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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 28

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

At Sharing Meadows, Villagers Find a 'Yes' in a World Full of 'No'

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Can I ride the tractor? Can I bake a loaf of banana nut bread? Can I take a college math class? Can I make soap and sugar scrubs?

Often, other-abled or intellectually disabled people hear "no" to these questions (and so many others). At Sharing Meadows, they hear "yes," followed by encouragement and celebration for their desire to try something new.

Sharing Meadows, a residential community in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, sits on 200 acres of a picturesque rural landscape. Visitors will find a lake, a Stations of the Cross area, woods with fruit and nut trees, an area to foster a deeper devotion to the Blessed Mother with a statue of Mary, plants, and small gardens. It has five communities (or villages) – St. John, St. Vincent, St. Theresa, St. Jane and St. Joan, and St. Mary and St. Joseph. Each village has three homes, with each home being shared by two other-abled adults and a full-time steward. Villagers follow a daily work schedule accompanied by vocational training, academic classes, free time with friends, regular outings, and Mass on Sundays.

"We are participating in grow-



Lisa Kochanowski

Villagers Laura, Becky, Tina, and Tonya pose on Tuesday, August 15, with Bill Harmon, Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation at Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and show off the rosaries they made, which can be purchased at sharefoundation.org.

ing a family at SHARE," said Bill Harmon, Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation. "We follow Father [Dennis] Blaney's belief that as long as we keep God at the forefront of our decisions, we will never fail. He will bless us because we are doing His work."

Sharing Meadows is part of the SHARE Foundation, a not-for-profit, privately funded Christian organization with a mission to provide residential living, services, and support programs for other-abled adults, following the dream of founder Father Dennis Blaney.

After outreach from parents of developmentally disabled children brought to light the lack of opportunities for other-abled persons, Father Blaney made it his mission to find solutions

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Ten Holy Cross Seminarians Profess Final Vows; Eight then Ordained to Diaconate



Photos provided by the Congregation of the Holy Cross

Father William Lies, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, poses with the 10 seminarians who professed perpetual vows on Saturday, August 26, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Deacon Edward Dolphin, Deacon Brian Vetter, Deacon Michael Ryan, Deacon Nicholas Guiney, Deacon Peter Puleo, and Deacon Tyler Kreipke. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are Brother Jacob Eifrid, Deacon Stephen Jakubowski, Provincial Superior Father William Lies, Brother Matthew Rehagen, and Deacon Ryan Kerr.

BY ABIGAIL LEALI
AND NICOLE HAHN

The Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the final profession of perpetual vows of 10 men in formation on Saturday, August 26, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

Father William Lies, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, presided at the Mass and received the vows of Brother Jacob Eifrid, Peter Puleo III, Stephen Jakubowski, Edward Dolphin, Michael Ryan, Nicholas Guiney, Ryan Kerr, Tyler Kreipke, Brian

Vetter, and Brother Matthew Rehagen.

According to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the 10 men profess perpetual vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. For the past several years, they have been in a period of temporary vows, which they renewed annually.

On Saturday, August 26, they committed their lives and work to the communal life and ministry of Holy Cross.

On Sunday, August 27, Puleo, Jakubowski, Dolphin, Ryan, Guiney, Kerr, Kreipke, and Vetter were ordained to the Order of the Diacon in the Moreau Seminary Chapel by Bishop Rhoades.



Bishop Rhoades holds hands with one of eight young men from the Congregation of the Holy Cross during the Mass of ordination on Sunday, August 27, at the Moreau Seminary Chapel in Notre Dame.

24-Hour Prayer Vigil Held for Father Robert Van Kempen in Bristol

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Parishioners of St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol gathered on Wednesday, August 23, to pray for the intentions of the pastor, Father Robert Van Kempen (known as Father Bob) – especially that a kidney be donated for him.

Father Van Kempen's health has been deteriorating the last few years. He told Today's Catholic in 2021 that complications from diabetes and medications taken after knee surgery caused his kidneys to shut down, requiring dialysis. A kidney transplant is the best outcome, he said, but as of yet, that hasn't happened.

St. Mary of the Annunciation parishioner Cathy Simon said she felt she needed to do something. She knew people were praying for Father Bob, but she felt maybe something more was needed. She shared that one night she tossed and turned and then "the Holy Spirit took over," giving her the idea for a 24-hour adoration and Rosary vigil. She thought bringing people together to pray would be more powerful. She approached Father Terry



Denise Fedorow

Father Bob Van Kempen, Pastor at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol, poses with parishioner Cathy Simon, who coordinated efforts for a 24-hour adoration and Rosary vigil for Father Bob's intentions at the parish on Wednesday, August 23, and Thursday, August 24.

