

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 26

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Bishop to Youth in Fatima: 'Our Lady Wants You to Experience God as The Most Beautiful Reality of Your Lives'



Nicole Hahn

Bishop Rhoades sits for a photo with the 271 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for a group photo after he celebrated Mass in Fatima ahead of World Youth Day in Portugal on Sunday, July 30.

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades to the diocesan pilgrims in Fatima on Sunday, July 30, on their journey to World Youth Day in Lisbon:

What a blessing that we begin our World Youth Day pilgrimage here in

Fatima! We come to this holy place where our Blessed Mother appeared to the three shepherd children, embraced them with her love, and entrusted them with an important message for the world, for the Church, and for each one of us on our life's journey. Fatima is a place of pilgrimage which millions of people

visit each year. Many lives have been changed through their experience of our Blessed Mother's love and through the example and the intercession of Saints Francisco and Jacinta, and of the recently-declared Venerable, Sister Lucia. Here and throughout the world, people encounter Our Lord's grace,

mercy, and love through and within Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. I hope and pray that our pilgrimage here today will bear much fruit, not only as a preparation for World Youth Day in Lisbon, but throughout our lives.

FATIMA, page 2

World Youth Day

Pages 1-4

Father Dominic Nguyen Jubilee

Page 9

Biking for Babies

Page 10

National Black Catholic Congress

Page 11

Student LEGO Champions in Mishawaka

Page 13

Revival's in the Air
#Congress2024
#TheRevival
Revival

REVIVAL
Happens Here

JULY 17-21, 2024 INDIANAPOLIS, IN | BUY DISCOUNTED PASSES: diocesefwsb.org/congress

NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

Editorial Department

PUBLICATION MANAGER:

ASSISTANT PUBLICATION MANAGER/REPORTER:

Lisa Kochanowski

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: www.todayscatholic.org

260-456-2824

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

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

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

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

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

Today's Catholic may be reached at :

Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:

editor@diocesefwsb.org



Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB](https://www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB)

Follow us on Twitter

[@diocesefwsb](https://twitter.com/diocesefwsb)

Follow us on Instagram

[@diocesefwsb](https://www.instagram.com/diocesefwsb)



FATIMA, from page 1

I encourage you to bring your prayer intentions to the Lord through Mary today here in Fatima. In the first reading today, we heard God inviting King Solomon in a dream to ask something of Him and promised that He would answer his request. Humbly, Solomon asked God to grant him "an understanding heart to judge (His) people and to distinguish right from wrong." The king could have asked for many other things. He could have selfishly asked for riches or for a long life or for victory over his enemies. No, he asked for an understanding heart so that he would govern his kingdom as God willed.

King Solomon recognized that he was God's servant – his number one priority was to serve God faithfully. There is a very human, but sinful, temptation to put ourselves at the center of everything, to live selfishly, to make money or have material things, like our smart phones, the focus of our lives, our first priority. Doing so does not make us truly happy. We are left unfulfilled.

King Solomon got it right – he put God and His will first in asking for an understanding heart. Speaking of which, here at the apparitions of Fatima, we learn about the most understanding heart any human person ever possessed – the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the most pure heart of the Queen of heaven and earth, the compassionate and merciful heart that was totally synchronized with the heart of the King of the Universe, the Sacred Heart of her Son, Jesus. God granted King Solomon an understanding heart. He granted Mary the most beautiful heart by preserving her from the stain of sin and making her truly full of grace.

Mary's heart is full of love for God and for all people. It is full of love for you and me. She is truly our Blessed Mother – she desires to comfort us with her maternal love. At the same time, she wants our hearts also to be filled with love for God and for others. She teaches us this love, just like she taught the children of Fatima. To be devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is to embrace Mary's attitude of heart, her total dedication to God and His will.

The center of Mary's life choices was her "fiat" – her faith-filled response to God at the Annunciation: "Let it be done to me according to your will." This was the secret of her heart – her loving obedience to God. This obedience changed the history of the world because it resulted in the Incarnation of the Son of God. The "fiat" that she spoke with her mouth came from her heart, and thanks to her, the Savior came into the world, Jesus, her Son. God Himself



Nicole Hahn

Bishop Rhoades gives his homily during Mass with the 271 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Fatima on Sunday, July 30, ahead of World Youth Day in Portugal.

took a human heart and, in His humanity, conquered sin and overcame death.

Mary was and is an integral part of this story of salvation. She cooperated fully in it, even to the foot of the cross. Mary kept in her heart all the mysteries of the life of her Son. She invites us to do also by praying the rosary where we meditate on these mysteries. Here in Fatima, she identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and she requested of the children and of us that we pray the rosary. Why? Because it deepens our bond with Jesus through her. The rosary helps us to know God more deeply and to become more like Jesus and Mary, to grow in holiness.

Mary's Immaculate Heart appears or is referred to in the three apparitions of the angel to the children and also in several apparitions of Mary to the children. The Heart of Mary is presented in union with the Heart of Jesus. Mary's heart is always united to the heart of her Son. The angel said to the children: "The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications." He also said to them: "The Heart of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you." And he taught the children to pray for the conversion of poor sinners through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In Mary's first apparition to the children on May 13, 1917, she asked them: "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He will to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?" They answered "yes." Our Lady replied: "Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort." As we know, the children did suffer. The Immaculate Heart of Mary was their refuge in the midst of their sufferings.

The appearances of the angel and of Mary transformed

the three children. They were surrounded by God's light as it radiated from the Blessed Mother. They were filled with His love. God's light penetrated their hearts, their interior lives. Their lives were changed forever. Immersed in that light, little Francisco saw how sad Jesus was because of the sins committed against Him. As a result, Francisco became focused in his short life on consoling Jesus and making Him happy. He devoted himself to prayer and to sacrifices for sinners. God's light also penetrated little Jacinta's heart. She felt and personally experienced Our Lady's anguish and offered herself heroically as a victim for sinners, enduring much suffering for the conversion of sinners. By God's grace, these two young children reached the heights of perfection because they learned from the Immaculate Heart of Mary to devote themselves with total generosity to the Lord: to make reparation for the sins that offend Him.

When they made sacrifices, Venerable Lucia and Saints Francisco and Jacinta prayed with the words Our Lady taught them: "O Jesus, it is for love of you, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Reparation is an act of love. It is to participate in Christ's work of redemption, the reconciliation of humanity with God, the building up of God's Kingdom, and overcoming evil with good, and the reconciliation of humanity with God. Our Lady calls us as she called the shepherd children to take up the mantle of reparation by our prayers and sacrifices, especially the prayer of the holy rosary and the First Saturday Devotion.

In today's second reading from his letter to the Romans, Saint Paul wrote: "Brothers and sisters: we know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." It's quite an assertion that Saint

Paul makes – that all things work for good for those who love God. We can think – well, I love God, but bad things happen in my life. Yes, bad things can happen: tragedies and sufferings. We see this in the lives of the children of Fatima – they experienced mockery, ridicule, and rejection. Saints Jacinta and Francisco suffered and died young due to the Spanish flu epidemic. But because they loved God, all things worked for good – for others who learned from them and benefited from their prayers and sacrifices, and for themselves since they are now in the glory of heaven! Think of Jesus and His passion and crucifixion. All worked out for good – the salvation of the human race and His resurrection from the dead. So, all human pain and suffering, united with that of Christ, and endured for the love of God and others bears good fruit.

God is always with us in our suffering and so is Mary. That is what brought such beautiful comfort to the shepherd children in their suffering. They loved God. Pope Benedict XVI once said: "The Lady who came from heaven, the Teacher who introduced the little seers to a deep knowledge of the love of the Blessed Trinity and led them to savor God Himself as the most beautiful reality of human existence. This experience of grace made them fall in love with God in Jesus." Yes, Our Lady here in Fatima helped the children to experience God as the most beautiful reality of human existence, and, as Sister Angela wrote in her wonderful book titled "Inside the Light": this is what Our Lady wants to do with each one of us: to experience God as the most beautiful reality of our lives.

Isn't this what today's Gospel parables of Jesus teach us? The man who found the treasure buried in the field and out of joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. And the merchant who was searching for fine pearls and found the pearl of great price. He too sold all he had to buy that pearl. Jesus was talking about the kingdom of heaven. It's worth every sacrifice. The treasure or pearl is actually Christ Himself, who offers us His love and friendship. This is what our Blessed Mother led the shepherd children to discover. They fell in love with God in Jesus. They offered their whole lives to Him and shared their lives with others, including sinners, out of love for God.

May Our Lady of Fatima, our Blessed Mother and our Queen, plant in our hearts the love of God and others that burns in her Immaculate Heart! And let us continue on this pilgrimage and on our life's pilgrimage with joy, trusting in our Blessed Mother's promise that "in the end, her Immaculate Heart will triumph."

The 'life-changing' experience of World Youth Day

BY MARIA WIERING AND
PAULINA GUZIK

OSV New) — In 1997, then-19-year-old Jessica Smith sang on the papal stage at World Youth Day (WYD) in Paris as pilgrims made their way to Longchamp Racecourse for the event's final Mass with Pope St. John Paul II. She was amazed by the sheer number of people, she said, and while her singing ministry led her to stages at other large Catholic events, WYD stands apart in her memory.

"What was really transformative in my faith, as a result of World Youth Day, was that I finally understood the magisterium, like the reality of the papacy became known to me," said Smith, now 46, a pastoral associate at her parish in Columbia City, Indiana. "You couldn't be anywhere near John Paul II and not be transformed. ... It connected me to the church in a more concrete way."

Knowing the impact the event had on her as a young adult, Smith and her husband traveled with six of their 12 kids to Lisbon, Portugal, for WYD. She expects the sacrifices, including a hefty financial cost, required to make it possible for her oldest children to go to be worth it, she said.

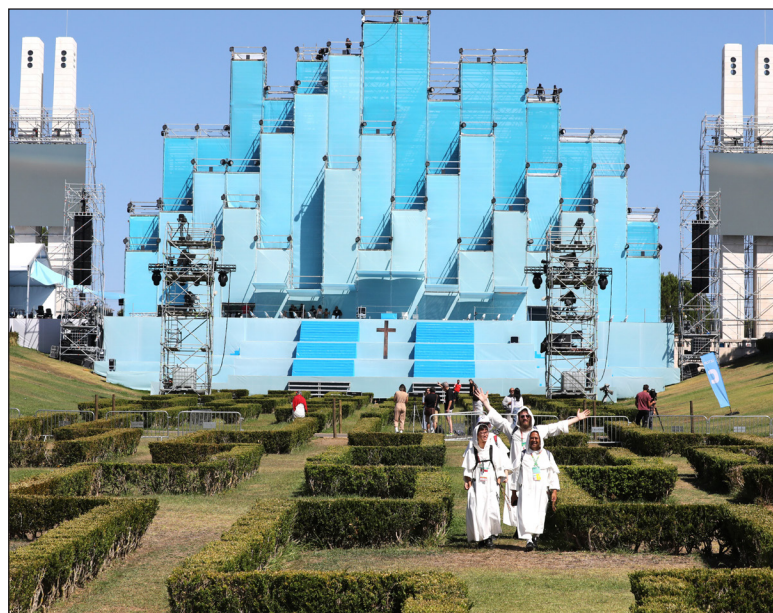
"Young adulthood is such a time of transition, and it's really easy to get lukewarm about your faith as you're really busy with all the changes in life," she said. "I hope it (WYD) draws them in close and helps them to feel really connected to Jesus."

Smith's kids, ages 16 to 22, will be among the 400,000 registered young adults and as many as 2 million general pilgrims anticipated to attend WYD this year with Pope Francis. The event, a worldwide gathering historically held every two to three years, is a significant undertaking, requiring years of planning and tens of millions of dollars to prepare and host.

"Undoubtedly, establishing World Youth Days was one of the most prophetic decisions of Saint John Paul II and nowadays the Church still benefits from its fruit," Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, wrote in a 2016 book, "World Youth Days: A Testimony to the Hope of Young People."

"For many young people, WYDs were the moments of deep internal transformation or even authentic conversions," he said.

That was the case for Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of



OSV News photo/Bob Roller

Dominican Father John Winkowitsch, pastoral vicar at St. Raymond Parish in Menlo Park, Calif., gestures as he walks with other members of his order July 31, near the main stage for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. Pope Francis is scheduled to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon Aug. 2-6.

Crookston, Minnesota, who was among the nearly 700,000 young people who descended upon his hometown of Denver when the city hosted WYD.

"World Youth Day was a life-changing experience for me," he said, first, because he encountered the universal nature of the Church and saw tens of thousands of young people engaged in Mass and going to confession, and second because he encountered the Pope.

As St. John Paul spoke to the pilgrims during the prayer vigil at Colorado's Cherry Creek State Park, the 25-year-old future priest and bishop left his group and, alone, weaved through the crowd to get closer to the Pope. "I remember being so taken by John Paul as he was speaking that I just wanted to get as close as I could to him," Bishop Cozzens said. "I just remember thinking, 'I will follow you wherever you go,' especially the way he was inviting us to pursue holiness with our whole hearts."

WYD not only changed the lives of participants, it also changed the Church in Denver and the United States, Bishop Cozzens said.

"It's had a generational impact, like lots of people came back to the Church after World Youth Day in Denver," he said. "In Denver, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes were filled, and apostolates were born, and a lot of people of my generation experienced such a profound impact that they ended up giving their lives to the church in more profound ways."

Paul Jarzembowski, associate director for the laity in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat

of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, was among those young people at WYD in Denver inspired to use his gifts to serve the Church. Now Jarzembowski oversees WYD planning for U.S. pilgrims on behalf of the U.S. Bishops. As a teenager in Denver, he recalls St. John Paul telling the pilgrims to "proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops" and taking that message to heart.

"I kept imagining myself climbing up on the rooftops of my neighborhood," he said. "I thought, yeah, I can't just be kept in my house, in my school, in my small group of friends at my church. I need to take this beyond it. So, it really introduced for me this idea that I needed to take responsibility for my faith life, which led me ultimately to a career working in the church."

Statistics support testimonials lauding the fruit of the event. Spanish social research company GAD3 has organized a survey among participants after every WYD since Madrid 2011. After WYD in Krakow 2016, they asked young people whether WYD strengthened their relationship with God, and 98% said yes. The theme of WYD 2016 was "mercy," and 90 percent of the youth said the event taught them more about mercy, while 89 percent said WYD 2016 strengthened their relationship with the Church.

