illnesses. After being such a blessing to others, she is now a blessing to her companion Sisters in their retirement years. She is grateful for the Sisters who help her to live the Franciscan value of simplicity, and she finds joy when others trust her enough to let her help them.

Sister Sandra Duma was born in Chicago. She professed her first vows in 1966 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart whose Motherhouse is in Frankfort, Illinois. She earned a B.A. from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and a Master's in Science Education from Purdue



SISTER SANDRA DUMA, OSF

University in West Lafayette. The first part of her professional life was spent in the field of education for nearly 14 years. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as a teacher at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne from 1967 to 1970. In addition, she taught in schools in Illinois. Following that, she was asked to be the Secretary General for the congregation, a position she held for 10 years. After that, she provided secretarial services in a healthcare institution for a number of years until she returned to the Motherhouse. Sister appreciates beauty and enjoys a peaceful environment that reflects God's abundant goodness. Every day, she prays for each of our Sisters and for the needs of the congregation. To any woman interested in religious life she said, "Keep your eyes fixed on God and follow God's lead."

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# World Youth Day Is About Christ or It Is About Nothing at All

**W**orld Youth Day (WYD) brings together young people from every corner of the globe to celebrate their Catholic faith. Away from home and buoyed by the witness of their peers, it becomes possible for many to have a transforming encounter with Jesus Christ. But it is not friends, travel, or universal embrace of the human spirit that make WYD a life-changing, transcendent experience. Only Jesus Christ is capable of that.

In fact, ultimately, WYD cannot be about anything other than Christ the Lord. Even noble aims like service or expressions of diversity are insufficient organizational principles. And that is because, as Pope Francis has reminded us many times, the Church is not a mere bureaucracy. The Church is the People of God, the very body of Christ! And WYD, a visible and beautiful coming together of the Church, must have Christ as its center and focus. Otherwise, it's not worth hosting.

I'll never forget the evening of worship that I was privileged to participate in as a newly ordained priest in Krakow. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Tauron Arena, more than 20,000 young people gathered for catechesis, music, and Eucharistic adoration. The evening included a Eucharistic procession, which passed several times around the arena. Leading the procession, I recall the delight and emotion expressed by one pilgrim as we turned and began to head in

her direction. Seeing the mon-strance draw near, the young girl whispered just loud enough for me to hear, "He is coming to me."

WYD serves as a catalyst for a more profound relationship with Jesus Christ. As young Catholics gather to worship, learn, and pray together, the joy and energy present opens hearts and minds to the reality of Christ's presence. Engaging in spiritual exercises that might not be a regular part of parish life for many young Catholics, pilgrims are invited to experience the living presence of Jesus in a tangible way. They meet Jesus in a privileged way in the confessional, in the Eucharist, and in catechesis. This encounter fosters a deep sense of intimacy and love for Christ, often igniting a desire to seek him with passion and commitment.

For many young people, World Youth Day offers an opportunity to nourish their faith. That means, first and foremost, discovering their identity in Christ. In Krakow, Pope Francis pointed to the encounter Jesus had with Zaccheus, urging young people to remember their identity as God's beloved sons and daughters. The pope told us, "Jesus has taken upon Himself our humanity and His heart will never be separated from us."

The encounter with Jesus Christ, especially through the witness of the pope and other inspiring Catholics, reinforces the call to live a life centered on Christ. Through catechesis ses-



## GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OP

sions, pilgrims receive guidance and inspiration, equipping them to face the challenges of the modern world with unwavering faith. I have seen over and over again how this encounter renews their commitment to be witnesses of Christ's love in their communities and empowers them to live the Faith confidently.

When the focus is unabashedly on Christ, young people can hear the Lord's voice more clearly and begin to know the plans of love he has for them. How many young people have discovered their vocation at WYD? How many have given their first "yes" to Christ to pursue His invitation to priesthood, religious life, or marriage?