Fisher, who was assisting at the parish, and he encouraged her to go for it.

The vigil began at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23, and went through 9 a.m. on

Thursday, August 24. It all came together in a couple of weeks, Simon said. She spoke at the Masses and had a sign-up sheet, and she said it was amazing to see that the middle-of-the-night adoration hours were some of the first that were taken.

The Bristol Police Department agreed to patrol the area throughout the night. Simon, who insisted she didn't want any credit, said people from nearby St. Thomas, St. Vincent's, and St. John the Evangelist were participating, as well.

Father Bob shared he was in the hospital at the beginning of July for three to four days. "My kidneys had shut down. The dialysis needed a boost," he said.

The physician recommended hemodialysis, which is supposed to clean the blood better, but he had to be in the hospital to get those treatments. He said he's able to do the dialysis at home again, but now it's for 11 hours instead of nine.

Father Bob said he's having difficulty sleeping, has no energy, and he hasn't been able to celebrate Masses, so Bishop Rhoades sent him help, which he said was "a godsend."

"In the beginning of August,

I had to do the Masses, and I did OK – I just got tired easy," he said.

Father Bob shared that everyone's prayers mean so much to him. "Bishop offered Mass for me at World Youth Day," he said.

Other priests and friends check on him, and people have been so kind sending cards, prayers, and providing meals, he said. "I really do feel the prayers of the people," he added.

Father Bob said when Simon suggested the Rosary and prayer vigil, "I was for it, because I know the power of prayer, and it didn't cost anything (financially)."

Simon said that while the sign-up sheet only showed a small handful of people signed up for a specific time slot, the church had many times that number of people who participated.

The intentions for Father Bob that people were – and are – encouraged to pray for include: that a kidney will be donated to Father Bob; that Father Bob is healthy enough to receive a kidney; that each night, Father Bob will have a restful and restorative night's sleep; that his doctors will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Ed Fox, Who Left Lasting Impression, Dies at Age 57

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Deacon Edward G. Fox of Fort Wayne, well known in the community for his catering – especially his Ed Fox Fish Fries – died at the age of 57 on Thursday, July 27, at Parkview Randallia Hospital. Known as a kind and gentle spirit, he was devout in his faith, had a genuine passion for being of assistance to others, and was recently ordained a deacon serving at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

"The happiest I ever saw him was at his ordination to the diaconate," said Father Andrew Budzinski, Pastor at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, who previously served at St. John the Baptist. "Ed talked about the possibility of becoming a permanent deacon years ago. He loved the formation he received as he discerned this vocation, as well as the fraternity he shared with the other deacon candidates. He truly had a servant's heart and was so incredibly kind to, and patient with, everyone he met. You could tell by his joy that to be configured to Christ the Servant through the Sacrament of Holy Orders meant the world to him," said Budzinski.

In 2014, Deacon Fox was preceded in death by Kathy (Emenhiser) Fox, his wife of 22 years, and in 2016 by his father, Gene Fox. Deacon Fox is survived by his mother, Norma Fox of New Haven; son, Braden (Ali) Turner of Naperville, Illinois; and grandchildren, Lucy and Zoey Turner; sister, Rose (Ben) Passino of Maumee, Ohio; brother, Joe (Karen) Fox of New Haven; and several nieces and nephews.

"Deacon Ed embodied the 'accompaniment' urged by Pope Francis," Father Budzinski said. "He was never in a hurry to get tasks done at the expense of giving people individual time and attention. This was particularly noticeable in his role of funeral minister at St. John the Baptist. Deacon Ed worked previously as a funeral director, as did his late wife, Kathy; and his experience was evident in the compassion he showed to grieving family members. Families always said how kind and empathetic he was. They were



Provided by St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Father Andrew Budzinski, Pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and former Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, poses with Deacon Ed Fox, left, at the ordination of Deacon Fox to the diaconate on January 7, 2023, at St. Pius X in Granger.

delighted to be served by Deacon Ed."

Seminarian Michael Hickey, a student at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, knew Deacon Fox for around 10 years. The former altar server at St. John's in Fort Wayne said some of his fondest memories were the after-Mass homilies Deacon Fox would share with him and his brother, Johnathan, who is also a seminarian for the diocese.