There is also a bigger social perspective, as 97 percent of youth said, "WYD strengthened my will to improve society."

That was true for Kasia Wasiutynska, who at age 27 managed the volunteer department for WYD in Krakow.

WYD, page 4



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, Aug. 8 – World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal
Friday, Aug. 11: 11 a.m. – Mass with Seminarians, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
Saturday, Aug. 12: Noon – Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
Sunday, Aug. 13: 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Waterloo
Monday, Aug. 14: 10 a.m. – Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, Aug. 15: 7 p.m. – Mass Closing 40-Hours Eucharistic Devotion, St. Patrick Church, South Bend
Wednesday, Aug. 16: 10:30 a.m. – Presbyteral Council Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
Thursday, Aug. 17: 9 a.m. – Catholic Legislator Breakfast and Meeting with Indiana Catholic Conference Directors, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Thursday, Aug. 17: Noon – Meeting of the Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Saint Anne Retirement Home, Fort Wayne
Saturday, Aug. 19: 1 p.m. – Mass for the Sick, St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington
Sunday, Aug. 20: 11 a.m. – Mass, Holy Family Church, South Bend



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

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
St. Patrick, Arcola: Sept. 17-19
St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend: Sept. 17-19
St. Michael, Plymouth: Sept. 17-19

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

SUMMER PRINT SCHEDULE

Aug. 13: Digital Issue

Aug. 20: Print Issue

Aug. 27: Digital Issue

WYD, from page 3

Young Christians participating in WYD are equipped with idealistic, yet real, goals: "to make the world a better place," she said.

Wasiutynska oversaw a team of almost 80 long-term volunteers and local team leaders and organized grounds for 19,000 short-term volunteers that came to Krakow from 63 countries around the world.

"I formed this team from scratch and dedicated three years of my life to organizing WYD," she said emphasizing that the outcomes are visible, and long-term.

"Being engaged in such an event gives you power and possibilities to later act locally. Many volunteers that came to 'our' WYD later engaged in their parishes. They still form groups and ministries, they embark themselves on foreign missions," she said.

Wasiutynska's work kept her busy, so when Stanislaw, a computer science engineer who had recently graduated from university, joined the committee two years before the event to develop the volunteer app, she was not interested in his friendly chats.

"I told Stanislaw I don't date until WYD is over. So, he told me with a smile, 'I'll call two days after it's over.' And he did. I only learned later he fell in love with me the first day he

saw me on the committee," she said. "He was really patient!"

They got married at the John Paul II Sanctuary in Krakow a year after WYD 2016 and now have three little girls, including 2-year-old twins.

WYD "gave us foundations," Wasiutynska said. "It was a time of hard work, which prepared us for tough tasks both in our professional and private lives. ... Family life with three little kids is like managing a crisis 24/7. But the years we spent at WYD taught us that responsibility tastes best when taken courageously and complex free."

Kate Fowler, 33, was a student at Santa Clara University in California and had recently returned from a semester abroad in Spain when she had the chance to go back for WYD in Madrid. She was eager for more travel and excited to see the Pope, but only had "a superficial understanding" of what to expect, she said.

"It took me going to realize how isolated and lonely I had felt as a young adult, as someone who had been going to Mass pretty faithfully every Sunday. I felt like, was religion, was faith, was Catholicism dying? Were there others like me who valued their faith?"

Fowler and other students traveled with two Jesuits to Spain ahead of WYD for a "mini-retreat" in Loyola, the hometown of the Jesuits'

founder St. Ignatius. They then spent a few days doing acts of service in Malaga, a port city on Spain's southern shore, before heading to Madrid for the main event.

"It was overwhelming in a beautiful way," Fowler said of WYD. "For the first time in my life, I realized that the Catholic Church is so much bigger than my parish or my personal experience. I really saw that the Body of Christ is universal, is alive and well, and that there were other young adults who were also committed and invested in their faith, talking about Jesus and meditating on Scripture."

Attending WYD inspired Fowler to ask not what she wanted for her life, but what God wanted for her life, she said. She joined a prayer group, began praying the rosary, and attended daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration. She later pursued a master's degree in theology and now works for a Washington-based Catholic apostolate and is a wife and mother.

"There was such communion among people from all over the world," she said, "and the only thing that united everyone was Jesus Christ, and that was just incredible."

Maria Wiering is a senior writer for OSV News. Paulina Guzik is the international editor for OSV News.

Pope Prays for WYD: The Church is Not a 'Club' for the Elderly

BY JUSTIN MCLELLAN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Catholic Church is not a "club" for the elderly; it needs the participation of young people to keep it alive and ensure it does not "grow old," Pope Francis said.

In a video message released on Thursday, Jul. 27, to present his prayer intention for the month of August, "For World Youth Day," the Pope responded to questions from young people around the world in the buildup to WYD 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, scheduled to begin Tuesday, Aug. 1.

One young woman told Pope Francis that she only sees older people at her church and asked him if the Church had become something only for older people.

"The Church is not a club for the elderly, nor is it a youth club," the Pope responded. "If it becomes something for old people, it is going to die."

Citing St. John Paul II, the Pope, said that "if you live with young people, you will also

become young, and the Church needs young people to not grow old."

Another young woman asked the Pope about the meaning of the theme for this year's World Youth Day, taken from St. Luke's Gospel: "Mary arose and went with haste."

"When Mary knows she will be the Mother of God she doesn't stay there to take a selfie or show off, the first thing she does is set out on a journey in haste to serve and help," he explained. "You must learn from her to set out on the journey to help others."

Responding to another young person, the Pope said he hopes to see at World Youth Day a "seed for the world's future, a world where love is at the center, where we can sense that we are sisters and brothers."

"We are at war; we need something else. A world that is not afraid of bearing witness to the Gospel. A joyful world, because if we Christians have no joy, we are not credible, no one will believe us," he said.



Faith-based retirement living

Picture a more simplified lifestyle

Tired of daily chores and considering a maintenance-free lifestyle? Then look no further than Ascension Living Sacred Heart Village. Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we are dedicated to helping provide a personalized experience and compassionate care to all.

Our beautiful retirement community offers a variety of living options, amenities, activities, excursions and more.



Call 260-544-0255 to schedule a visit and envision your new lifestyle with us.

ascensionliving.org/sacredheartvillage

515 North Main Street | Avilla, IN 46710

Ascension Living

Sacred Heart Village



© Ascension 2023. All rights reserved.

Natural Family Planning Method Helps Married Couples Achieve or Postpone Pregnancy

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Many little girls dream about the day they get married to their prince charming. They pick out flower colors, consider the friends who will participate, and envision that special moment dad walks them down the aisle. Once the dream becomes a reality, in-laws want to know when they will hear the pitter-patter of little feet and the pressure begins for when a couple will have a baby.

Having children is a big choice in a couple's life. Are they ready? Is it the right time? These are questions that only a couple can discern for themselves. One way the Catholic Church can assist during this process is sharing education on the Natural Family Planning (NFP) method.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) designates the last week of July each year as National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week.

"Fertility awareness-based methods of family planning, commonly called Natural Family Planning or NFP, are those which teach couples to observe and interpret on a daily basis the biomarkers of fertility that naturally occur in a woman's body. This awareness of their fertility enables couples to identify the days on which conception is most likely should they desire to conceive a child, or in contrast, to refrain from sexual relations on the days when conception is possible should they desire to avoid a pregnancy," shared Lisa Everett, Director for Marriage & Family Ministry with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

According to the USCCB, NFP is a general title for the scientific, natural, and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancy. The methods are based on the observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to prevent pregnancy. Since the methods of NFP respect the love-giving (unitive) and life-giving (procreative) nature of the conjugal act, they support God's design for married love.

Information on the USCCB website is that the NFP method is focused on one or more signs of female fertility. It says they can be grouped into three cate-



gories: Cervical Mucus Methods (CMM), Sympto-Thermal Method (STM), and Sympto-Hormonal Method (SHM).

CMM is the method that observes cervical mucus and is commonly called the "Ovulation Method" or "OM." In NFP education, a woman learns how to identify the normal, healthy, cervical mucus which indicates the days that sexual intercourse is most likely to result in pregnancy. A number of NFP providers teach a variety of approaches to the observation and charting of cervical mucus (e.g., Billings Ovulation Method Association – USA, Creighton Model FertilityCare™ Centers, Family of the Americas, etc.).

The STM method observes several signs of fertility and cross-checks two or more of the signs to pinpoint ovulation and is commonly called the Sympto-Thermal Method or STM. STM typically combines charting of the Basal Body Temperature (BBT) and cervical mucus with other optional indicators, such as changes in the cervix and secondary fertility signs. A number of NFP providers teach a variety of approaches to the observation and charting of these signs (e.g., Couple to Couple League, Northwest Family Services, various diocesan programs, etc.).

SHM is a method that observes several signs of fertility and adds the use of an ovulation predictor kit (OPK) or fertility monitor. Similar to the STM, this approach adds the self-detection of reproductive hormones in the urine with the

assistance of an OPK or fertility monitor. Various diocesan NFP programs make use of the SHM as well as Marquette University's Institute for NFP (Marquette Model).

"The Church promotes natural family planning (NFP) because it respects the inseparable link between the love-giving and life-giving purposes of sex. By teaching couples to identify scientifically-based biomarkers in a woman's body which indicate the presence or absence of fertility, NFP enables a couple to prayerfully discern on a regular basis God's will for the growth of their family and then to identify the days on which conception is possible should they desire to achieve or avoid a pregnancy," noted Everett. "International studies confirm that when spouses are properly instructed and follow the rules carefully, NFP can have an effectiveness rate of 98 to 99 percent. In addition, many couples find that the mutual respect, regular communication, shared responsibility, and self-control which the practice of NFP requires strengthens their relationship with one another. Most importantly, couples who use NFP have the assurance that they are approaching the gift of their fertility in accordance with their faith."

For more information about options for learning NFP either in person or online, visit the diocesan website at diocesefwsb.org/nfp for an English version and diocesefwsb.org/pfn for a Spanish version.



CONFIRMATION MASSES FALL 2023

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Waterloo – Aug. 13: 10:30 a.m.
St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Waterloo

St. Joseph Church, LaGrange – Aug. 26: 10 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, South Bend – Sept. 9: 11 a.m.
St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, South Bend

St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend – Sept. 21: 7 p.m.
St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend

Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw – Sept. 24: 2 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Piercetown
St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse

St. Joseph Church, South Bend – Oct. 12: 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, South Bend
Celebrant: Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, IN

Christ the King Church, South Bend – Oct. 19: 7 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, South Bend
Celebrant: Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, IN

Corpus Christi Church, South Bend – Oct. 26: 7:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend
Celebrant: Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, IN

St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen – Oct. 27: 7 p.m. (English)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen
Celebrant: Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, IN

St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen – Oct. 28: 10 a.m. (Spanish)
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen
Celebrant: Bishop Robert McClory of Gary, IN

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne – Nov. 1: 7 p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne

St. Jude Church, South Bend – Nov. 4: 10 a.m.
St. Jude Parish, South Bend

St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne – Nov. 5: 3 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne

Sacred Heart Church, Fort Wayne – Nov. 26: 10 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne

St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka – Dec. 2: 10 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka
St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka
St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka

Holy Cross Church, South Bend – Dec. 3: 10:30 a.m.
Holy Cross Parish, South Bend

St. Mary of the Annunciation Church, Bristol – Dec. 8: 6 p.m.
St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Bristol

St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend – Dec. 9: 4:15 p.m.
St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend

STRONGER TOGETHER
HELPING HANDS
PREGNANCY • FAMILY • COMMUNITY



LEARN MORE
ABOUT US!

WE SERVE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN IN ADAMS, ALLEN, BLACKFORD, WELLS, AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES THROUGH LIMITED OB MEDICAL SERVICES, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY GROUPS, GOAL-SETTING, ADVOCACY, REFERRALS, AND MORE IN EFFORTS TO CREATE A STRONGER COMMUNITY!

U.S. Official Calls State of Religious Freedom in Nigeria 'Abysmal,' Says Country in 'Slow-Motion Genocide'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – The chairman of U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, has described religious freedom conditions in Nigeria as “abysmal.” Speaking on Tuesday, July 18, at a House subcommittee hearing on religious freedom, he pointed to the country’s “blasphemy laws and armed attacks on believers that have continued to worsen,” and noted that Africa’s most populous nation is like “a slow-motion genocide.” The country has maintained its rather unflattering status as a place where it is increasingly becoming harder to live as a Christian, with instances of crime against Christians happening every day and kidnapping of priests seen as organized crimes. On Monday, July 10, Father Joseph Azubuike at St. Charles Parish in the Diocese of Abakaliki in Ebonyi state was abducted, along with three other people, not far from his rectory. The event occurred as he was traveling home from a pastoral engagement. The abductees were led into a forest. According to the diocesan Vicar General, Father Donatus O. Chukwu, the kidnappers demanded \$66,000 or, they threatened, the kidnapped priest would be killed. The abductees were however released the following day, without the church having to pay a dime, much to the relief of the religious community. The kidnapping of the priest is just one of many targeting the clergy and Christians in Nigeria – not all of them have such a happy ending. According to a January report by research organization SB Morgen Intelligence, not fewer than 39 Catholic priests were killed by gunmen in 2022, while 30 others were abducted. The report also showed that 145 attacks on Catholic priests were recorded within the same period.

'The Church Needs Our Gifts': Black Catholics at National Congress Reflect on Their Calling

NATIONAL HARBOR, Maryland (OSV News) – As people left the Sunday, July 23, closing Mass for the National Black Catholic Congress, Vernon Taylor of St. Joseph's Parish in Wilmington, Delaware, said he was moved particularly at the end of Mass when Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell Jr., Congress President, invited any young people considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious

Anti-Government Protest Held in Kenya



OSV News photo/Thomas Mukoya, Reuters

A supporter of Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga of the Azimio La Umoja (Declaration of Unity) One Kenya Alliance participates in an anti-government protest against the imposition of tax hikes by the government in Nairobi on Friday, July 21.

life to come up for a blessing – and some young adults, teens, and children stepped forward. “The most moving thing to me, and it really brought tears, was to see the young folks go up to profess their faith and potential vocation,” Taylor, a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, told Catholic Standard, the Washington Archdiocese's newspaper. Among them, Lux Leverette, 12, who told Catholic Standard what interested him about priesthood: “In general, the whole idea to go wherever is needed and help people is very pleasing to me.” The National Black Catholic Congress also offered a time for participants to reflect on the legacy of the six U.S. Black Catholics being considered for sainthood. Sister Stephanie Henry from Philadelphia, President of

the Blessed Sacrament Sisters founded by St. Katharine Drexel, said she had actually met and spoken with one of those potential Black Catholic saints, Sister Thea Bowman. “Her whole being radiated praise and joy,” Sister Stephanie told Catholic Standard, saying Sister Thea emphasized “Black Catholics have a place in the Church. We belong here, and the Church needs our gifts.”