If WYD is misunderstood as a global gathering to demonstrate diversity or human fraternity, it's not worth the time or the money. But an event that proposes Jesus Christ to hundreds of thousands of young people who are dying from not knowing Him? Now, that's worth everything.

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

# 'Fully Alive': The Summertime Invitation to Glorify God

**T**he idea came on my birthday, one of those fully formed thoughts that arrives unbidden, a cerebral click.

The day began with a brief summer rain, and a chill still hung in the air. I headed to the gym, rolling down my windows and cranking up the radio. Bruce Springsteen crooned "Dancing in the Dark," the ballad of a listless young man searching for inspiration.

"Man, I'm just tired and bored with myself."

As the wind blew my hair and my body shivered from the cold, the words formed in my head: "I want to feel alive." They had the weight of a New Year's Resolution set on a birthday, the kind of goal-setting I crave each time I blow out candles. And the goal instantly gave me direction, a compass for the year ahead.

So much of our modern quest for wellness hinges on good versus bad, indulgence versus deprivation. It is a reward system that never settles itself out, doling out guilt and gold stars in uneasy patterns.

To seek out, instead, whatever makes us feel more alive – this fills the lungs with air. This feels simpler. No analysis is required; we immediately know the answer. Does it make me feel alive?

Yes or no.



## TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

And then we proceed.

It is not hedonistic; it is, in fact, spiritual. It honors the Creator, reverencing the one wild and precious life we are given. It calls to mind ancient words from St. Irenaeus, a great theologian of the Church: "The glory of God is man fully alive."

God wants us to live our lives to their fullest capacity. He's yearning for us to embrace the beauty of creation with the gifts He has given us – strong legs, clear eyes, big hearts, nimble fingers. One part Theology of the Body, one part Carpe Diem.

Presented with an iPhone full of apps, a pair of tennis shoes, and a cloudless blue sky, what will we choose? Will it make me feel more alive or numb?

This approach naturally finds a balance, combining thrills and comforts, requiring discipline while delivering fun.

Sometimes it points us to

CAPECCI, page 21

# Belief in God is Reflected in How We Sow Our Seeds



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 13:24-43

**T**he Book of Wisdom provides this weekend's first reading. Wisdom is the name not only of this book of the Old Testament, but of an entire set of writings. Collectively, the purpose is to convey in human language, and for situations in human life, the wisdom that can come only from God.

Always important as backdrop in reading the Wisdom literature, or in reading any Scripture for that matter, is the admission that humans neces-

sarily are limited. We cannot understand everything. We cannot see everything. Even what we see at times, and perhaps more often than not, is distorted and blurred.

We need God. We simply cannot survive without divine wisdom. God offers this in the revealed Scriptures.

This weekend's reading salutes God, the Almighty, the perfect, and the perfectly just and all-knowing. The reading is highly poetic and lyrical, almost as if it were a hymn.

Marvelous for us, this supreme, perfect God assists us despite our limitations. We have nothing to want or to fear if we listen to God, the source of all wisdom.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans is the source of this very brief reading, the second lesson for this weekend's Liturgy of the Word.

Stressed here are our weaknesses and our limitations. Even our prayers are weak, handicapped by our sinfulness and selfishness all too often.

God, however, supplies. As disciples of Jesus, born again in the life of Jesus, we speak with the life and strength of the Holy Spirit.

For the last reading, the Church presents a parable from St. Matthew's Gospel using agricultural imagery. At the time of Jesus, the planting and growing of crops, or the keeping of herds, was the most popular livelihood. This familiar story of the sower who planted good seed in his field would have been understood by all who heard the Lord speak.

Jesus says that the story resembles the kingdom of God. Each component, the landowner, the slave, the enemy, and so on, fit into the overall picture.

To recall the story, at night, an enemy comes and sows the seeds of weeds in the landowner's field, tended by the slaves. In time, both grain and weeds come forth.

One is good, the other bad. God will separate the good from the bad. He will decide.

Another parable follows. It is

the story of a mustard seed, a tiny piece of matter. Although only a seed, it has the potential of life and growth. In time, it becomes a great tree.