"After the weekend Masses, we would take time (usually an hour or so)

in the sacristy chatting about everything and anything," Hickey said. "After we were finished, John and I would say, 'There's a homily in there somewhere,' and he would laugh. Little did I know that these talks would help me in my encounters with people and with seminary papers. I will greatly miss these after-Mass talks with him," Hickey said. Deacon Fox was instrumental in the seminary journey for John and Michael Hickey. He wrote a reference letter for seminary for each of them.

"I remember one of our more recent talks where John and I got to share with him how much he has impacted our

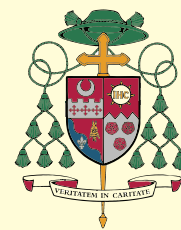
lives and time in seminary, and we shared a hug – a moment I will always cherish. He was a man with a big heart for all of God's people," Hickey said.

Karen Glotzbach, Secretary and Pastoral Associate at St. John the Baptist, met Deacon Fox when she started working at the parish in June of 2020.

"I could tell he was one of the most special individuals I would ever have the privilege to work with in my life," Glotzbach said. "His patience was unmatched, and his ability to view the world with the kindness and compassion our faith calls us to was a rarity. Some of my favorite memories of Deacon Ed were the times we had to stuff envelopes or bulletins with flyers and had extended time to talk about life and faith. On multiple occasions, he would follow up days later about a situation we'd talked about to ask if it had gotten better for it. Somehow, those situations were always the ones that seemed to turn out the best. I have no doubt it was in part due to Deacon Ed's intercession," Glotzbach said.

Watching his interactions with others is something Glotzbach will deeply miss.

"He handled funeral coordination at the parish and helped so many families experience the warmth of faith through their darkest times," she said. "Whether it was in the office, at these funeral meetings, or after Mass, he made everyone smile. He is truly one of the most kind and special individuals I have ever known."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, Sep. 4: 5 p.m. – Conventual Mass, Sacred Heart Chapel, Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame
Wednesday, Sep. 6: 10:30 a.m. – Presbyterate Meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
Thursday, Sep. 7: 10:30 a.m. – Catholic School Mission Day, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
Friday, Sep. 8: 10:30 a.m. – Catholic School Mission Day, Marian High School, Mishawaka
Saturday, Sep. 9: 11 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, South Bend
Sunday, Sep. 10: 11:30 a.m. – Wedding Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



Priest Assignment

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

Reverend Dominic Savoie, FSSP, from Parochial Administrator to Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, effective September 3, 2023.



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

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

OCTOBER

Sacred Heart, Warsaw: Oct. 1-3
St. Louis, Besancon, New Haven: Oct. 1-3
St. Therese, Little Flower, South Bend: Oct. 1-3
St. Therese, Fort Wayne: Oct. 8-10
St. Jude, Fort Wayne: Oct. 15-17
Holy Cross, South Bend: Oct. 15-17
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne: Oct. 15-17
St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City: Oct. 22-24

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

St. Paul Chapel in Fremont Hosts Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

It is striking how many Eucharistic miracles arose from situations of doubts, mistakes, or even malice. For example, people have stolen consecrated hosts and later seen the hosts emit blood or light. In one case, the hosts were dropped accidentally in a river and brought back to shore by fish. The exhibit recently on display at St. Paul Chapel in Fremont, Indiana, told these and many other real-life stories – stories in which consecrated hosts became visibly flesh or had miraculous events connected to them.

This exhibit was curated by an Italian teenager, Carlo Acutis, who was recently beatified. Blessed Carlo had a great love for the Eucharist, saying, “By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy.” In an attempt to help more people understand the presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist, which he called “Jerusalem ... on our doorstep,” Blessed Carlo compiled verified accounts of Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He died of leukemia in 2006, but his exhibit has been shown on five continents and continues to travel around the world today.

There are more than 100 posters of miracles in the entire exhibit, 48 of which filled the social hall at St. Paul Chapel. After a morning of Mass and adoration, parishioners and visitors gathered in the social hall for viewing the exhibit, and also for soup and appetizers – a Wednesday tradition at St. Paul Chapel. “As Father Osman says, ‘After the holy table, we meet at the social table,’” parishioner Jim Sheffler said.

When Father Osman Ramos asked Sheffler to be the point



Photos by Kasia Balsbaugh

The Eucharistic miracles exhibit compiled by Blessed Carlo Acutis is on display at St. Paul Chapel in Fremont in early August.