Spain's Bishops Search for Common Ground in Post-Election Deadlock

(OSV News) – Spain's newest archbishop has urged his country's politicians to prioritize national interests, amid fears of political deadlock following

elections on Sunday, July 23, in which neither the conservative opposition Partido Popular (People's Party) nor prime minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialist Party (PSOE) secured enough votes to form a government. “The contribution of believers and the Church in the public square must be prophetic and never accommodating – it must respond to present needs and concerns, often experienced in a dramatic way by society,” Archbishop Francisco José Prieto Fernández of Santiago de Compostela told Catholics in a Tuesday, July 25, cathedral homily. “I ask those elected to dedicate their best efforts to demands of the common good and to building a peaceful society founded on truth, justice, and freedom, where service above legitimate political differences is

always the horizon of political responsibility.” The archbishop was preaching at his installation by the Vatican's Madrid Nuncio, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, after Sunday's election gave the PP 136 seats and the PSOE 122 in the 350-member lower house of Spain's Parliament – Cortes Generales, with the far-right Vox and far-left Sumar parties each claiming 33 and 31 seats respectively. Although 53.7 percent of Spain's 47 million inhabitants still identify as Catholic, according to March data, religious vocations and Mass attendance have dropped sharply across the church's 70 dioceses and 23,000 parishes, while more than half of all 18- to 34-year-olds declare themselves nonreligious.

Global Synod Faces Challenge of Getting Pastoral Care to Divorced Catholics in Parishes

MARIETTA, Georgia (OSV News) – The forthcoming 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – which Pope Francis convenes in Rome on Wednesday, Oct. 4 – will examine ways to accompany divorced and remarried Catholics. Several Catholics involved in ministry to the divorced told OSV News the synod needs to grapple with how the Church's significant gaps in this area are affecting Catholic adults and their families. “The Church is vastly underserving divorced Catholics,” said Vince Frese, Author and Creator of the Recovering from Divorce program and divorcedcatholic.com. “We didn't do a good job at all ministering to those Catholics when they went through a divorce,” he said. “It's very much parish by parish – and roughly less than 15 percent of parishes have any kind of ministry to divorced Catholics.” The working document asks how the Catholic Church can create space where “those who feel hurt by the Church and unwelcomed by the community feel recognized, received, free to ask questions, and not judged.” It also asks the global synod's participants to consider concrete steps to “welcome those who feel excluded from the Church because of their status or sexuality” including “remarried divorcees.” Rose Sweet, Author of “The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide,” said there is an opportunity for dioceses and parishes to work together to implement these ministries. “We need to have one skilled, trained, and compassionate contact person in every diocese,” Sweet said, “so every parish could reach out to and make contact with that person regarding helping the divorced, the separated, and the remarried.”

Mary Kay Dance: Long-Serving Knight Retires from Teaching and Administration

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Mary Kay Dance's whole life has been entwined with Marian High School in Mishawaka, from her own 1970 graduation to her retirement in June from being Director of Admissions. "The Marian High School community has been such an integral part of my life for so long," she said, "that I am truly sad to be retiring." Her only consolation is that she's staying in the area, where she'll continue to run into former students and colleagues. Besides her 33 years at Marian, Dance has taught in other schools for a total of 46 years of service to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Dance's replacement, Margy Kloska, has been learning the ropes alongside Dance throughout the school year. Kloska calls Dance "literally a Marian icon" and points out that Marian is unique among diocesan high schools in having increased its enrollment every one of the past 10 years.

Administrative Assistant Deb Powell calls Dance "the face of Marian. Some have even said that she is the 'Mother Mary' of Marian. I have never met anyone more devoted to Marian. She's been a friend and mentor to me for the last 20 years. I admire, respect, and love her dearly, and I will miss her terribly."

Powell continued, "People consistently say that she played a huge part in their decision to send their kids to Marian. She welcomed every single person to the school with a genuine, caring attitude, and it didn't end once they enrolled. She checked on the students throughout their four years and was always willing to help them out or offer an encouraging word."

Mark Kirzeder, who just finished his time as Principal at Marian, said, "Mary Kay Dance has been a blessing to the Marian High School family. As Director of Admissions, she greeted every prospective family with a warm, genuine, and enthusiastic smile. She never hesitated to spend her precious time giving tours of the school, answering questions, or providing whatever parents needed to assist them through the admissions process. As a colleague, she represented the love of Jesus to all she interacted with on a daily basis. She truly embodied the Marian



Provided by Mary Kay Dance

Mary Kay Dance looks at the scrapbook Marian High School Administrative Assistant Deb Powell made for her retirement party on Wednesday, May 24.

mission: 'living the example of Jesus Christ as teacher and servant.' She's had a lasting impact upon our school, and she will be greatly missed."

The oldest of four children, all Marian grads, Dance can't remember when she didn't want to be a teacher. She gathered her siblings and neighborhood children to play school, and she supervised younger students while the good Sisters at St. Jude School, South Bend, took a break to eat the lunch her mother prepared for them. When she was a sophomore at Marian, she started teaching 5th grade CCD.

When she enrolled in 1966, Marian was welcoming only its third class. Tuition was \$150 a year, and uniforms were wool skirts and jackets for the girls, sport coats and ties for the boys. Boys and girls were taught separately for the most part. One exception was the French class, where Mary Kay Lawrence met Steve Dance, who became her husband on November 24, 1973. Plans haven't yet been made for that golden anniversary celebration.

Indiana University South Bend granted Dance's elementary education degree in 1974 With Highest Distinction, her GPA marred only by a B in music theory. She returned to St. Jude to teach 3rd grade and then middle school science and religion, while her husband Steve taught junior high social

DANCE, page 15

Bishop Rhoades Celebrates Totus Tuus Mass at St. Jude on St. Kateri Tekakwitha's Feast Day

BY ELISEJANE PLECNIK

It was a day of blessings, abundant warmth, and thanksgiving on Friday, July 14. Bishop Rhoades held Mass celebrating Christ's glory as well as the spiritual fruits stemming from the Totus Tuus summer youth program at St. Jude Catholic Parish in Fort Wayne on the feast day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

Totus Tuus trains college-aged missionaries to shepherd students from the first grade through high school in intentional exercises that focus on contemplative prayer, daily conversion, and God's Word through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Totus Tuus is a Latin phrase that means Totally Yours, and was the motto of St. John Paul II. The motto extends from St. Louis De Montfort's total and unbounded devotion to Mother Mary, a true and guaranteed path to Jesus Christ, her Son.

Four Totus Tuus missionaries are selected by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend each year to spend their summer serving six parish sites within the diocese. Missionaries work with parish staff to aid in liturgical ministry and teach catechesis synchronized with Totus Tuus curricula. This year's missionary team leaders were Laura Delgado, Iván Miranda, Maria Solis, and Isaac Schneider. Totus Tuus is set up in two separate programs serving middle school and high school students in the evenings from Sunday through Thursday and the elementary program for students in 1st through 6th grade during the day. Each missionary team is trained at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington, Illinois, where purposeful and dedicated time in daily prayer is emphasized.

Keeping true to the Totus Tuus mantra to Our Lady, the missionary team's arrival at St. Jude begins by praying the Rosary at 7:30 a.m. The missionaries continue in steadfast prayer as they teach the parish's children the foundations of Christian Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

"Where is Jesus?" was a question for Iván Miranda from a 2nd grade student pointing to the Eucharist. Miranda explains Jesus' Ascension into Heaven and His full presence in the Eucharist is a gift we receive as Christians through God's divine plan, perfectly followed by Mary, the mother of God. He further explains Our Lady's consent in the message deliv-



Elisejane Plecnik

Totus Tuus students spend prayerful time with the Lord before Mass on the Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne on Friday, July 14.

ered by the Angel of the Lord in the Annunciation, and from there, she conceives the Christ child through the Holy Spirit. The children learn Mary's total trust in God's plan leads the only Son of God, in unity with the Holy Spirit, to start His ministry, enter in His passion, and ascension into Heaven. These teachings are further applied in prayer through the recitation of the Angelus, thoughtfully printed in prayer cards for each child. Rich experiences like these move Totus Tuus missionaries toward prayerful contemplation so that appropriate explanations align to each student's grade level. Thus, the intentional selection of words in ministry between the missionaries, and the responses from their students, establish a dynamic Christian experience steeped in Catholic tradition. Miranda encourages students to ask questions about Jesus' presence. This invitation bears spiritual fruit as Miranda, and the Totus Tuus missionary leaders, witness the joy in the children's faces agape in Christ's call to become saints.

Children remain in a state of wonder in Bishop Rhoades' homily, where he expounds upon the communion of saints by way of St. Kateri Tekakwitha's Christian life. He talked of his experiences during the beatification of St. Kateri and enveloped the homily in a historical background of the diverse tribal nations who were Christian and non-Christian, which inspired St. Kateri Tekakwitha's resolute faith in Jesus Christ. When Bishop Rhoades was 22 years old, he said he had just finished his first year of theology in Rome.

That same year, on June 22, Bishop Rhoades attended Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican. Pope John Paul II held a large Mass to beatify the first Native American, Kateri Tekakwitha. Bishop Rhoades instructed those sitting in the front pews, "... and 'Blessed' Kateri Tekakwitha is what we called her, as this is the last step before becoming a saint." Bishop Rhoades recalled that very special day in which a deacon at the beatification Mass wore his cultural head-dress and garb while proclaiming the Gospel. Many Native Americans from the United States came to the [Pontifical] North American College to share in a Mass of thanksgiving. By 2012, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized.

Bishop Rhoades' homily delivered the permanence of God's plan fulfilled in Christ through Mary, Queen of All Saints. We walk in Christian diversity inclusively charged in trinitarian unity amidst imminent trials that come from living the Gospel with our lives. This brings comfort as it only emphasizes the call to stay rooted in Christian faith, even in hostile environments. The Lord is God of all nations, and in the accordance of living in the communion of saints, we remember stories of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Even more, we can trace the very first Apostle of Christ, His mother, Our Lady, the Seat of Wisdom and Queen of Heaven and Earth.

For more information about serving in the Totus Tuus summer program, please visit diocesefwsb.org/totus-tuus.

'Never, Never Lose Faith,' Says Man Whose Miraculous Cure as Child Led to St. Kateri Tekakwitha's Canonization

BY KATIE YODER

OSV News – Jake Finkbonner first decided to become a medical doctor when he was in middle school.

"I'd love to help people the same way that so many people have helped me," the 23-year-old from Ferndale, Washington, explained to OSV News.

The recent college graduate drew his inspiration from the doctors who rushed to rescue him from an aggressive flesh-eating bacteria that tore through his face more than 17 years ago. They had help: Finkbonner's family and community turned to then-Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha to intercede for the 6-year-old's life. The day after her relic entered his hospital room, the infection – without explanation – stopped.

The cure became the second and final miracle needed for the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th-century Kanien'kéha:ka (Mohawk) Catholic and the first Native American woman to be declared a saint. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012.

Finkbonner recently spoke with OSV News about the miracle, his apparent visit to heaven while hospitalized, his faith, and his special connection to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, including his own Native American heritage.

When people hear his story, Finkbonner hopes that they first take away the importance of having faith.

"I can't really convey this message as well as my parents, but in listening to them tell their story of watching me and everything that they went through, I would say that it would be to never, never lose faith," he said.

In 2006, Finkbonner was playing basketball with the local Boys & Girls Club when he cut his lip on the supporting bar at the base of the portable basketball hoop.

At first, doctors assured his family that Finkbonner, who was almost 6 years old, would be fine. But after he visited the family doctor a third time, this time with a dangerously swollen face, he was sent to the local emergency room. From there, he flew via airlift to Seattle Children's Hospital.

Medical professionals later discovered that Finkbonner had contracted flesh-eating bacteria called strep A through his cut.

For most of his time in the hospital, Finkbonner said, he remained unconscious in a drug-induced coma. He underwent daily surgeries as doctors removed the accumulating



OSV News photo/Stephen Brashear, Northwest Catholic

Sister Kateri Mitchell, a member of the Sisters of St. Anne, carries a relic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and Jake Finkbonner of Ferndale, Washington, carries a turtle shell as they process into St. James Cathedral in Seattle on October 22, 2022, for a Mass celebrating the 10th anniversary of St. Kateri's canonization. Jake was 6 years old when he was healed of flesh-eating bacteria the day after Sister Kateri placed a Kateri Tekakwitha relic on him and joined Jake's mother in praying for him. His recovery was the second miracle needed to elevate then-Blessed Kateri to sainthood.

dead scar tissue from his face.

His 6th birthday came and went before his parents contacted Father Tim Sauer, then-Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Ferndale, about administering last rites. He coordinated for a priest to visit and, at the same time, recommended the family turn to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for help.

Finkbonner and the holy woman shared similarities, from their Native American heritage (Finkbonner is a quarter Native American, of the Lummi nation) to suffering from attacks to their faces (smallpox scarred St. Kateri Tekakwitha's face).

Soon after, Finkbonner's mother, Elsa, began praying to God for a sign. That sign arrived when his father's aunt, who is a religious sister, visited the hospital – and brought a friend with her.

Upon arrival, his relative introduced her friend as "Sister Kateri," Finkbonner said. Sister Kateri not only shared a name with Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, but also placed a relic of the holy woman by his bedside.

"It was actually that next day that (the doctors) said, 'Yeah, the infection stopped,

*"It was actually that next day
that (the doctors) said, 'Yeah, the
infection stopped,
and we don't know why,'"*

JAKE FINKBONNER

and we don't know why,'" Finkbonner said. "It was all recovery from that point."

A few weeks later, he returned home after months in the hospital. He faced a long road ahead: Every year, until he turned 18, he underwent reconstructive surgery.