Finally, Jesus gives the Apostles a special and much more detailed lesson. He explains the parable.

## Reflection

The first step in learning about Christianity is to accept the Church's doctrine of Original Sin and its effects upon all people. God created everyone and vested in each what the theologians call "free will." Some use this will to be loyal to God; others choose disloyalty. The devil tempts us to sin. We are vulnerable to these temptations.

So, in God's creation, people divide between saints and sinners, blossoming plants or weeds.

In the end, God will right all wrongs. His justice will prevail. In the meantime, it is required of us to realize that faith is a seed within us, planted by God.

We must nourish it and protect it.

We can allow the seed within us to grow to maturity, which is the process of personal sanctity. Or we can reject God. It is our choice. We have free will. God does not invade our souls and force virtue upon us.

Are we fragrant, fruit-bearing, and a blessing to our world, or are we weeds?

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Wis 12:13, 16-19 Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 Rom 8:26-27 Mt 13:24-43  
**Monday:** Ex 14:5-18 (Ps) Ex 15:1b-6 Mt 12:38-42  
**Tuesday:** 2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 126:1b-6 Mt 20-28  
**Wednesday:** Ex 16:1-5 Ps 78:18-19, 23-28 Mt 13:1-9  
**Thursday:** Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Mt 13:10-17  
**Friday:** Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 13:18-23  
**Saturday:** Ex 24:3-8 Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 Jn 11:19-27



# 'Bluey' Is Teaching Me to Be a Better Catholic Parent

During the COVID pandemic, my husband and I took turns watching "Cocomelon" with the then two-year-old. A brightly colored show with apparently animatronic humans singing not quite catchy (nor easily forgettable) songs, "Cocomelon" was standard viewing in the first few weeks of the lockdown.

Neither of us could stand it. The colors. The music. The weird looking people who didn't move in quite the right way, even for cartoons. While working from home, we let our toddler watch way too much of a show that we absolutely abhorred.

And then one morning I walked into the living room and my husband was pressing play on Episode One of an Australian kid's show featuring talking dogs.

Three episodes in, we were hooked.

More than two years later, this "Bluey" has become a fixture in our house – so much so that we've got matching family T-shirts and have "Bluey"-themed birthday parties.

The show is the invention of Joe Brumm, an Australian dad raising two little girls who wanted to create something that was equally enjoyable for parents and kids. He's certainly succeeded; these quick little episodes – only seven-minutes long, with more than 125 currently available on Disney+ – are funny, heartwarming, and entertaining. It is utterly captivating to watch Bandit Heeler and his wife, Chilli, parent and live life with their little girls, Bluey and Bingo. From playtime (trying to keep a balloon up in the air) to antics in the park to the frequent appearance of Janet and Rita (Bluey and Bingo's "grannie" characters who get into all sorts of trouble), these episodes pack a punch.

Details of the Heeler family are introduced gradually. Bandit works in archeology; Chilli works in airport security. Bingo and Bluey go to a Montessori style pre-school and get into hijinks as they play with their friends. They often visit Nana and Uncle Stripe and his family, including their wild little cousin Muffin, but the heart of the show is the Heeler home, a split-level house that includes a giant backyard, a gorgeous veranda, and a playroom with a green kiwi rug I've already searched for on Etsy.

Here, Bluey and Bingo live an entirely ordinary yet remarkably entertaining life. They're sisters, so sometimes they disagree and don't share

well, but most of the time, they're having fun roping their parents into wild scenarios.

This is where the show is absolute perfection. It presents a very realistic snapshot (even for Australian dogs) of family living life – playing games, sharing meals, going to and from work and school – wherein both kids and adult viewers are reminded of what's most essential in life: being together.

There's an episode in Season 1, "Grannies," where Bluey, age 6, insists to the almost 4-year-old Bingo that "grannies can't floss." Bingo, upset at the idea that grannies can do the dance, refuses to keep playing the game, which sends Bluey running off to whine to her mom about Bingo being a bad sport. As Chilli and Bandit are folding laundry and changing sheets on the beds – doing the ordinary work of the family home – Chilli asks Bluey, "Do you want to be right, or do you want her to play with you?"