Madeline Nugent, Father Osman Ramos, and Jim Sheffler stand in front of posters for the Eucharistic miracles exhibit by Blessed Carlo Acutis that they brought to St. Paul Chapel in Fremont in early August.

the exhibit back to share with everyone,” Sheffler said.

Jim and Madeline Nugent are the de facto custodians of the exhibit in the diocese. The Franciscan Confraternity of Penitents, to which the Nugents belong, owns a collection of posters from the exhibit. They carry the exhibit in their car and drive it around the diocese and closely surrounding areas. They help interested parishes and organizations display the exhibit free of charge.

“If we can drive to you, there is no charge to the exhibit,” Madeline said.

The Nugents bring with the exhibit a collection of related books and holy cards available for purchase. Also provided are quotes by Blessed Carlo, coloring pages for young visitors, and a fill-in-the-blank scavenger hunt for school-age visitors.

The exhibit also comes with a DVD about Blessed Carlo and his work, which Sheffler said has been one of the main draws for visitors. “It’s a moving explanation of his ministry as a youth,” Sheffler said. “It’s very well-done.”

Father Ramos is delighted about the exhibit. He serves as pastor for three churches in the LaGrange County area:

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, and St. Paul Chapel.

Father Ramos quoted Pope Benedict XVI’s statement about the Eucharist being the “center and core” of our faith. He stressed the dignity of the sacrament of the Eucharist, saying, “When we use holy water, it is not the Lord. The oils for catechumens are not Jesus Himself. But when you touch the Eucharist, you touch the Lord Jesus Himself.”

Father Ramos believes many of the Catholic Church’s problems today stem from a misunderstanding of what the Eucharist is. “We need to go back to the root of our faith,” he said. He added, “When we lose our faith in the Holy Eucharist, we lose everything, because we are losing faith in the Lord and His message.”

Father Ramos said he hopes that the Eucharistic Revival – and Blessed Carlo’s exhibit specifically – will increase our faith in and love for the Lord. “The Eucharistic miracles are special manifestations of the Lord Jesus to remind us that it’s not something, but somebody,” Father Ramos said.

The exhibit left St. Paul Chapel on August 11, though it stayed in the LaGrange area for the rest of the month.

Jim Sheffler’s next project in promoting the Eucharistic Revival in his parish is participating with a group of parishioners to watch and discuss the video series *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist*. “It’s important to spend time with others, talking with others about what we believe,” Sheffler said.

Sheffler also recommended, “If anybody reading this has doubts about the wonderful presence of Christ in the Eucharist, take time coming to exposition. Carve out time with it – an hour, an hour and a half. Take in the different ways the Lord has shown Himself to us.”

Additionally, Father Ramos wished to emphasize the connection of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to the sacrament of confession. Besides stressing the beauty of being “prepared to receive the Lord with dignity in your soul and body,” Father Ramos said, “Confession is the sacrament of mercy. Do not be afraid to receive the mercy of the Lord!”

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person for the Eucharistic Revival at St. Paul Chapel, Sheffler said he was “anxious to say yes.” Sheffler and his wife Therese first saw Blessed Carlo’s exhibit at Formation Days in Fort Wayne last winter. They wanted to introduce the exhibit to the church they had been involved in for more than 40 years. “We brought what we found so exciting in

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OSV News photo/Cheney Orr, Reuters

A plastic replica of a human fetus sits on top of a copy of Senate Bill 1 on the desk of a member of the Indiana House of Representatives in Indianapolis on August 2, 2022, during a special session to debate banning abortion.

Under New Indiana Abortion Law, 9,000 Babies Will Be Saved Each Year

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) — Indiana's new law banning most abortions finally went into effect on Monday, August 21, almost a year after the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, Planned Parenthood, and other plaintiffs filed a suit in August of 2022, charging that Indiana's new law violated the state's constitution.

The Indiana Supreme Court on Monday, August 21, denied a July 31 request by the plaintiffs to rehear their case. The court had ruled in June that the law protecting the lives of most unborn children was not in violation of the state's constitution.

Under the law now officially in effect, an abortion is allowed up to 10 weeks gestation only in instances of rape or incest and up to 20 weeks gestation only in cases of lethal fetal anomalies, or when the mother's life is in danger from specific medical issues.

The law also requires that abortions take place at a hospital or a hospital-owned surgery center, effectively closing abortion centers in the state.