"I had to learn how to walk again," he remembered. "Talking was a little tough because of still much scar tissue on my face. They gave me a big plastic mask to wear because so much of my skin had been exposed."

His family, friends, and school community at Assumption Catholic School

in Bellingham, Washington, supported him and his family every step of the way, he emphasized. He remembered, in particular, when his kindergarten teacher held a "mask day" where all of the students wore masks that they made so that he did not feel alone.

"All the support from the community and coaches for my sports, my teachers, my friends, my family, and all of their helping me get back to normal life was very meaningful," he stressed. "It helped make me who I am today."

While he was unconscious for most of his hospital stay, Finkbonner remembers at least one incident he believed took place: visiting heaven.

"I had a sensation that I was waking up, that I could hear doctors talking to my parents," he described. "I could feel my body start to be lighter. And, instead of standing, I flew upwards."

When he opened his eyes, he found himself in heaven.

"I remember a feeling of warmth and comfort and everything was very bright," he said.

He also spotted familiar faces: his Uncle Tom, his godfather who had passed away

just two weeks before of a heart attack, and his mother's grandmother, who died before he was born.

"I went up and I gave him a hug and I remember he breathed warm air on me," he revealed. "For a moment, his heart left his body and it came into mine and I had two beating hearts."

When Finkbonner asked if he could stay, Jesus responded that everyone back home still needed him.

"I remember feeling super crushed and terribly sad about the whole thing," Finkbonner said, "but in my heart I knew that He was right."

Before leaving, he recalled hearing what he described as 1,000 pennies dropping on concrete all at once. His body started to feel heavy.

"Just like that," he said, "I was back."

According to his mother, the experience occurred after his "initial waking up" from the coma.

"I don't remember any of that (initial waking up) part, but I certainly remember waking up from that one," Finkbonner said. "For me, I'd say, that was my awakening."

Finkbonner recalled hearing about how, before his recovery, his parents, Donny and Elsa, placed their trust in God.

One day, he said, his mother read the Bible verses where God commands Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Afterward, his parents entered the hospital chapel to pray.

"They essentially said, 'He is yours. Do with him what you will,'" Finkbonner said. "And if it was God's will to take me home, then so be it. They will accept that."

His parents' faith in that moment inspired him, he said.

"For them to never lose faith and to believe in God so heavily, I can only be filled with admiration for them," he commented.

In addition to attending Sunday Mass, Finkbonner participated in activities at the Newman Center, or Catholic campus ministry, at Western Washington University before graduating in June.

During his daily prayers, he regularly turns to St. Kateri Tekakwitha. He frequently prays in his car where, he said, a rosary hangs from the rear-view mirror.

"As far as daily prayers go, (the) majority of my prayer is gratitude," he said. "There's a lot of stuff for me to be grateful for."

Katie Yoder writes for OSV News from the Washington, D.C., area.

Father Nguyen's Path to Priesthood Takes Many Turns

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

"It's a good occasion. I feel great to celebrate how for the last 25 years God has been so good to me and accompanied me on my ministry," said Father Dominic Nguyen, Pastor at St. Patrick Church, who is celebrating 25 years in the priesthood.

Nguyen's family lineage includes a great uncle who was a priest, his father who went to seminary but discerned to marry, and his brother who also attended seminary and chose a life of marriage. His journey began at the age of seven.

The priest was a spiritual role model for a young Nguyen, planting a seed of interest along with a family history of being drawn to the priesthood.

While his older brother was at the seminary, he had the chance to visit him. Nguyen was a big soccer fan and was in awe of the beautifully manicured soccer field and leather balls available at the seminary. It was much different from the plastic ball and dirt-covered area he played in at home. This fascination with soccer planted another seed of interest for Nguyen, and he decided he had to go to the seminary to play on that field.

In 5th grade, he took and passed the entrance exam for minor seminary. He studied there until 9th grade when his community was taken under communist control. Initially, the communists granted the seminary permission to continue working with youth, but a lack of clergy to service the students forced it to close. Nguyen was forced to attend traditional schooling and unofficially met with others in various locations for his theology education.

As communist control in his country continued, the seminary was altered to a police academy, and he was forced into a labor camp to build a canal by hand. Leaders promised him if he made a three-year commitment, he would be able to return to seminary work. They broke their promise, leaving him in the labor camp for three years, one month, and 21 days. Communist leaders next ordered him to work three years in the army with a promise to return to seminary work afterward. This time, Nguyen took a stand and fled the area.

"I decided I wasn't going and didn't obey the orders," recalled Nguyen. "I'm not going to let them trick me again. At that moment I became an illegal citizen."

He went into hiding and after encouragement from his family, he decided to escape the country if he was going to fulfill his

wish of being a priest. The first escape attempt with his brother was unsuccessful because he was not home at the time of the pickup. His brother was put in jail for 18 months and he narrowly escaped incarceration. A second attempt with the help of his cousin was successful and Nguyen spent five days and four nights on a boat with 75 other people. The tight quarters were miserable and on the last day of the voyage the boat broke. Passengers used soldier helmets to bail the water out of the boat, and one brave traveler with marine expertise temporarily patched the vessel that landed on KuKu Island in Indonesia. After 22 days, Nguyen moved to Pulau Island for nine months awaiting approval to come to the United States.

"The Americans accepted me because my dad was in the army," said Nguyen, along with his status of religious persecution since he was unable to continue his religious formation. "I settled in Arlington, Texas, with my uncle."

With limited skills, a language barrier, and a \$2,000 transportation bill to pay off, Nguyen worked two different labor jobs to pay off his debt and send money home to his family. Once his debt obligation was fulfilled, he decided it was time to continue his journey in the priesthood. Since his English was poor, he was rejected by the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Baton Rouge. At this point, he decided to try one more time, and if rejected, he would abandon his ministry campaign and get married.

A chance meeting with a connection to Divine Word Missionary priests and brothers with the Society of the Divine Word inspired him to apply one last time to a congregation. The response was an invitation to join, with a promise to teach him English and eliminate the language barrier. Unfortunately, the day he was to enter formation, he was plagued by paralysis resulting from chemical poisoning by substances used during his labor jobs. Nguyen was hospitalized for three and a half months, and it took a year for him to get back on his feet.

His beginning with the Society of the Divine Word was delayed, but not deterred, and after a year in the novitiate and four years in the formation house, he was ordained a priest on June 6, 1998.

"When I was ordained, I was 40 years old," said Nguyen. "I have never regretted the decision."

In the beginning, Nguyen was a Vocation Coordinator for three years and then spent a year working in formation. Realizing his desire for parish



FATHER DOMINIC NGUYEN

work, he went to Memphis, Tennessee, for six years and then to St. Louis, Missouri, for nine years. During that time, he was an associate pastor at a multilingual parish and had two months to become fluent in Spanish to work with the Spanish-speaking population when the priest who had been working with the congregation was moved. Nguyen said it was a challenge to learn the language but a great life lesson for him.

While in Missouri, he was the pastor of a failing church. He was challenged to recondition a dilapidated building that had many needs. On one of his first nights, Nguyen and the associate pastor awoke to a thunderstorm finding themselves running around the rectory and church with buckets to catch the rainwater seeping through holes in the roof. Being mechanically handy out of necessity, he was able to get the buildings rehabilitated and the parish back on track.

His next and current assignment took him to St. Patrick's Parish in Fort Wayne where he was again tasked to rehabilitate the facilities, grow the parish community, and get the finances in order. After a great deal of hard work, prayer, organization, cleanup, and perseverance, the parish has been revitalized into a thriving community.

"After a long week working, I hope they get to come here for spiritual nourishment," said Nguyen of his congregation. Through the word of God and participation in the sacraments, he wants everyone to be filled with hope, peace, and love.

At the age of 64, he plans to continue working as a pastor until the age of 70. Within his community, at 70, he can request removal from administrative duties and continue ministering as a priest in residence. He likes the Fort Wayne area and would like to stay in the area for the next few years.

Good Shepherd
BOOKS • GIFTS



August 11-12

We are excited to participate
in Downtown Fort Wayne's
Sidewalk Sale!

Enjoy 20% OFF one regular
priced item.

We also have a selection of
clearance items 40-70% off!

915 S. Clinton St., FW, IN 46802
260.399.1442

www.goodshepherdbookstore.org

TRUTH IN CHARITY PODCAST
redeemerradio.com/askbishop

It only takes a
Weekend



to fall in love all over again.

Marriage Encounter

Oct. 7-8, 2023, at St. Charles Borromeo Parish*, Fort Wayne
Feb. 10-11, 2024, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish*, Fort Wayne
Apr. 12-14, 2024, Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth

* Parish-based experiences allow you to return home overnight.

Apply at www.wwme-ni.org
or contact Jeff and Brenda at
application@wwme-ni.org
or 260-484-1664.



Cycling Offers More than Physical Benefits

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Cycling is known to enhance strength and flexibility, better balance, be incorporated with other workouts, improve mental health, and because it is low-impact, is ideal for those suffering from arthritis or osteoarthritis. It also serves as a perfect outlet for servant leaders searching for a way to help others and build community.

Biking for Babies is an organization that took a love of cycling and created an opportunity for people across the country to embark on a journey of faith, fundraising, and friendship to assist the efforts of pregnancy resource centers. According to representatives of the organization, “Biking for Babies started because two young men were inspired to make the spirit of pro-life work more accessible to others and themselves – trying to experience, in some small measure, the endurance and commitment that is tried upon young women and families in the face of an unexpected pregnancy.”

Their mission statement says, “Biking for Babies proclaims the dignity of human life by uniting cycling with the formation of young adults into missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.”

The group made a stop along their Michigan route from Ann Arbor, Michigan, to St. Louis, Missouri, in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South



Lisa Kochanowski

Members of Biking for Babies pose for a photo at a stop at St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka on Tuesday, July 11. Pictured from left to right are Dan Meyer (support crew ministry), Devin Porter (rider), Khalil Stockling (rider), Patrick Stieve (rider), Oonagh McNally (rider), Ryan Arnoldy (rider), Vincent Moore (Route Leader and rider), Lauren Woelffer (support crew ministry), and Aubrie Faust, (Director of Missionary Formation). Biking for Babies is an organization that took a love of cycling and created an opportunity for people across the country to embark on a journey of faith, fundraising, and friendship to assist the efforts of pregnancy resource centers.

Bend at St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka on Tuesday, July 11. Father Christopher Brennan, Rector at Stanford Hall at the University of Notre Dame, received the initial outreach from the organization to bring the cycling missionaries to the University of Notre Dame. The group was referred to St. Monica's, where they welcomed the visit opportunity with open arms and hosted the team with accom-

modations, Mass, and a community gathering. “We accepted the invitation to host them as part of our parish’s Walking with Moms in Need ministry. In a post-Roe America, information on organizations where women and families can get help is still vitally important,” said Jackie Moody, Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education at St. Monica. Dozens attended the Mass

offered for the end of abortion and joined the Biking for Babies group for a pot-luck meal. Visitors had the chance to talk to the riders, learn more about the experience, and hear first-hand testimonials about the impact of the experience. The event was open to the parish community and area churches. Parishioners at St. Monica's opened their homes to give riders a place to sleep before they continued to their next destination on Wednesday, July 12.

“After the event, the biking missionaries go forth on their nation-wide ride, and as their motto goes ‘renewing the culture of life one pedal stroke at a time.’ Proceeds that they collect at our event go back to pregnancy resource centers,

and I believe they have partnered with the Niles, Michigan Women's Care Center. Our Mishawaka Women's Care Center has also been invited to our event, as well as our local Right to Life,” said Moody.

Lauren Woelffer has been part of the organization since 2020, getting involved during her time as a student at University of Wisconsin-Madison. For two years she had participated as a rider and this year she is volunteering as a member of the support crew ministry.

“It's been great. This is a new route for us and it's fun to come to these events and get an opportunity to meet new people. For us it's joyful to connect with the parish here. It's important for people to see ways of putting their pro-life beliefs into action. We spread joy and hope wherever we go, and we try to be the light of Christ wherever we go,” said Woelffer. As part of the support crew, she travels with the group in a van providing assistance needed along the route.

Each member of the ministry sets their own fundraising goal and Woelffer has set a goal to raise \$5,000. Biking for Babies has eight different routes used during the National Ride and funds are collected leading up to the ride, during the ride, and after the ride up to September, which is the end of their fiscal year.

“I hope the impact on the community is 1) the message of the Gospel on Life and 2) again getting information out there in our community for anyone in a circumstance that needs good prenatal care, food for families, and support during pregnancy, birth, and life after the birth,” noted Moody.

Learn more about the organization at bikingforbabies.com.

Staying Connected to the Faith

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

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

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

Visit: www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe

or enter details and mail:

Subscription duration and amount

☐ 1 Year | \$25 ☐ 2 Years | \$43 ☐ 3 Years | \$61

Name:

Parish:

Phone:

Billing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Payment method:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

☐ Credit Card (provide information to the right)

☐ Check (payable to **Today's Catholic**)

☐ Cash (please enclose)

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

CVV

SIGNATURE

Mail to: Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169

Bishop Rhoades,
Your abiding devotion and faithful service to the Lord has touched countless hearts and inspired so many souls. What a blessing you are to all of us!

Congratulations as you celebrate 40 years!

St. Gaspar Parish, Rome City

National Black Catholic Congress Attendees Return Rejuvenated

BY DEACON MEL TARDY

Nearly 30 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended the National Black Catholic Congress in National Harbor, Maryland, from July 20-23. This diverse group of 28 men, women, and teens included members of several parishes, leaders from the diocese, and the University of Notre Dame.

The National Black Catholic Congress is the oldest lay movement in the U.S., started by Daniel Rudd of Bardstown, Kentucky, to address common issues facing Black Catholics: education, housing, employment, temperance, healthcare, and racism.

Rudd said: "I have always been a Catholic and – feeling that I knew the teachings of the Catholic Church – I thought there could be no greater factor in solving the race problem than that matchless institution whose history for 1,900 years is but a continual triumph over all assailants." That first Congress, attended by 50 only-male delegates, was also held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., from January 1 to 4, 1889.

The modern Congress Movement began in 1987 and usually meets every five years, but was postponed in 2022 due to the pandemic. This year, organizers initially expected 1,700, but nearly 3,000 people attended.