In that instant, Bluey has a revelation. She can continue to be bossy, telling Bingo she's wrong, or she can Facetime her Nana and teach her how to do the floss dance. Then Bingo and Bluey can both be right!

That's what she does, and in the final two minutes of the episode, Bluey and Bingo reconcile, and their grannies game carries on – with a valuable lesson about sisterhood and family learned. In the final scene of the episode, Mom and Dad Heeler sit on their veranda, smiling as they watch their daughters at play.

"Bluey" is really the only children's show I've ever watched on my own, the one where I have seen and recognized my own family – a mom and dad, with their young kids, navigating how to say yes, when to say no, and what to do in even the most ordinary of circumstances to make the best memories.

As a Catholic parent, this is precisely the encouragement I need in the everyday grind of raising little kids – trying to teach them virtue, helping them understand right from wrong, and placing at the center of our home an attitude of loving and serving one another (the very mandate given to us by Christ). "Bluey" is not a "Catholic" kid's show – we don't see the family pray or go to church or memorize the catechism. Such kids' shows do exist, and we occasionally watch them (though frankly, they're not very good), but "Bluey" is a "Catholic" show in that it showcases universal themes of family, love, service, and the struggles and joys of



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

## WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

family life.

Catholic parents try to encourage their children to love the Church, something best taught by living virtuously and loving without reservation. We teach the Catholic material, stay committed to our devotional prayers, and figure out liturgical living activities that teach our kids the rhythms of the Church.

You won't see that in "Bluey." It won't show us the life of the Church in terms of the sacraments or attending Mass. Yet it gives us a beautiful snapshot of a domestic church – a family filled with moments of sorrow and joy, moments of choosing to give and sacrifice; moments that remind me to give of myself, completely, for the joy and delight of my family. This cartoon challenges me to find grace in the ordinary, to notice goodness in even the hard moments, and to say "yes" to loving and serving the most important people in my life.

If you're looking for endearing stories about family and the enduring truth that being present to one another is the best way we can love one another (and is also a remarkable expression of our Catholic faith), do check out "Bluey," and give us McGrady's a call. We'll be there, with magic asparagus, balloons for Keepy Uppy, a good toy for Pass the Parcel, and the desire to go into full-blown dance mode.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 23, 2023

Matthew 13:24-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: Lessons about the Kingdom. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PARABLE	KINGDOM	SOWED
FIELD	ASLEEP	ENEMY
WHEAT	APPEARED	SLAVES
MASTER	UPROOT	BURNED
SMALLEST	BIRDS	YEAST
FLOUR	LEAVENED	MOUTH
CHILDREN	ANGELS	FURNACE

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

### CAPECCHI, from page 20

a treat – tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich savored on a rainy day. Other times it asks us to resist the couch in lieu of a morning walk. Sometimes it means staying up late to enjoy a fire and fellowship. Other times it means going to bed early because your body needs the rest.

St. Irenaeus' mantra replaces all the secular metrics: Am I happier? Am I thinner? More popular? More productive?

The overarching question: Am I fully alive? Am I glorifying God?

Summer is the perfect time to pose this question and then enjoy simple childhood delights like walking barefoot in the grass. Even if we don't know the research affirming its health benefits, we know in our hearts: It makes me feel alive.

I've been keeping a running list of the little things that make me feel alive. Some are cozy, like an old quilt paired with a good book. But many

involve contrasts that tingle, shocking me awake. Putting on a wet swimsuit. Rising early to read Scripture. Pushing myself to swim a few more laps.

Gretchen Rubin, the best-selling author and happiness expert, has landed on the same path. She famously charted "The Happiness Project," distilling reams of research alongside personal experiences. Her new book is titled "Life in Five Senses: How Exploring the Senses Got Me Out of My Head and Into the World."