"This is truly an historic day," said Indiana Right to Life President and CEO Mike Fichter in a video statement released on Monday, August 21. "We are so thankful to the thousands upon thousands of Hoosiers who worked so hard for over 50 years to bring this day about."

In an interview with The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis archdiocese, Right to Life Indianapolis President

Marc Tuttle noted that "under the new protections in Indiana law, it's estimated that 9,000 fewer babies will be aborted per year. We all have to rejoice at 9,000 precious lives being spared."

Brie Anne Varick, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, shares Tuttle's sentiments.

"We have waited for SEA 1 to finally take effect, and I rejoice that the prayers of the faithful have been answered and abortion clinics in Indiana will finally be closed," she told The Criterion. "SEA 1" is shorthand for the law, known as Senate Enrolled Act 1.

Varick also noted that "with any victory in a war, there is joy that the battle has been won, but there is also grief as we acknowledge all the loss."

"There is great work left to do as we, through the grace of God, continue to heal, transform and unify the hearts of our community and our nation," she added.

Indiana was the first state to call a special session of the General Assembly after the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24, 2022, decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* returned power to the states in regulating abortion.

SEA 1 was signed into law by Governor Eric Holcomb on August 6, 2022. It was in effect September 15-22 that year, but a preliminary injunction issued September 22 as result of the ACLU/Planned Parenthood lawsuit placed the law on hold.

After the state Supreme Court's June 30 decision that

the law is not in violation of the state's constitution, SEA 1 remained on hold for 30 days per state law to allow time for the plaintiffs to request a rehearing. A request was filed on July 31, causing the law to remain on hold until the court decided on August 21 not to rehear the case.

Another case charging that the law violates religious freedom is making its way through the Indiana court system; those bringing the suit say they are being denied access to abortion permitted by their religion. No preliminary injunction is in place for the case except for the few individuals comprising the plaintiffs.

"The pro-life community stands ready to offer help and assistance to moms in need," said Tuttle. "Now is the time for Hoosiers to come together to show that we are generous enough to support all moms and babies in our state."

Varick agreed. "We must double our efforts and continue to pray and support those in need of healing from the trauma of abortion," said Varick. "We must continue to love and walk with moms in need, so they know they are not alone."

She is hopeful regarding the work ahead.

"As Christian people, we do not despair but live in hope," said Varick. "What God has started, he will bring to completion."

Natalie Hoefler is a reporter for The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



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Pope Francis: Synod Is 'Truly Important' for the Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis asked a group of Italian journalists to shun fake news and a love of scandal, including when covering the Catholic Church and the upcoming assembly of the Synod of Bishops. “Help me to narrate this process for what it really is, leaving behind the logic of slogans and pre-packaged stories,” he asked the group on Saturday, August 26, as he accepted the “È Giornalismo” prize, which recognizes outstanding contributions to journalism. Pope Francis told the group he realizes how “speaking of a ‘synod on synodality’ may seem something abstruse, self-referential, excessively technical, of little interest to the general public,” but the whole process, which began in 2021 with listening sessions on the local, national, and regional levels “is something truly important for the Church.” At a moment in history “when there is much talk and little listening, and when the sense of the common good is in danger of weakening,” he said, “the Church as a whole has embarked on a journey to rediscover the word ‘together.’”

USCCB: Protecting Innocent Life Must Be Priority in Gun Rights Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Protecting the innocent “is a proper consideration” in the government regulation of firearms, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case relating to whether the government can prohibit a person with a domestic violence restraining order from possessing a firearm. In the fall, the court will hear oral arguments in the case, *United States v. Rahimi*. Besides the USCCB, members of Congress and a number of faith-based organizations and other groups that advocate for victims of domestic violence also filed amicus briefs in the case. “As the Church teaches, and this nation’s historical traditions demonstrate, the right to bear arms is not an unqualified license that must leave vulnerable family members to live in fear,” said the USCCB’s amicus, or friend-of-the-court, brief, which was filed on Tuesday, August 22. “Abused victims are precisely the people whom a just government is tasked with protecting. The Second Amendment does not stand as a barrier to their safety.” The Biden administration petitioned the high court to reverse a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit that invalidated one of the provisions of 18 U.S.

Ukrainian Family Mourns on Independence Day



OSV News photo/Roman Baluk, Reuters

A family mourns on Independence Day in Lviv, Ukraine, on Thursday, August 24, as they visit the tomb of a relative, a Ukrainian serviceman who was killed in a fight against Russian troops amid Russia’s ongoing attack on Ukraine.