The theme for Congress XIII was "Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive" based on Habakkuk 2:2-4: "Then the Lord answered me and said: 'Write down the vision; Make it plain upon tablets, so that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disap-



Photos Provided by Mary Glowaski

Nearly 30 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pose for a photo during the National Black Catholic Congress in National Harbor, Maryland, which took place Thursday, July 20, to Sunday, July 23.



Many young people join other pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, across the country, and around the world, for the National Black Catholic Congress in National Harbor, Maryland.

point. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."

One key takeaway was that the Congress is producing a National Vision Plan of Action for Black Catholics based on responses by all Congress attendees to a survey, based on the Congress XIII theme.

Attendees prepared for Congress by attending events

sponsored by the Diocese Black Catholic Advisory Board, including a February 18 Black Catholic Day of Reflection and a June 1 prayer service and gathering.

Most traveled to Congress on a special pilgrimage bus chartered by the diocese, which departed from Marian High School. Along the way, pilgrims prayed and reflected

on similar journeys of hope undertaken by Daniel Rudd and early Congress-goers. Underwriters included the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, St. Augustine Parish, and individual donors via fundraisers held at St. Augustine and St. Pius X Parishes.

On the first day, Congress

took a roll call and more than 80 dioceses responded. When the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came up on the screen, pilgrims proudly leapt up and screamed with excitement wearing bright green diocesan T-shirts, an image captured by photo on the Congress national website.

The amazing liturgies included a packed opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., with Cardinal Wilton Gregory serving as Presider and Homilist. Afterward, the group enjoyed a reception and private tour of the African American National Museum of History in Washington, D.C. With uplifting liturgies, keynotes, and sessions, along with diverse vendors and exhibits, pilgrims grew closer to each other and to numerous other attendees from around the country, gaining a better appreciation for the needs, challenges, and gifts of Black Catholics around the country.

Several from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend did sessions, including Chery Ashe (ex-offender ministry) and Deacon Mel Tardy (Living Your Best Life). Deacon Tardy, a member of the Congress Board of Directors, also served as Deacon of the Altar at the closing Mass with Archbishop Roy Campbell, President of the National Black Catholic Congress.

Two St. Augustine parishioners, Tanya Jones and LaDonna Flynn, sang with the Congress Gospel Choir at the closing Mass. There were also three teens who participated in the Congress youth track. They were Jaxson Doaks, Joshua Price, Jr., and Naomi Randall.

Attendees returned rejuvenated, with a new vision for how to serve the needs of Black Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Theology on Tap Closing Mass in Fort Wayne



Joshua Schipper

Young adults gathered at the University of Saint Francis on Tuesday, July 25, for a closing Mass and celebration to cap off the Fort Wayne summer series of Theology on Tap.

Indiana's Premier Butcher Shop and Deli



4924 S. Calhoun St., Ft. Wayne
260-338-0022

2820 Maplecrest Rd., Ft. Wayne
260-485-0003

Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**CATERING, MEAT BUNDLES,
PREPARED FOOD, AND MORE!**

It's not just Feders, it's family.

2323 Almon St., Huntertown
260-637-0111

Mon-Sat 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



CATERING, CUSTOM PROCESSING,
WILD GAME, HOG ROASTS

Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

NOVENA FOR THE SICK AND TROUBLED

The novena for the sick and troubled is nine days of praying the rosary asking God for a specific intention through Blessed Solanus Casey's intervention.

Start the novena on Friday, Aug. 11 and join us on the ninth day, Saturday, Aug. 19, with a rosary at 12:30 p.m., Mass at 1 p.m. with Bishop Rhoades, followed by a blessing with the first class relic of Blessed Solanus Casey.

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Oh Lord, You are the Divine Healer and Physician. We beg of You to hear our prayers as we ask You today to bring healing to all who are suffering mentally, physically, or spiritually. Assist us as we grow in the faith to confidently turn to You for help. Please lead us to love You more each day no matter what difficulties we might be facing. Amen.

Lord, we offer up to You this rosary as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, who at the wedding feast of Cana said, "Do whatever He tells you." Jesus has taught us, "Ask and you shall receive." So, now let us pray the rosary for our many intentions and those of the whole world!

(Pray the Rosary now)

Heavenly Father, we are united in our fervent prayers to You. Blessed Father Solanus Casey always reminded us to "Thank God ahead of time." So, we thank You now for hearing our prayer requests, and we ask You to help us to persevere with holy patience. Amen.



MASS FOR THE SICK AND TROUBLED

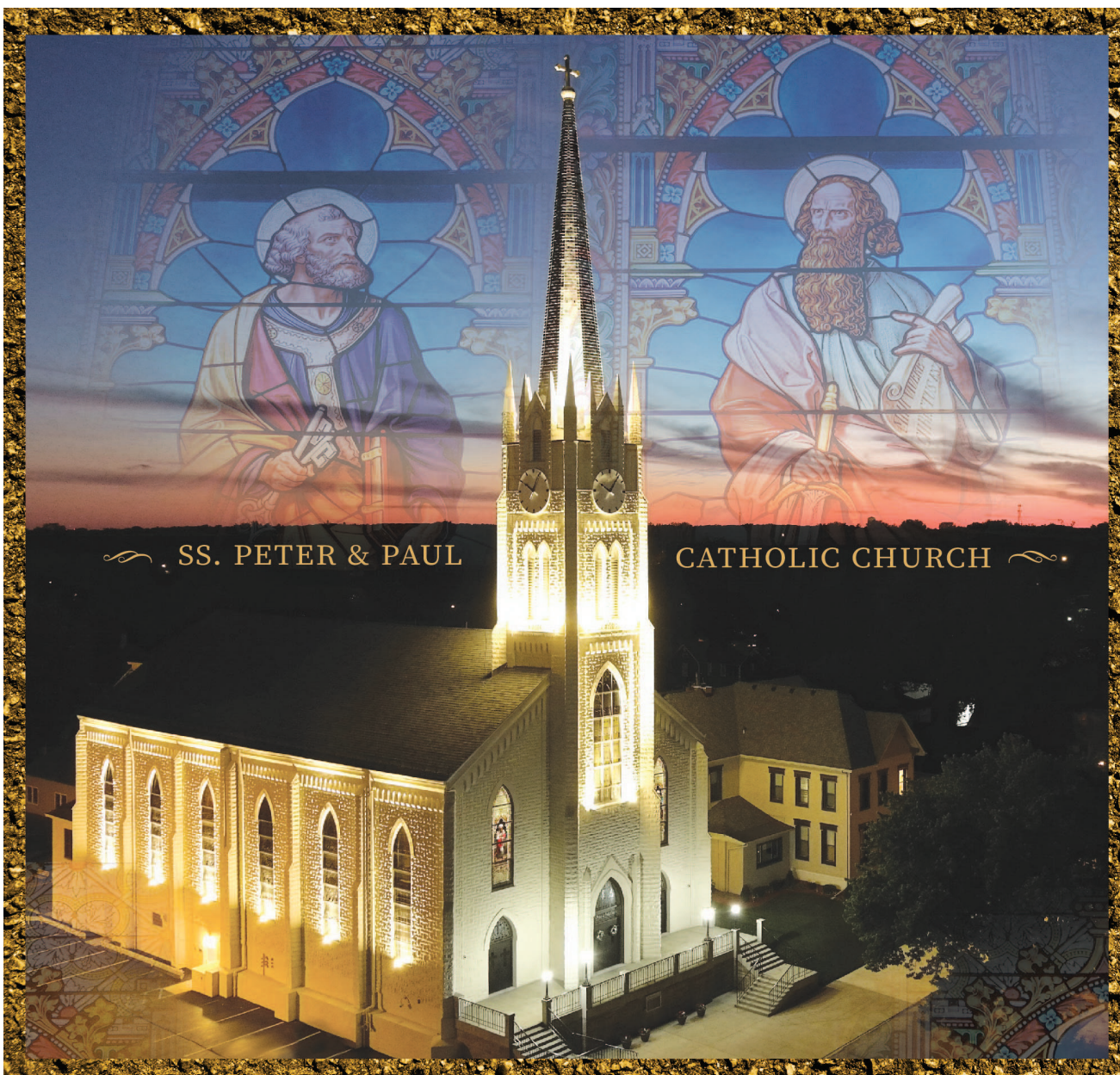
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Will be celebrating the
Mass for the
Sick and Troubled on
Saturday, Aug. 19.

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

St. Felix Catholic Center
1280 Hitzfield Street
Huntington, Indiana
www.prayingwithfrsolanus.org
Greg Diss 260-432-2465



~ Bishop ~
Kevin C. Rhoades

IN HONOR of YOUR
40TH ANNIVERSARY of
HOLY PRIESTHOOD

Through the intercession of
Saint Peter and Saint Paul,
may you continue to receive strength
and inspiration from the
Sacred Heart of Jesus
as you shepherd our Diocese.

~ Congratulations on your ~
40th Anniversary to Holy Priesthood!



Popular Child's Brick Toy Brought into Competition at Queen of Peace in Mishawaka

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

LEGOs have been around for more than 90 years, and the popular child's brick toy has evolved from simple play material for children to the world of competition with LEGO leagues around the world. In May of this year, the Queen of Peace 'For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology' or *FIRST* LEGO League team, The Holy Legos (Batman), participated in the Western Edge *FIRST* LEGO League Robotics Competition in California.

"Western Edge is an international invitational of 80 teams from all over the world that are among the best teams in their countries and states. To be invited, a team had to win or place high enough in a qualifying tournament to advance to state or equivalent international stage and be among the top winners at that level," said Team Coach Steve Lidy. "Holy LEGOs won the GEARS qualifying tournament advancing to *FIRST* Indiana State where we placed 5th in the robot game and were a project finalist."

According to Lidy, *FIRST* LEGO League is a youth robotics program for students in 4th through 8th grade. *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) consists of three parts: robot game, project, and core values.

"The FLL season starts August 1 with the global release of the challenge and rules for the robot game as well as the project criteria where all 30,000+ teams worldwide begin to solve the robot game by building and programming a LEGO robot and attachments/manipulators to solve as many missions and score as many points on the game field as possible in a two and half minute time limit," noted Lidy. "The theme changes every season and the missions on the game field relate to the theme. Parallel to the robot game, students identify a problem within the theme, develop a solution, research, test, and present their solution to a panel of judges."

Lidy said this year's theme was "Super Powered," referring to all things energy, including production, distribution, and consumption. The team researched alternative ways of storing energy other than a battery and were inspired by the concept of pumped hydro where water is pumped to a high elevation and stored there for later on-demand use through a turbine generating power.

"We identified that solar, wind, and other renewable power sources are 'use it or lose it' unless you can store it, and electric storage methods are limited to mainly batteries.



Provided by Jeff Reynolds, Team Photographer

Coach Steve Lidy (kneeling), Colbie Gustafson (sitting), Kristyn Hauenstein (sitting), and Payton Gustafson and Mary Sims, who are holding the flag are part of the Queen of Peace *FIRST* LEGO League team, The Holy Legos (Batman), as they participate in the Western Edge *FIRST* LEGO League Robotics Competition in California in May. The flag was signed by all the participants from around the world competing at the event.

Using any surplus of solar or wind generated power not consumed by day-to-day activities could be used to perform water electrolysis (splitting water into hydrogen to be stored for later) to power generators when the sun is down and wind is not blowing, or power vehicles and oxygen that can be sold to medical and industrial as a revenue stream," stated Lidy.

The team had a memorable time competing against students from around the country.

"Competing in the California Western Edge event was something that I will never forget. In *FIRST* LEGO League, one of the biggest rules is making sure you are practicing gracious professionalism. It didn't matter that we were competing against each other. Everyone was so friendly to one another and made sure to help other teams if they needed an idea, or just needed a few pieces. There were so many amazing teams from all around the world and meeting them and sharing everything we had learned through the season was so fun. The competition itself was amazing. Every team there had different innovative ways of solving missions and it was so cool to see how these teams came up with solutions," recalled team member Payton Gustafson. "During our On-the-Spot challenge, we were paired with a team from Ontario and Kazakhstan. Even though we are all from different parts of the world, we were able to come together, share different ideas, and eventually figure out how to solve the challenge."

Team member Colbie Gustafson had a blast at the competition and enjoyed visiting the Queen Mary, Aquarium of the Pacific, and walking around the piers.

"First off, on Friday (first day of the competition), we set up our pit which was very cool. We

then did our first robot run the next day. We did both our backrooms and our last two robot runs. They both went well," Colbie Gustafson said. "We got our On-the-Spot challenge with Ontario and Kazakhstan and performed it on Sunday. It did okay but it was really fun. For the awards ceremony, our coach won the Best Mentor Award. We didn't win anything for the robot, backrooms, or core values which is okay because we still had a really good time."

The *FIRST* LEGO group started through general interest by new parishioners. Initially, the group consisted of just youth from Queen of Peace. Through the years, the team has grown in interest and now includes students from Mishawaka Catholic, St. Pius X, and other Catholic students attending public school.

"Eight years ago, we joined Queen of Peace Parish and our son Sean was in 5th grade. Sean had some knowledge of FLL and found that Queen of Peace School did not have an FLL team, so we started one. We talked with our principal and encouraged eight students to try youth robotics, calling ourselves The Holy LEGOs and we competed in the 2015/16 Trash Trek FLL season," recalled Lidy. "Since then, the Holy LEGOs have won several qualifying tournaments, advanced to state six times, and competed internationally three times. Many of the students that have been part of FLL and the Holy LEGOs are now attending universities across the nation like the University of Notre Dame studying biochemistry, Yale studying architecture, and this fall Sean (who started it all at Queen of Peace) will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in New York studying Software Engineering and Business."

"I joined the Queen of Peace Lego team mostly just because I thought it could be a fun extra-curricular activity. Never would I have imagined the impact it would really have in my life and how much I would really love it. When I was younger, I always liked putting together and building LEGO sets so, in 4th grade when I heard there was a team I could join where you got to build with LEGOs, I was very excited. Of course, it turned out it was a lot more complicated than that, but I really enjoyed it. The next year I decided that I wanted to continue being on the team, and now six years later, I'm graduating from the same team I started on," said Payton Gustafson.

"The main reason that I joined was because of my sister, Payton. She influenced me by every time I went with my grandpa and grandma to pick her up, I always saw how much fun they were having. Anytime they were having a fundraiser, I helped and had a great time. For example, every year, they used to have a Nelsons Chicken fundraiser. It was so much fun to promote it with our signs on the side of the road or taking people's order. If I'm being honest, I would probably never even think about doing robotics if it wasn't for Payton, but now I realize that it is much more fun and teaching than many people say it is," said Colbie Gustafson.