In an era of mindless scrolling, Rubin recognized, we have become so numb that the notion of embracing the five senses feels novel. And this season bursts with multi-sensory happiness: the smell of fresh-mown grass, the sound of frogs croaking, the swing of a hammock.

May we soak it all in, feeling the tingle of being fully alive, giving God all the glory.

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

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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



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This full-time position in the diocesan business office is responsible for all gift processing (Annual Bishop's Appeal, Pentecost Collection, Special Fund Drives, and Designated gifts) to include posting the gift and sending proper acknowledgement to donor. Under the direction of the CFO, the Business Office Assistant will also provide support to the Business Office team with administrative duties as well as provide clerical support to the CFO.

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### Director of Youth Faith Formation

#### Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Foster the faith formation of young parishioners, serving as a consultant in areas of catechesis and faith formation of children and adolescents
- Support the pastor in developing his mission and cultural goals of the parish to include long-range planning related to the mission of the parish
- Assist with the pastoral care of young parishioners under the direction of the pastor
- Act as a resource to foster the faith life of young parishioners through renewal and appropriate evangelization initiatives
- Work directly with team coordinators to help their respective teams transmit faith formation to young parishioners according to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Recruit, train, and form current and future youth faith formators
- Help young parishioners integrate their faith with their ordinary lives by being present in their extracurricular activities throughout the year personally or by delegation of team coordinators
- Coordinate Formation Days for all volunteers of the Youth Faith Formation Program which are academic or spiritual in nature, respectively
- Assure that all volunteers within the Youth Faith Formation Program are up-to-date with their Safe Environment training, as per diocesan requirements
- Follow all canonical and diocesan requirements in sacramental preparations
- Register all required data regarding the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) of young parishioners
- Other duties as assigned by pastor

*This position will require 10-12 hours weekly working on campus with additional hours as needed and approved by pastor. Apply online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](https://diocesefwsb.org/careers).*

### Director of Sacred Music

The Director of Sacred Music works to continue developing a sacred music program at the service of Roman Catholic liturgical worship in a parish setting. This includes, but is not limited to, playing at Masses, directing the choir(s), training cantors, planning sacred music for all liturgical celebrations in the parish, and providing/arranging for music at "non-scheduled" liturgies (funerals, weddings, etc.)

#### Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plans and executes music for all sung Masses (4 per weekend, Holy Days, and as scheduled for Holy Week) as well as special Masses, such as Confirmation
- Provides accompaniment for all sung Masses
- Rehearses and conducts the adult and youth choirs which will sing at Masses on a schedule determined with the pastor
- Provides music for all weddings and funerals, including all relevant planning with involved parties
- Maintains close working relationship with the pastor
- Any additional responsibilities at the discretion of the pastor

*The standard work schedule is 12-15 hours weekly with additional hours as needed.*

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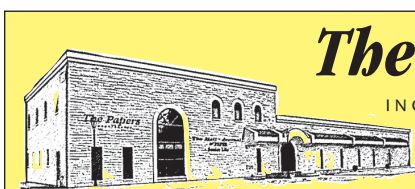
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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

## Blessed Solanus Feast Day Celebration

**HUNTINGTON** — Join the celebration for Blessed Solanus' Feast Day on Sunday, July 30, from 2-4 p.m. at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St. There will be a blessing by Father Tony Steinacker, portrait by Artist Mary Hilger, and a table display of prints available. A free gift is available for EVERYONE at the Solanus Guild Bookstore. Contact Jan Scher at 260-356-1917 or [jan-scher8@gmail.com](mailto:jan-scher8@gmail.com) for information.

## Golfing 'Fore' The Seminarian Education Fund Charity Golf Outing

**FORT WAYNE** — Join the St. Jude Knights of Columbus #16065 in the Golfing "Fore" the Seminarian Education charity golf outing on Friday, August 26, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Foster Park Golf Course. \$300 per foursome includes golf, lunch, beverages, and awards. Advanced registration required. Sponsorship opportunities available. Proceeds from the event will go toward the

Seminarian Education Fund for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For questions and registration help, contact Chris Mettler at 260-609-5413 or [chrismarkmettler@gmail.com](mailto:chrismarkmettler@gmail.com) or Jeff Weldon at 260-417-6135 or [weldon623@outlook.com](mailto:weldon623@outlook.com).