Code Section 922 that bars anyone “subject to a court order” in which they were found to be a threat to a domestic partner or child from possessing firearms.

Pope Announces New Document Ahead of ‘Season of Creation’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Ahead of the ecumenical celebrations of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Friday, September 1, and the month-long “Season of Creation,” Pope Francis said he is writing a follow-up document to his 2015 encyclical on the environment. “I am writing a second part to *Laudato Si’* to update it on current problems,” the pope told a group of lawyers on Monday, August 21. He provided no further information. But Matteo Bruni, Director of the Vatican Press Office, told Vatican News the letter will focus especially on recent climate crises. Muriel Fleury, who leads the communication section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told Catholic News Service on Thursday, August 24, that the pope’s announcement was welcome news because people around the globe are worried, they listen to Pope Francis, and

every group of bishops that visits the dicastery raises questions and concerns about the environment and Catholic teaching on ecology. *Laudato Si’*, (“On Care for Our Common Home”) was the title of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical letter on the need for an “integral ecology” that respects the dignity and value of the human person, helps the poor, and safeguards the planet.

Florida Bishop Condemns Racially Motivated Shooting

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (OSV News) – A Florida Catholic bishop condemned a racially motivated shooting on Saturday, August 26, at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, saying, “Violence and bigotry have no place in our hearts or our society.” “A senseless act of violence claimed the lives of three individuals in our community,” Bishop Erik T. Pohlmeier of St. Augustine, Florida, said in a Sunday, August 27, statement. “It has come to light that the shooter’s motivations were fueled by hatred and bigotry, as he targeted innocent lives solely because of their race,” said Bishop Pohlmeier, whose diocese has its offices

in Jacksonville. “This reprehensible act reminds us of the deep-seated wounds that still afflict our society – wounds rooted in prejudice and racism.” A white gunman, identified by authorities as 21-year-old Ryan Christopher Palmetter, fatally shot three Black people at the Dollar General store in an attack authorities said they were investigating as a racially motivated hate crime. Palmetter was armed with an “AR-15 style” rifle with swastikas on it, as well as a handgun, and was wearing a tactical vest, authorities said. He fired 11 rounds at one woman sitting in her car, before he entered the store and shot two more people. The gunman died after shooting himself. Sheriff T.K. Waters of Jacksonville said at a news conference that there were “several manifestos” by the killer detailing his hatred of Black people.

First Nations Leader: ‘No Conclusive Evidence’ of Student Graves at Residential School

CAMPERVILLE, Manitoba (OSV News) – For Indigenous families seeking answers

about the relatives in residential schools who never came home, an archaeological team has found “no conclusive evidence of human remains” at a former residential school site in Canada, but the results “take nothing away” from the painful experiences of former students, said an Indigenous leader. In a video statement on Facebook on Friday, August 18, Chief Derek Nepinak of the Minegoziibe Anishinabe (formerly Pine Creek First Nation) announced the conclusion of a four-week excavation in the basement of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church in Camperville, Manitoba, site of the former Pine Creek Residential School. The 14 anomalies detected by ground-penetrating radar, or GPR, yielded animal bones and debris from a fire, but not human remains, Nepinak told media. However, “the results ... should not be deemed as conclusive of other ongoing searches and efforts” at other residential school sites, said Nepinak in his video statement. Canada’s National Center for Truth and Reconciliation recorded the deaths of 21 students at the school, with survivors describing abuses taking place in the church’s basement. “We will find a pathway forward that further helps us arrive at the truths of our history,” said Nepinak. “This is (by) no means conclusive of our work to find the truth of the history of our residential school here in Pine Creek.”

Virginia Bishop: Mental Health Crisis Demands Church’s Response

ARLINGTON, Virginia (OSV News) – With National Suicide Prevention Month taking place in September, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is urging mental health discussion and engagement, rather than avoidance and evasion. “Who of us do not know someone – even in our own families or maybe ourselves – who are struggling with significant mental health issues,” Bishop Burbidge asked in the latest edition of his “Walk Humbly” podcast, “including anxiety and depression – and even, sadly, despair; loneliness for some.” Statistics demonstrate Bishop Burbidge’s question is anything but rhetorical. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that more than 1 in 5 U.S. adults live with a mental illness. In 2022, at least 49,449 Americans took their own lives, according to the CDC. That reality requires an integrated response, said Bishop Burbidge. “We recognize the whole person – we’re body; we’re soul; we’re spirit – and mental health is part of who we are,” Bishop Burbidge said.