Team photographer and proud grandfather Jeff Reynolds feels the league has had a very positive effect on his granddaughters.

"Because of the process, they have gained confidence in speaking confidently and articulately, especially to adults and strangers. They have developed problem solving skills and an

ability to think critically and, on the spot, to solve missions and challenges presented by the competition. Teamwork and cooperation are skills that they need to be successful, and I know will serve them well as they grow and mature. I believe this has been a big asset to their futures and they have had so much fun being part of this team," noted Reynolds.

Being part of this program teaches participants to solve problems and see obstacles as opportunities to solve a challenge or problem.

"This program is so much more than LEGO robots and science fair projects," said Lidy. "As a coach/mentor, I guide the team down the path of learning. They do all the hard work identifying their project, building their robot, developing attachments to solve the missions, breaking the game down into runs they can accomplish in two and a half minutes, creating a presentation for the judges to defend their robot strategy, and design and project findings. There is something for every kid on the team. Not all of them build, not all of them program, not all of them spearhead the project, but all of them learn something from the experience."

Each student takes away the skills of problem solving, confidence, public speaking, and teamwork from the program along with having fun.

"The reward for me as a coach, is watching the kids develop these skills and go from what you would expect of a 5th to 8th grader to little professionals that can present their ideas and compete at the robot table while offering a hand up to their competitors in gracious professionalism," said Lidy.

**2023-24
DIRECTORIES
are available**

**Place your orders now.
Visit diocesefwsb.org/directory.**

Make a **BIG IMPACT** with a future gift!

To achieve your estate plan goals, choose the right gift vehicle for you:

- Appreciated Securities
- Beneficiary Designations
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Donor Advised Fund
- Give From Your IRA
- Memorials & Tribute Gifts
- Wills & Living Trusts
- AND MORE!!



YOUR GIFT MATTERS
and will have an impact on the Sisters of Providence for years to come!



For more information, contact Cami Pritchett, Constituent Engagement and Planned Giving Manager, at 812-535-2807.

Sisters of Providence
OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
Breaking boundaries, creating hope.®

Mary Keefer Retires from Educational Leadership for the Second Time

BY DEB WAGNER

Imagine what it would be like to love a profession so much that you couldn't even recall the number of years you worked in that profession. For Mary Keefer, who retired as principal of St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne on Friday, June 30, her career in education has been nothing less than a "labor of love."

Keefer believes that teaching requires a lot of a person, but it is very rewarding. She reflected, "Teachers need to be on for 25 students at 2:00, just as they are at 8:00, yet students and the teacher are tired." Keefer also believes that the best part of teaching is the relationships developed with co-workers and staff.

She added that a career in education would not have been possible for her without the loving support of her husband, Steve.

Keefer's teaching career began at the age of 21. She taught 2nd grade at Hoagland Elementary School before taking a year off when her daughter was born. Upon Keefer's return to teaching, she taught 7th and 8th grade at St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne for 10 years.

Bishop Luers High School as head of the Religion Department and Assistant Principal at Belmont High School were Keefer's next



MARY KEEFER

stops on her career journey. She served in each position for three years.

She returned to Bishop Luers High School as Principal for nearly 20 years before she would retire. Only four years into retirement though, God had other plans for Keefer. Father Andrew Budzinski, former Pastor of St. John the Baptist, asked her to come out of retirement to become the principal of the school. She told him that she would take the job for one year. She stayed for four years.

When asked why she retired, she said, "Technology got the best of me. It was time for someone younger with more energy to take over. Just when you've learned one platform, another one becomes current. Unless you do some-

thing every day, there is not enough time to learn the technology."

Keefer believes that there is a fine line between technology and the teaching of children. St. John the Baptist uses technology for remediation of a skill and standardized testing. Game-playing is left at home.

When asked what brings her the most joy, she said, "The greatest joy is seeing a former student in public. The family and community in Catholic schools means friendships for a lifetime. I have been so fortunate to touch so many lives and their lives mine. So much goes into a career. I have learned far more than I taught because of the people that I have encountered."

Her love of education allows her to naturally pay it forward. Maddie Strack, Laura Miller Sturm, Emily Saul VanFossen, Katie Osterholt Pleus, Pam Smith Lepley, Amy Connett Henry, and Kristyn Shank are former students of Keefer's and they all now teach at St. John the Baptist. Her daughter currently teaches English at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. Her granddaughter is studying Secondary Education and English at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Maggie Javins was appointed Keefer's successor. Javins recently served as a math department head at Bishop Luers High School.



ST. PATRICK ST. HEDWIG PARISH 2023 Annual Football Raffle

1ST PRIZE: 2 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS AND BOOKSTORE PARKING PASS or \$1,500 CASH

2ND PRIZE: 2 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS or \$1,000 CASH

3RD PRIZE: \$500 CASH

TENNESSEE STATE, CENTRAL MICHIGAN, OHIO STATE, USC, PITTSBURGH, AND WAKE FOREST

Drawing: Sunday, August 13, 2023

Donation: \$2 each or 3 for \$5; 7 for \$10; 15 for \$20; 40 for \$50;

BEST DEAL 85 for \$100 WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

Please send check to St. Hedwig
331 S. Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601
or call or text 574-381-0970,
email: stpatricksthedwig@gmail.com
or Facebook: St Patrick St Hedwig Raffle
Indiana Gaming License Number St. Hedwig 002446

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

CEO SEARCH

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana (Foundation) seeks a visionary leader skilled in moving the Foundation forward through organizational development, fundraising, and visibility-raising. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the spiritual, educational, and charitable ministries of the Catholic Community, including the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, by inspiring charitable and planned giving. The Foundation serves and supports many parishes, schools, and Catholic ministries throughout the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will have overall responsibility for a growing and impactful Foundation with \$60 million in assets and four employees. The CEO will work closely with the many stakeholders of the Foundation, including the bishop, priests, staff, donors, parish and school leaders, and others throughout our Catholic community. Accordingly, strong communication, financial, fundraising / planned giving, and leadership skills are the qualities desired in the Foundation CEO. The Foundation offers a competitive salary and bonus potential, full benefits package, and a collaborative atmosphere sharing Catholic values.

Interested applicants should apply online at diocesefwsb.org/careers.

DANCE, from page 7

studies at his elementary alma mater, St. Matthew, South Bend, remaining there until he retired only a few years ago. She spent a dozen years at St. Jude, with time off for the birth of their two children, Sarah and Benjamin, also Marian grads. A year teaching 1st grade at St. Anthony followed. A humorous memory from this time period was receiving a 10-year certificate from Bishop John D'Arcy. Through a clerical error, the award said 20 rather than 10. Bishop D'Arcy smiled at her and said, "You haven't been teaching 20 years!"

While Dance was still at St. Jude, she was invited to enroll in a new diocesan program to earn a Master's in Theology from the University of Dayton by taking weekend classes in Fort Wayne. However, she had just started this program when Father Daryl Rybicki, then principal of Marian, called her at Christianson Furniture, where she had a summer job. She knew Father Rybicki from

St. Matthew's and he was confident her CCD experience and fidelity to Mass attendance would equip her to teach theology at Marian. What Dance thought was an interview for the position turned into a description of her new responsibilities. Beginning in 1990, she was happy to share her faith with freshman, junior, and senior students. In the 1996-97 school year, she won the Light of Learning award. Bishop D'Arcy asked her to address all the honorees about the value of a Catholic education. She spoke clearly about looking for God-given talents in every individual and grace-filled moments in every situation, doing everything "for the glory of God." After that, she was often called upon to write or deliver talks.

In 1998, Dance's son suggested she apply for a newly-vacated position at Marian, Director of Public Relations and Admissions, and then-Principal Joe Brettnacher hired her. While continuing to teach freshmen, she added the role of promoting Marian to parents

and students trying to decide where to attend high school. In that role, she made several helpful changes. Instead of scheduling evening meetings at Marian's partner elementary schools, she invited families to "Meet Marian" events at the high school. She organized Shadowing Days for 8th-graders to get a taste of life at Marian and she enlisted Marian students to share why they had chosen Marian and what it was like for them. It was these students who coined the phrase "Marian family" to describe the welcome and support they experienced from peers and faculty.

Dance's other duties have included conducting personalized building tours, supervising the high school placement test for 8th-graders and organizing orientation for new students.

She also edited a monthly newsletter for parents, "The Marian Alive," helped with commencement activities, and worked with other faculty and administrators to write

Mission and Vision statements, as well as taking part in the School Improvement Plan process every five years. "I lived that vision and mission before, during, and after the statements were written.

I was available all day and every day to fill in wherever needed," Dance recalled. She also enjoyed attending Marian athletic contests. "I was always busy, but I loved every minute."

Frequently asked what is distinctive about a Marian education, Dance points to the family atmosphere and the holistic approach to education – academic, spiritual, physical,

social, emotional. She thinks 700 students is just the right size, small enough so students are individually known by name, yet large enough that a variety of electives can be offered.

Dance said the hardest part of her job has been honestly talking with parents whose children look like they will struggle rather than succeed at Marian. She said it's also hard to bid farewell to colleagues who retire or move on to other positions. The best part, she said, "Working with Marian students!"

And now it's time for the Dances to be able to spend more time with their children as well as their daughter's two sons and their son's two daughters in western Ohio. Another bonus, "sleeping in from time to time!" But Dance intends to be "on call" as needed at Marian. She expresses gratitude for all the support she has received from the diocese where she has so happily served the educational mission for 46 years.

*"I was always busy,
but I loved every minute."*

MARY KAY DANCE



ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS
FOUNDED IN 1860 - COLUMBIA CITY, IN



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.

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.

Interested Candidates may apply at diocesefwsb.org/careers:

Visit saintpaulcc.org for more information about the parish.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
HUMAN RESOURCES

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator/ Human Resource Assistant

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Fort Wayne is seeking a part-time (29 hour per week) Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator/Human Resources Assistant. The primary function of this position is to coordinate, implement, and support all diocesan entities in their compliance with the diocesan Safe Environment Program (SEP) and to assist the diocese in its full response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. In addition, this position supports the general human resource function to include processing new employee paperwork and leave of absence requests.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills and have a positive, solution-oriented approach to helping the schools and parishes that we serve. Previous experience working in a position that is highly data driven and utilizes human resource information systems and/or Microsoft Office 365 products is preferred. A high level of confidentiality is required for this role. This employee serves as member of the Human Resource team and reports to the Director of Human Resources.

Come join our team!

Interested applicants should apply online at
diocesefwsb.org/careers.

Are These the End Times? What the Catechism Says

The Catholic approach to the end times is different from that in certain (but not all) Protestant circles, especially the Evangelicals, who have a strong and often vivid preoccupation with signs of the Second Coming of Christ. Many of the notions that are expressed there are either erroneous or extreme. Some of these notions are rooted in a misunderstanding of the various genres of Scripture; others are caused by reading certain Scriptures in isolation from the wider context of the whole of Scripture; and some are rooted in reading one text while disregarding others that balance it.

The Catholic approach to eschatology is perhaps less thrilling and provocative. It does not generate movie series like "Left Behind" or cause people to sell their houses and gather on hillsides waiting for the announced end. It is more methodical and seeks to balance a lot of notions that often hold certain truths in tension with one another.

What I offer here I do not propose to call a complete eschatology, only a sketch of basic principles rooted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

While we cannot know the exact time of His coming, there are things that both remind us of and signal His approach – if we have eyes to see them. These signs give indications only. The presence of such texts cannot be seen to overrule that He will come "on a sudden" and that many will be

caught unawares.

Here are some notes from the Catechism.

1. Soon and Sudden – *Since the Ascension, Christ's coming in glory has been imminent (Rev 22:20), even though "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority" (Acts 1:7). This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are "delayed" (Mat 24:44; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:3-12) (CCC # 673).*

Of all the points the Catechism makes, this one sets the tone of balance that must be maintained. On the one hand, Christ says that He is coming soon and that His coming could be both sudden and without warning, but this truth must be held in tension with other truths that set forth certain things that must be accomplished and certain signs that must appear before then. And these things are not easily or quickly accomplished.

2. Suspended – *The glorious Messiah's coming is suspended at every moment of history until His recognition by "all Israel" (Romans 11:20-26; Mat 23:39), for "a hardening has come upon part of Israel" in their "unbelief" (Romans 11:20-26) toward Jesus. St. Peter says to the Jews of Jerusalem after Pentecost: "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and*



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old." (Acts 3:19-21) St. Paul echoes him: "For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?" (Rom 11:15) The "full inclusion" of the Jews in the Messiah's salvation, in the wake of "the full number of the Gentiles" (Rom 11:12), will enable the People of God to achieve "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ", in which "God may be all in all" (Eph 4:13; 1 Cor 15:27-28) (CCC # 674).

This going forth of the Gospel to all the nations and the acceptance of Christ by the Jews would seem to be matters that would take some time.

Has the Gospel really reached all the nations? Have the full number of Gentiles come in and are they serving God and repenting in sufficient numbers? Perhaps so, one might argue. There are very few places in the world where there is no Christian presence, and yet on a planet of seven

billion people, less than a third are Christian. And what is meant by the "full number" of Gentiles? That number is hidden from us and can surely be debated.

Has the "hardening" that has come upon Israel been lifted? This, too, is debatable. Despite certain movements of "Messianic Jews," it does not seem that the hardening that has come on Israel has been lifted in any wide sort of way or that Jesus has been recognized by "all Israel."

3. Suffering and Sedition – *Before Christ's second coming, the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers (Luke 18:8; Mt 24:12). The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of His Messiah come in the flesh (2 Thess 2:4-12; 1 Thess 5:2-3; 1 Jn 2:18-22) (CCC # 675).*

Clearly, many of these troubles have afflicted the Church in every age. There has always been persecution. Many have fallen away – most into schism, some into unbelief. There have also been times when the love of many has grown cold.

Clearly these are severe problems and they have grown to envelop most of the world

today. Only God knows when these signs will be present in a definitive rather than merely prefigurative way.

4. Secular Utopianism Rejected – *The Antichrist's deception already begins to take shape in the world every time the claim is made to realize within history that messianic hope which can only be realized beyond history through the eschatological judgment. The Church has rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism, especially the "intrinsically perverse" political form of a secular messianism (CCC # 676).*

Many in human history, and especially in modern times, have advanced the notion that a secular utopia can be ushered in by human effort and by submitting to a government or worldly power or a charismatic figure.