## Exposition of Eucharistic Miracles

**FREMONT** — Visit St. Paul's Catholic Chapel, 8780 E. 700 N., before or after Mass on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 5 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 6, at 9 a.m.; and Wednesday Aug. 9, at 9 a.m. for the Exposition of Eucharistic Miracles Traveling Display. Contact 260-665-2259 or [office@stpaulcatholicchapel.org](mailto:office@stpaulcatholicchapel.org) for information.

## St. Lawrence Grill Out

**FORT WAYNE** — Young adults ages 21-35 are invited to St. Charles Borromeo, 4910 Trier Rd., for the St. Lawrence Grill Out to celebrate the feast day of the saint who was literally grilled for Jesus on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 6-10 p.m. Bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs

to enjoy free food, beer, and a cornhole tournament. Contact Caroline McMasters at [ctmc-masters@gmail.com](mailto:ctmc-masters@gmail.com) for information.

## 1958 Central Catholic Class Reunion

**FORT WAYNE** — Enjoy a day with the 1958 Central Catholic High School class on Saturday, Aug. 26, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Pine Valley Country Club, 10900 Pine Mills Rd. Remember the time at Central Catholic and make new memories. Dinner Buffet begins at 2 p.m. \$40 per person. Contact Robert Schlensker at 260-341-7482 to RSVP.

## 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](mailto:asturm@diocesefwsb.org) or 260-414-5960.

## Catholic in Recovery Meetings at St. Pius X

**GRANGER** — Catholic in Recovery meetings have begun each Monday at 7 p.m. in the church basement of St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd. The meetings provide healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Confidentiality is protected.

## REST IN PEACE

### Elkhart

Harriet Fouts, 97, St. Thomas the Apostle

### Fort Wayne

Eric T Hulen, 32, Our Lady of Good Hope

Joseph J. Ulle III, 85, Queen of Angels

Lois Jozwiak, 70, St. Jude

John Kelty, 90, St. Jude

Benjamin Koch, 94, St. Jude

Ernest Faurote, 94, St. Vincent de Paul

Ramona Kuehn, 85, St. Vincent de Paul

Irene Palmer, 99, St. Vincent de Paul

M. Therese Yankoviak, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Diane Boehnlein, 88, St. Pius X

Pat Carr, 74, St. Pius X

Javier Fernandez, 66, St. Pius X

Rosemary Lewis, 88, St. Pius X

Edward Wruble, 65, St. Pius X

### Huntington

Joseph L. Hunnicut, 70, SS. Peter and Paul

### Mishawaka

Mary LaCluyze, 77, St. Bavo

Lawrence DeCook, 75, St. Joseph

Virginia Hazinski, 95, St. Joseph

Janice Meixel, 83, St. Joseph

John Steenbeke, 77, St. Joseph

Carl Magel, 78, St. Monica

### Notre Dame

Sister Elizabeth Raffo, CSC, 80, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

Sister Marian Daniel, CSC, 93, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

### Pierceton

Pauline Borton, 98, St. Francis Xavier

### Rome City

Phillip D. Millus, 87, St. Gaspar

### South Bend

Della Kowalski, 74, Holy Family

Spencer Smith, 25, Holy Family

Roman Bielak, 76, St. Adalbert

Robert Wacunas, 84, St. Adalbert

Mamiella Brown, 92, St. Augustine

Arthena G. Wilson, 66, St. Augustine

Dorothy F. White, 92, St. Jude

### St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Sister Lois Ann, 96, Church of the Immaculate Conception

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# Corpus Christi Student Wins National Handwriting Award

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Andrew Clevenger, a rising 3rd-grader at Corpus Christi School in South Bend, has earned the Nicholas Maxim Award in the 2023 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. This makes him a national champion in a competition that has drawn entries from about 2.5 million students since it began in 1991. Only two Nicholas Maxim Awards are given each year, one in cursive and one in manuscript writing. They are reserved for students with special needs and named in honor of a 5th-grader from Maine born without hands and lower arms. He won the 2011 contest by holding a pencil between his upper arms.