Summer Series Focuses on 'Where Spiritual Meets Secular'

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Although the 2023 Summer Theology on Tap series "Off Pulpit: Where Spiritual Meets Secular" in South Bend has concluded, the memories and friendships made will last a lifetime. Dozens attended the final event on Tuesday, August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, with Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, followed by a closing party in the Cathedral Courtyard.

"It's been fantastic to meet so many new people," said Ally Brown, who is on the event's planning team. The attendance numbers for this year exceeded the group's expectations.

According to Brown, Father Andrew Budzinski's opening session on "Rescued" really opened minds and hearts to better understanding our pur-

pose in life. She said it set the stage for other talks that helped young people integrate the Faith with practical aspects of their lives, including "Faith and Finances," "Faith and Friends," and "Faith and Psychology." Each session included a speaker, a discussion session, and a question-and-answer series.

This summer offered an opportunity for young adults to explore areas of their lives impacted daily with a chance to find ways to include their faith in their life decisions. It opened conversations about areas of life rarely discussed by young adults but something forefront on their minds.

Brown noted that each session brought new participants and larger gatherings. "I'm excited knowing we are an alive and enflamed community of Faith," she said.



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

The Summer 2023 South Bend Theology on Tap series "Off Pulpit: Where Spiritual meets Secular" ended on Tuesday, August 15, with a closing celebration on the feast of the Assumption. Dozens attended Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral followed by a closing party in the Cathedral courtyard.

Special Painting Unveiled at Annual Blessed Solanus Casey Feast Day Celebration

BY NICOLE HAHN

The Huntington Extension of the Father Solanus Guild celebrated the sixth annual Blessed Solanus Casey Feast Day on Sunday, July 30, at the St. Felix Center in Huntington. The celebration marked the 140th anniversary of Blessed Solanus receiving his first holy Communion in Wisconsin and the fifth anniversary of the St. Felix Oratory in Huntington, which was his home from 1946 to 1956, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne receiving relics of Blessed Solanus for viewing and veneration from the former Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Sainthood and Director of the Father Solanus Guild, Brother Richard Merling, OFM Cap.

According to the website solanuscasey.org, "The Father Solanus Guild was established in 1960 with a mission of sharing the holiness and spirituality of Blessed Solanus and to promote his cause for canonization. Soon after his death in 1957, reports of favors received through his intercession began to arrive. The holiness of Blessed Solanus led Pope John Paul II to declare him venerable in 1995. On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis announced that Venerable Solanus would be beatified. On November 18, 2017, at Ford Field in Detroit, a crowd numbering 70,000 participated in the celebration of the Mass of beatification for Blessed Solanus Casey. A miraculous cure had been approved! Another approved miracle after that will advance



Photo provided by St. Felix Catholic Center

Artist Mary Hilger stands with Father Tony Steinacker, Pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Huntington, after unveiling her painting of Blessed Solanus Casey at the Sixth Annual Blessed Father Solanus Casey Feast Day Celebration at the St. Felix Center in Huntington on Saturday, July 30.

the cause finally to sainthood, and the man born Bernard Francis Casey will be known thereafter as St. Solanus Casey."

The July 30 feast day was given to Blessed Solanus at his beatification. There are nearly

200 Franciscan Capuchin Communities around the world that spread knowledge and live the spirituality of Jesus, St. Francis, and Blessed Father Solanus.

Mary Hilger, a gifted and

award-winning artist and art teacher, was commissioned by the Huntington Extension of the Father Solanus Guild to paint her first rendering of Blessed Solanus Casey based on the image that appears on the Father Solanus relic badges that are hand-stitched and distributed all over the world by Father Solanus Guild members. After visiting St. Felix and reading about Blessed Solanus to connect with his heart, Hilger painted the beautiful image and gave a talk that honored and amplified his virtuous life and compared Father Solanus to her late husband, Deacon John Hilger.

Hilger unveiled the painting, which was then blessed by Father Tony Steinacker, Pastor at SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington. It will be placed at the Father Solanus Guild Bookstore and Gift Shop in Solanus Hall.

Afterward, people participated in the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Unity Prayer, Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Solanus, and the Patriotic Rosary, praying for all 50 states and every person (soul) in each state. Father Steinacker gave a general blessing with the relic of Blessed Solanus.

The day ended with social time, including a designated area with activities for children, a walk through the Solanus Guild gift shop, a free gift from the Father Solanus Guild, and a variety of frozen treats in honor of Father Solanus' enjoyment of ice cream.