Many repressive regimes and movements (often led by powerful or charismatic leaders) of the last century claimed the power to usher in such a utopia. The sad legacy of the 20th century shows how tragic and bloody such attempts have been.

The Church also rejects religious forms of this idea, which hold that prior to the Second Coming of Christ a period of a thousand years is set aside during which Christ will reign on earth or during which the

POPE, page 17

We Can Become Models of the Lord's Glory in Our Lives



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Transfiguration of the Lord Matthew 17:1-9

This weekend, the Church invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

The first reading is from the Book of Daniel. When this book was written, composed by an author whose identity has been lost, times were terrible for the Jews.

Alexander the Great died in 323 BC. His vast empire was disintegrated, and powerful generals seized parts for themselves. The part taken by Seleucus centered in Antioch, in modern Turkey, and included the Holy Land. Decades passed. Seleucus

died, to be succeeded by his descendants, one of whom, Antiochus IV, saw himself as divine.

Imagining that he was a god, Antiochus IV brutally forced his subjects to worship him. Pious Jews stubbornly refused. The Book of Daniel is about Hebrew heroes who withstood this idolatry. The purpose of the book is clear. It was to rally Jews living under Antiochus IV to resist yielding to the royal demands that they salute Antiochus as a god.

In this reading, Daniel, dreams of the world in which Almighty God is supreme, and all proclaim the greatness of God.

If Daniel was written in code, so was the Second Epistle of Peter, which provides the second reading. This epistle appeared when times were bad, indeed fearful, for Christians. The Roman Emperor Nero was never timid when it came to oppressing Christians.

So, in calling believers to be steadfast in following Christ, the Epistle filled a genuine need, but for many early Christians, following Christ could be confusing.

Stories and legends, some probably developed in good intentions, others in less noble intentions, blurred the message of, and about, Jesus. This epistle insisted that Christians listen to the true story of Christ as given them by the Apostles. The true story is the guide to salvation. The Lord made this story available to all by teaching and commissioning the Apostles.

Matthew's revelation of the Transfiguration supplies the third reading. Often Jesus faced demands for a sign from God that the Lord was the Messiah. Skeptics, maybe honestly curious, raised these demands.

Jesus was not silent. This section of Matthew is filled with responses to these demands. Jesus fed the multitudes with five loaves and two fish. He walked on water. He healed the sick. He foretold the future. He forgave sinners, an action only possible for God since all sin offended God in the last analysis.

Dramatically, Jesus stood before Peter, James, and John in the full radiance of divinity. He was God, the promised Messiah. The Transfiguration pro-

foundly placed before human vision Jesus, God as well as human.

Reflection

For Peter, James, and John, the Transfiguration was a breath-taking moment in their lives. They saw Jesus in the full revelation of the Lord's divinity and majesty. As several years passed, they too were transfigured. Called by Jesus, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, no longer confused, or hesitant, at times sinful humans, they became the models of the Lord's glory in their lives, ordinary humans though they remained.

Recently, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, of Munich, Germany, publicly acknowledged, and asked forgiveness for, the conduct during the Second World War of a now deceased German bishop, Matthias Defreger, who was an officer in the German army when it invaded Italy.

Captain Defreger led an especially atrocious attack on a small Italian village, virtually destroying the town, and slaughtering men, women, and children,

indiscriminately, all innocent civilians, "to set an example" for anyone who considered resisting the invaders. This raid illustrated how terrible human behavior can be when it ignores God.

By seeing, and responding to, Christ's perfection, with its mercy, unqualified outreach, energy, and love, we can "transfigure" ourselves. Then, how magnificent we would be, how beautiful life would be!

READINGS

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15 Ps 81:12-17 Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13 Ps 51:3-7, 12-13 Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 Ps 106:6-7, 13-14, 21-23 Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: 2 Cor 9:6-10 Ps 112:1-2, 5-9 Jn 12:24-26

Friday: Dt 4:32-40 Ps 77:12-16, 21 Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13 Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51 Mt 17:14-20

When Our Heroes Let Us Down

My wife took Christ off our living room wall the other day. It was a postcard image of a mosaic created by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik. She couldn't bear to have it up.

Rupnik is a remarkably gifted artist. His mosaics adorn chapels and buildings from the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington D.C. to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Lourdes, France. And until now, our living room wall.

Father Rupnik stands "accused of spiritual, psychological, or sexual abuse by multiple adult women over the course of almost 40 years," according to a report by Paulina Guzik at OSV News. Many of the cases involved women under his spiritual direction. Three years ago, he was even briefly excommunicated for granting absolution to a consecrated woman with whom he had sex, though the excommunication was lifted when he confessed and repented.

The recent allegations are so serious that the bishop responsible for the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, which includes the basilica, has appointed a reflection group to consider whether the towering mosaics installed on the facade of the lower basilica in 2008 should be removed.

A few months ago, I visited Lourdes for the first time, and when I saw the mosaics, I groaned out loud. Rupnik's style is immediately recognizable, and my first thought was that the art would forever be tainted by his crimes. Certainly, for anyone who was abused

by Rupnik, but also by people who had been abused by other priests or religious leaders, the art would never be just art.

What is the proper response when our heroes, our leaders, our artists, let us down?

Picasso was a misogynistic creep who drove lovers to suicide. How do we look at his painting "Guernica" now? Woody Allen abandoned Mia Farrow for her 21-year-old daughter. How do we look at his film "Manhattan"?

What about Roman Polanski? Jean Vanier? Bill Cosby? Theodore McCarrick? Marcial Maciel? Michael Jackson?

In the age of #Metoo and tell-all bios, we have grown adept at maneuvering around the moral disasters of famous lives, but it is far less easy when the scandals involve someone we admired, perhaps even revered.

We can ignore Bill Cosby's comedy routines or skip Woody's latest flick. We can take the picture down from the living room wall. But do we strip the mosaics from a church?

One response may be simply to recognize that once completed, the art stands on its own, regardless of its creator's bad behavior.

Newspaper correspondent William Shirer recounted in his memoirs the time he met a very drunk F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had been a hero of his. He called it "a rather disillusioning evening." Yet time gave him a different perspective.

"I was not yet grown up enough to realize, I guess, that it mattered not a damn how

AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

much of a nuisance a writer could make of himself, especially when drunk. The only thing that counted was how well he wrote," Shirer concluded.

Yet when talking about sexual abuse, not drunkenness, it is not so easy to divorce artist from art.

The other perspective is to allow time to make a more lasting judgment. One of my wife's favorite artists is Caravaggio. His art is also on our walls. When alive, he was both rogue and genius. He ended up killing a man in a bar brawl. He frequented prostitutes, sometimes using them as models. Yet time has given us some distance, and his art is treasured now, even by popes.

The only caution to add is that the last resort would be to destroy the art. We are lucky that Caravaggio's "The Calling of Matthew" was not destroyed for the artist's sins. If Rupnik is guilty of abuse, he should be punished, but perhaps we need more time before we condemn his mosaics as well.

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

the final age in which we live is steeped in mysteries and meanings known fully only by God. Time itself is mysterious as are the deeper meanings of events and human history. The Lord, while giving us a framework that reminds us of His coming and signals us in a merciful way to remember, has insisted that it is not for us to know the time or season fixed by the Father, let alone the day and hour.

Humility, prayerful vigilance, readiness through obedience, and the gift of holiness, along with an eager, longing heart for the Kingdom in all its glory, represent our best posture.

The Catholic approach may not be the stuff of movies or bestsellers, but it is the balanced and trusting faith to which we are summoned.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen (Rev 22:20-21).

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

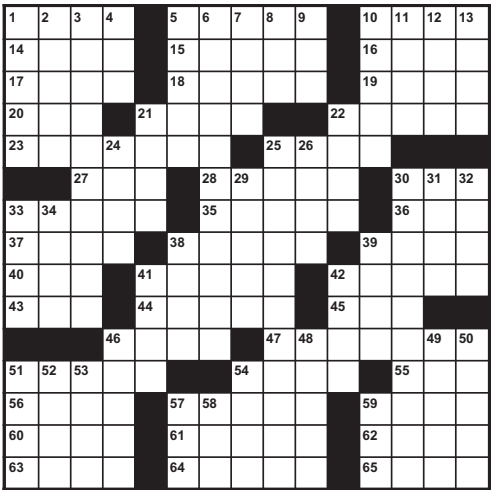
Gospel for August 6, 2023
2 Peter 1:16-19 / Matthew 17:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Second and Gospel readings for the feast of the Transfiguration: The glory of the Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|---------|
| EYEWITNESSES | MAJESTY | HONOR |
| GLORY | POSSESS | MESSAGE |
| ATTENTIVE | SHINING | DAWNS |
| MORNING STAR | LED THEM | BEFORE |
| SHONE | THE SUN | CLOTHES |
| MOSES | ELIJAH | BELOVED |
| LISTEN | ALONE | VISION |

SHINING GLORY

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



- DOWN**
- Satan wanted to sift the apostles like this
 - Isaiah spoke of a new one
 - Vocation
 - Carol contraction
 - Bobbin
 - Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
 - Admirable
 - Vane reading
 - Marry
 - A boom, perhaps
 - "____ now"
 - Slam, perhaps
 - Slung fare
 - Identical
 - Bloodsucking insect
 - Needless bustle
 - First Christian Roman Emperor
 - "____ time"
 - Stone worker
 - California city named for a Cistercian saint of Siena (with "San")
 - Entr'
 - Laugh loudly
 - Sunday in Lent
 - On the ocean
 - Ill-
 - Unspecified in number
 - Mimics
 - Sled
 - "... she gave ____ to her firstborn..." (Lk 2:7)
 - Louvre Pyramid architect
 - An ex of Donald
 - Allow to enter
 - Chinese detective in literature
 - Flexible tube
 - Corrosion
 - God of war
 - Numeric ID
 - 201, to Cato
 - Thespians' labor org.

- ACROSS**
- What Peter did when he heard the cock crow for the third time
 - The ____ tape Letters
 - Scarf
 - Spydom name
 - Waxing Crescent, for example
 - US labor agency
 - Greek god of love
 - Paddled
 - Intellect
 - US Justice Dept. agency
 - Some losers
 - Commandment that forbids killing
 - Genesis event
 - Coll. course
 - Total
 - Chew the scenery
 - Book after Lam
 - Out of style
 - Exodus sustenance
 - Name of the Rose author
 - Sale words
 - Catholic singer Ezio Pinza, for one
 - Span. lass
 - Pope who wrote *Rerum Novarum*, ____ XIII
 - Slang
 - Solitary soul
 - Isle in the Archdiocese of Liverpool
 - Contour feather
 - Actress Thurman
 - Venerable Doctor of the Church
 - The Archdiocese of Abuja is here
 - Catholic newsman Matthews
 - "Hey, don't look ____!"
 - Improvement on the VCR
 - "So, you could not keep watch with me for one ____?" (Mt 26:40)
 - Temporary paper currency
 - Former name of Thailand
 - Aide (abbr.)
 - View
 - Years in old Rome
 - Home of The Hague (abbr.)
 - Japanese-American
 - Capricorn

Answer key can be found on page 19

Advertise in Today's Catholic

With a variety of options for web and print advertising,
let us help you reach YOUR demographic.

Call 260-399-1449

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Member FDIC

USB UNION SAVINGS BANK

David Egts

Low Closing Costs & Great Rates

"MORTGAGE CLOSING COST CRUSHER"

260-418-6191

CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PROFESSIONAL
NMLS 229839

RE/MAX RESULTS

Andrea "Andy" Hall
260-417-5093
AHallResults@gmail.com

Caitlin Berghoff
260-403-9898
CaitlinBerghoff@remax.net

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

PNC Bank Building

LEONARD J. Andorfer & Co., LLP

110 W. Berry Street, STE 2202
Fort Wayne 46802
(260) 423-9405
Fax: (260) 422-9206

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Corporations, Individuals and Partnerships
- Estates and Trusts • Auditing Services

Visit us at www.ljandorfer.com

HOOSIER PHYSICAL THERAPY

MICHAEL F. BARILE
DC, PT

3030 LAKE AVE SUITE 26
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805

PHONE: 260.420.4400
FAX: 260.420.4448

www.hoosierpt.com

LINDA RILEY
Senior Loan Officer
NMLS: 234665

C: 574.551.9330
O: 574.268.9033
F: 574.268.2955

310 Enterprise Drive
Warsaw, IN 46580

lriley@ruoff.com
ruoff.com/lindariley

Peerless CLEANERS

Ft. Wayne, Auburn, Angola & Warsaw

4121 Hillegas Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46808
260.422.9374

JUST FILL THE BAG, WE'LL DO THE REST!

***FREE Pick-Up & Delivery**

***Select areas of Ft. Wayne Only**

www.peerless-cleaners.com

Closet Concepts
YOUR STORAGE SPACE SPECIALISTS

Catholic Family Owned since 1988 • Jon & Shelley Ross – St. Joseph Roanoke Parishioners

Fort Wayne 260-483-6763 Indianapolis 317-849-8444

www.closetconceptsinc.com

CENTURY 21
Bradley Realty, Inc.

KATIE BROWN
REALTOR®

Serving Our Community Since 2008!

260.437.5025

Expertise You Can Rely On

BAIRD

Mike Kendzicky, CLU
Michael Kendzicky, CPWA®
Samantha Hengen, CFP®

Private Wealth Management
4220 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-247-6830 • 800-866-9022
rwbaird.com

©2022 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated.
Member SIPC. MC-876200.

Fech Insurance Solutions
260-435-0860

Helping You Understand the Medicare Maze

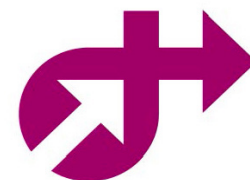
fechinsurance@gmail.com

Dennis Fech

Serving Your Insurance Needs:
Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplements,
Prescription Drug Plans, Final Expense,
Life Insurance, Fixed and Indexed Annuities,
Hospital Indemnity, and more.

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
or by calling 317-236-1458.
Thank you for your consideration.