At around age 3, Clevenger was diagnosed with speech and developmental delays, specified a year later as Autism Spectrum Disorder. He has received four years of intensive A.B.A. (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy in preparation for being mainstreamed in school. About a year ago, an ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) diagnosis was added, prompting exploration of the most helpful medication.

"Corpus Christi has been an incredible school," testified Andrew's Dad, Adam



Provided by Mattie Willerton

**Corpus Christi School 3rd-Grader Andrew Clevenger poses with his teacher, Mrs. Wanacke, while holding his trophy for winning the Nicholas Maxim Award in the 2023 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest.**

Clevenger. "They make remarkably generous accommodations to ensure children like Andrew can be successful. Mrs. Wanacke was an incredible cheerleader this past year and helped us celebrate some of Andrew's milestones in the classroom. She and Mrs. Tubbs, the Resource Teacher, worked very closely together to provide Andrew the time and

communication he needed to understand some of the grammatical challenges he battles." Teachers also provided feedback for Andrew's medical team as they sought the right treatment. "Once we found it," Adam continued, "Andrew's scores and classroom performance notably improved."

Andrew's 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Wanacke, called him "a great kid who wants to do his best." Although he disliked handwriting at the beginning of the year because it was so hard for him, he discovered that practice improved both the process and the end result. Mrs. Tubbs said, "Andrew takes great pride in making his work turn out exactly the way he wants it. The smile on his face when he does a great job is priceless."

Adam and Ella Clevenger thoroughly explored school options before enrolling Andrew in Corpus Christi, which is not their parish. They looked at reviews on educational websites and talked with friends who were school parents. When they toured schools, others emphasized facilities and investment while Corpus Christi spoke about connections and students. "None of them felt as welcoming and wholesome as Corpus Christi."

According to Principal Mattie Willerton, "Corpus Christi

School's mission is to develop our students spiritually, morally, intellectually, and socially, supported by the doctrine of the Catholic Church and the tradition of Catholic education. We live this mission when we, as a school community, commit ourselves to helping all students regardless of their academic abilities. School can be difficult for students with a disability, but watching these students grow is a blessing. We welcome all students of all abilities, and our desire for each of them is the same – to help them learn and grow in their faith and academics so that one day every single one can become a saint."

Because Andrew dislikes having attention drawn to him, the school was very deliberate in honoring his achievement in small settings.

The award was well-timed, since it provided a cause for celebration after his beloved grandfather unexpectedly passed away. He and Andrew were buddies, snuggling to watch Andy Griffith reruns together every night. The Clevengers have been sharing a home with these grandparents since they returned from living in Maui. At home, Andrew is eager to help out. He enjoys vacuuming, doing dishes, and cleaning windows.

Besides caregiving at home,

Andrew's mom Ella, originally from Venezuela, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, where she loves learning about the elderly sisters' travels and sacrifices. Four-year-old Alex rounds out the family; thrilled to become a big brother, Andrew has become his best friend.

Although many schools regard handwriting as outmoded, about half of the national Zaner-Bloser winners attend Catholic elementary schools. Mrs. Willerton says, "Corpus Christi has a decades-long history of teaching students the importance of good handwriting." Every year, each class selects a classroom winner whose rendition of "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog" is submitted for the annual contest. Among those winners, four received state-level recognition this year.

Zaner-Bloser "develops curriculum resources to teach foundational literacy and math skills to students in prekindergarten through 6th grade. Our resources help teachers engage and empower students and inspire more 'aha' moments to harness the creative power of learning." Each entry is judged on four keys to legibility: shape, size, spacing, and slant of the letters. Winners and their schools receive trophies, certificates, and monetary awards.

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