U.S. Set to Have Fifth Largest Delegation at World Youth Day

WASHINGTON D.C. (OSV News) — When Pope Francis arrives in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023, there will be plenty of pilgrims from the U.S. ready to greet him — close to 29,000.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced on Monday, July 24, that more than 28,600 individuals, most between the ages of 18 and 25, and more than 60 U.S. bishops will be on hand for the Aug. 1-6 gathering. While registration numbers have not yet been finalized (and in fact are rising, said the bishops' conference), the U.S. is set to have one of the five largest delegations at WYD.

"Our country is very much looking forward to this pilgrimage," said Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, which oversees the U.S. involvement in WYD. Bishop Barron, along with 60 other U.S. bishops, will be accompanying young people to Lisbon.

In a statement, Bishop Barron described WYD as "a wonderful occasion for young adults to have a significant encounter with Jesus Christ in the company of the universal Church."

The event is "also a moment when the Holy Father and the Church's leadership get an opportunity to listen to the young people present, teach, and form them in the Gospel, and ultimately send them towards their vocation and mission in the world," he said.

U.S. pilgrims will stay in parishes, campuses, homes, and hotels around Lisbon during the WYD week, taking part in prayer, liturgies, daily catechesis, concerts, presentations, dialogue, service, and networking with young adults from around the world.

More than 35 U.S. bishops will lead daily catechetical "Rise Up!" sessions.

U.S. pilgrims will gather on Wednesday, Aug. 2, for an outdoor evening gathering organized by the USCCB in Lisbon's Parque da Quinta das Conchas. Music and testimony by young adults will be followed by a keynote address from Bishop Barron, who will then lead a Holy Hour with Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas as part of the USCCB's National Eucharistic Revival initiative.

Pope Francis will join the WYD pilgrims throughout the week, and then celebrate the WYD closing Mass on Sunday, Aug. 6, with an anticipated crowd of 1 million or more.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Christ Child Society of South Bend Opening Day
MISHAWAKA — The Christ Child Clothing Center, 2366 Miracle Lane, will offer free clothing to families at or below 130 percent of the poverty level beginning Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 8:30-11 a.m. A referral form is required. Forms can be obtained from agencies such as St. Vincent de Paul and Women's Care Center or St. Joseph County public and Catholic schools. Details and a complete list of referral agencies can be found at www.christchildsb.org. Contact Beth Barrett at 574-288-6028 or info@christchildsb.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 for information.

St. Peter to host Parish Festival
FORT WAYNE — St. Peter Parish, 518 E Dewald St., will gather for a potluck dinner after the Saturday, Aug. 12, 4 p.m. Mass for food, music, games for kids, and fun for all ages. Contact Jenn MacDonald at 260-445-3838 or jenn@highlanddove.org for information.

Holy Smoke Ministries 'Smoke Showdown'
FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will host a BBQ showdown in the courtyard with proceeds supporting their Holy Smokes ministry. Attendees will vote for their favorite BBQ, sides will be provided by last name (A-K side dish, L-Z dessert). There will be live music, raffles, a cornhole tournament, and family games. There is no cost but donations are encouraged. Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or kchurch@stjudefw.org for information.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

WE	PT		SC	REW		S	A	S	H
H	A	R	I	P	H	A	S	E	O
E	R	O	S	O	A	R	E	D	O
A	T	F		S	O	R	E		F
T	H	E	F	A	L	L		C	A
	S		S		E		M	O	T
P	A	S	S	E		M	A	N	N
A	S	I	S		B	A	S	S	O
L	E	O		A	R	G	O	T	
M	A	N		P	E	N	N	A	
			B	E	D	E		N	I
C	H	R	I	S		A	T	M	E
H	O	U	R		S	C	R	I	P
A	S	S		S	C	E	N	E	
N	E	T		N	I	S	E	I	

REST IN PEACE

Angola Frederick H. Cumings, 88, St. Anthony of Padua	Ralph Christman, 91, St. Charles Borromeo	Mishawaka Robert Choquette, 82, St. Monica
Elaine Homan, 80, St. Anthony of Padua	Thomas Logan, 29, St. Charles Borromeo	New Haven Carol Ann Jennings, 82, St. John the Baptist
Robert Kachur, 72, St. Anthony of Padua	Gertrude Rogawski, 96, St. Charles Borromeo	Notre Dame Sister Dolores Jean Bray, CSC, 88, Church of Our Lady of Loretto
James M Lodder, 66, St. Anthony of Padua	Edward G. Fox, 57 St. John the Baptist	South Bend Camilla Braunsdorf, 89, Holy Cross
Marie Cristina Vilchis, 53, St. Anthony of Padua	Jeannette H. Hemrick, 85, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel	Warren Braunsdorf, 88, Holy Cross
Arcola Patricia Grandstaff, 55, St. Patrick	Frederick P. Merz, 84, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel	John O'Hara, 100, Holy Cross
Bristol Rosalie Gross, 78, St. Mary of the Annunciation	Nan Delaney, 80, St. Jude	Octavio Martinez Aguilar, 64, St. Adalbert
Madonna Jones, 80, St. Mary of the Annunciation	John Phillip Burt, 87, St. Therese	Richard Dombrowski, 88, St. Adalbert
Elkhart Albena Valhala, 93, St. Thomas the Apostle	Richard Cater, 67, St. Vincent de Paul	Elena Raya Dominguez, 73, St. Adalbert
Fort Wayne Kay G. Sovine, 59, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception	Fredrick Dumit, 79, St. Vincent de Paul	Melchor Cervantes, 55, St. Adalbert
Mary Thorsen, 92, Queen of Peace	Huntington Rita J. Bickel, 96, SS. Peter & Paul	Dorothy Demeter, 97, St. Adalbert
	Kendallville Paul L. Johnston, 72, Immaculate Conception	Bobby McCain, 62, St. Augustine

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.



Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons | & more!

Mary Green
Owner

574.232.3354
800.994.2687
www.wygants.com

First Saturday Devotion

Our Lady, Patroness of America Center



Mass the First Saturday of each month at 11 a.m.

PatronessOfAmerica.org

2730 E. Northport Rd., Rome City, IN 46784 260-404-4990

McElhaney-Hart FUNERAL HOME



715 North Jefferson
Huntington

(260) 356-3320

www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com

A trusted local team that treats you like an individual

At D.O. McComb & Sons, we offer personalized funeral and memorial services arranged by our compassionate staff. We believe every final tribute should be as unique as the life it represents.

Serving Fort Wayne families since 1925.



McCOMB & SONS
FUNERAL HOMES

260-426-9494 McCombCares.com

Theology on Tap in South Bend Offers Reasons to Believe

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

“Your soul is stinky.” Four words that Father Andrew Budzinski heard in response to a female friend who inquired about the last time Father Budzinski went to confession to which he lied and said one year. “And that got me back to confession.”

“I went in and I said, ‘Father forgive me. It’s been over ten years,’” said Father Budzinski to the priest about the last time since he had been to confession. “And he said, ‘I’ve got nowhere else to be.’ I’ve never forgotten those words. And sure enough, as soon as I went to confession, all of a sudden, I wanted to pray just a little bit more, I wanted to learn about the faith a little bit more. I wanted to go to daily Mass a little bit more, and what the heck, why in the world am I thinking about being a priest? So, it works. It was like a drain had been unplugged and grace could finally flow again.”

This was the opener to “Rescued,” the first talk of the Theology on Tap South Bend lectures. The series theme this summer is “Off Pulpit: Where Spiritual Meets Secular.”

“This was chosen by your young adult planning team,” said Ally Brown, a planning team member, to the visitors assembled. “We worked together over the past few months to plan this series and hope that you enjoy it. Our speakers will unpack the ways that we can understand finances, friendships, and psychology in the light of our Christian faith. So, some kinds of different conversations you might not hear from the pulpit directly. We wanted to bring that to you and see a better way that Christ can fit in these conversations and how those fit into your daily life.”

Father Budzinski based his talk on the recording “We Have Reason to Believe—An Apologetic for the Resurrection” by Father John Riccardo. He finds Father Riccardo’s work inspirational, and he felt this particular podcast fit in perfectly with this lecture topic.

“He points out that people don’t use critical thinking anymore,” said Father Budzinski about the podcast. “We like things based on feeling, emotion, and impulse. We believe things just because of the way they make us feel and that it suits our preferences. Father John Riccardo is saying we should be looking at what has been revealed to us by God and is there sound reason for believing what is proposed to us and having been revealed by God as something true and real.” Father Budzinski shared



Joshua Schipper

Father Andrew Budzinski, Pastor of Cathedral Parish of St. Matthew in South Bend, speaks at the Tuesday, July 18, Theology on Tap South Bend Summer Series.

he was a “cradle Catholic” and took all his knowledge about his faith from his parents, teachers, and priests along his faith journey. In the podcast, Father Riccardo suggests that we shouldn’t just believe what is told to us which blows Father Budzinski’s mind being a priest and realizing that’s why he believes what he believes – based on teachings from others.

“It’s not saying that those things are not credible or unbelievable, but rather he’s saying you should believe what you believe because there’s reason,” clarified Father Budzinski.

“So, faith, according to ‘The Catechism of the Catholic Church’ in the glossary section is both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed,” noted Father Budzinski. “In other words, it’s not like oh this sounds like a good idea, or this makes sense. No. It’s God has actually revealed things to us, and we can have faith based on really that evidence if you will, those proofs, those facts that God has revealed things to us and that is the reason for our faith.”

Father Budzinski talks about how the podcast goes into an apologetic on the resurrection of Jesus because our entire faith is based on the momentous moment.

“If He really did rise from the dead, then He is who He says He is. And He says He’s the Son of God, and therefore, if He really did rise from the dead, we can believe everything He said and follow everything He’s established. So, did He rise from the dead or not?” noted the podcast according to Father Budzinski. “And I’m sitting there, listening to this, hanging on his every word. I’m like, I believe Jesus rose from

Christ rose from the dead. So, there are only two options. He either rose from the dead or He didn’t. Well, how do we determine that? The tomb.”

Father Budzinski discusses with the group how historians have found proof that Jesus Christ did exist, how disciples and enemies wrote about Jesus Christ and His many teachings followed by His crucifixion by Pontius Pilot, death, and burial. All these groups agreed that Jesus Christ died and was buried.

“So, there are only two possibilities – His tomb is either empty or it’s not empty. Well, it has to be empty. Why? Because the enemies of Jesus Christ were trying to stop this talk that He had risen from the dead. And if He in fact still remained buried, all they would have had to do is say, ‘Hey, let’s go over here to the tomb, take a look, and roll back the stone. See the body? Yeah, that’s Him. You can stop this nonsense. He has not risen from the dead.’ But they never did that. Why didn’t they do that? Because the tomb was empty. So, the tomb’s empty. We know that has to be a fact,” noted Father Budzinski.

That now left three possible answers. Either the enemies of Jesus stole the body, His friends stole the body, or He rose from the dead.

“Did His enemies steal the body? No. Why? Going back to the same thing we just talked about. They were trying to put an end to the talk that He had risen from the dead. So, if they had taken the body, they would have just thrown His body out there and going, ‘Hey, look, there’s His body. You can all go home now.’ But they never did that,” shared Father Budzinski. “Okay, so that leaves us with either His friends stole the body or an impossible thing, He rose from the dead. So, let’s just focus on His friends who stole the body. Did His friends steal the body? No. Why? Because they insisted to the end of torture in their very lives that He had risen from the dead and people don’t lose their lives for something they know to be a lie.”

Father Budzinski elaborates on Father Riccardo’s thoughts on why we should believe the disciples by posing the question to one of the audience members about the date of their birthday. The gentleman responded January 21 to which Father Budzinski asked him how he knew. The young man said it was because his parents told him that and he has a birth certificate verifying that date. Through the dialogue, it is decided that parents are trustworthy, credible witnesses and the ultimate reason for believing the information shared.

“So, who are the credible witnesses to Jesus’s resurrection? His disciples. What makes them credible? They are trustworthy. What makes them trustworthy? They’ve demonstrated by their lives that they can be believed. What makes us say the disciples have demonstrated by their lives that they can be believed that Jesus Christ rose from the dead? How they lived their life, and how they gave their life. Peter was crucified upside down. Why? Because he said Jesus rose from the dead. Paul was beheaded. Why? Because he said Jesus was risen from the dead,” said Father Budzinski. “Bartholomew, did any of you know how Bartholomew was martyred? He was skinned alive. Why? Because he was saying Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Now tell me if you were being skinned alive and your tormentor said all you have to do is stop saying Jesus has risen from the dead and let’s say you stole the body, and he knew it was a lie. Tell me you wouldn’t talk. Of course, we’d talk. You know, my parents told me my birthday is May 11. If someone was skinning them alive, they’d say he was born on February 20.”

Father Budzinski continued, “You can walk out of this room tonight with more confidence that Jesus Christ rose from the dead than the date of your own birth. I tell this and people say at that point wait a minute, say that again, because they’re mesmerized. They know it to be true. They’re believers, right? But they’ve never had it explained in quite such terms. And I remember when I heard Father Riccardo give this apologetic. I remember at the end of it going thank you. I’ve kind of had, in large part, blind faith. I have staked my life on blind faith, and there was nothing out there really to strongly challenge Jesus’ rising from the dead for me. But when I heard this testimony of his, I went that makes perfect sense. And that’s absolutely true.”

Father Budzinski told the assembled crowd that faith is believing because there’s reason to believe. He invited them to read Father Riccardo’s next book “Rescued” that shares how to spread the good news.

After the talk, visitors were invited to discuss prepared questions in small groups and continue conversations about faith.

Theology on Tap

Remaining Sessions:

“Off Pulpit: Where Spiritual Meets Secular”

**Tuesdays,
Aug. 8, and 15**

**Chicory Cafe
114 W 1st St., Mishawaka**

**6:30 p.m. – Gather/Food
7 p.m. – Talk, Discussion, Q&A
8:30 p.m. – Closing
Announcements**

**Closing Celebration:
August 15th, 5:30 p.m. Mass at
St. Matthew Cathedral,
1701 Miami St., South Bend
Closing Party in Cathedral
Courtyard following Mass**

**Visit diocesefwsb.org/tot-sb for
more information.**

the dead, what are you going to tell me that’s new, right? But he does this wonderful thing of appealing to especially the younger minds who don’t really think critically. It’s either, ‘Oh yeah, they said this, and I like it, so I will believe it, or They said this, I don’t like it, so it can’t possibly be true.’ What he’s (Father Riccardo) doing is appealing to reason and critical thinking. He said, okay, the Christian claim is that Jesus