Jan Scher contributed to this story.

A Mother's Hope to Hold Diamond Gala

FORT WAYNE — A Mother's Hope will hold its sixth annual Diamond Gala on Thursday, September 21, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Communications and Marketing Coordinator Sydney Hamblin said the evening will begin with a cocktail hour and games, where participants will play to win gift cards, wine, whiskey, and, of course, diamonds. Dinner and a live auction will follow. Tickets are \$100 per person and include drinks and dinner for one guest. Sponsorships are available. The proceeds from the gala will help A Mother's Hope continue to serve homeless and pregnant mothers and their babies. For more information, visit amothershopefw.org or call 260-444-4975.

St. John the Baptist New Haven Collects Items for Catholic Charities

NEW HAVEN — With the goal of helping the most vulnerable in the community, a Stuff A Truck event for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was held on Saturday, August 26, and Sunday, August 27, at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven. A yellow box truck was at the church at 943 Powers Street for people to drop off new items. Most needed items for donation included toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, feminine products, laundry detergent, sponges, cleaning rags, bathroom and kitchen cleaner, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, diapers, and wipes. For more information, email iwitulski@ccfwsb.org.

Mass followed by blessing of first-class relic of Blessed Father Solanus Casey at St. Felix Catholic Center



Photos provided by the Praying with Father Solanus Casey Group

The Praying with Father Solanus Casey Group said a Rosary before Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a Mass for Sick and Troubled at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington on Saturday, August 19. Following the Mass, Bishop Rhoades blessed the first-class relic of Blessed Father Solanus Casey at the center before the group gathered for fellowship and refreshments. A video of the event can be viewed on the Praying with Father Solanus Facebook page.



Provided by Andrew Wilson Smith

Andrew Wilson Smith poses with his wife and children in front of a statue of St. Peter at his studio in South Bend.

Local Sculptor Creates Sacred Art

BY ERIN LYNCH

Andrew Wilson Smith grew up in the South Bend area and was immersed in sacred architecture from a young age. With a father who is an architect, his creative abilities were noticed and nurtured early on. As a child, he attended classes at the South Bend Museum of Art and found a love for sculpting. As a teenager, he had apprenticeships with sculptors that affirmed his love of the art form.

After graduating high school, Smith attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for about two years and continued to apprentice with a sculptor there. From there, he went to Florence, Italy, and attended the Florence Academy of Fine Arts. After this, he returned to South Bend, where he opened his own sculpting studio and has been working professionally as a sculptor ever since. Most recently, he opened a new studio in South Bend about a year ago.

When talking about his love of sculpting, Smith joked, "Well, I was no good at painting." He continued, "I have always loved the physicality of sculpting and just the monumentality of it." Smith has done many different projects

throughout the years, including one recently for the University of Notre Dame's Michael Christopher Duda Center for Preservation, Resilience, and Sustainability. When thinking back through his career, he recalls with pride a project he did for a Benedictine monastery in Oklahoma, Clear Creek Monastery. He said it was his first carving project, and he was able to carve the Twelve Apostles. When Smith spoke of this project, he mentioned how grateful he was for this opportunity.

Smith recently finished statues of St. Peter and St. Paul that were just installed at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Jefferson City, Missouri. The process to make these sculptures began about three years ago, he said, which included initial discussions, designing the sculptures, and then about a year of full-time work for himself and two others who helped him with the project.

Smith talked about the support and encouragement of his family, particularly his wife Marie and his three young children – Jonah, Seraphina, and Samson. He said his children will come and hang out in his studio and play with some clay while he works.

Although Smith does not exclusively work on Catholic projects, it is a large part of

his work. "We are in kind of a revival now of traditional imagery and fine art in the Church, which I think has been positive overall," he said. "I think it's an interesting time to be doing this sort of work and engaged in these sorts of projects. There's been a major shift in terms of architecture from more modernist influences to a greater appreciation for traditional architectural styles. So, a lot of work fits well within that movement, and, at the same time, trying to breathe new life into older idioms and make things more vital and present."

Smith added, "I look at my role as being part of a very long and coherent tradition and trying to participate in that."

Smith also mentioned his deep appreciation for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and how thankful he's been since returning as an adult. Smith and his family attend St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka and have loved their experience as parishioners there. Smith said he feels grateful for the opportunity to be here in the diocese with his family and living out his call to create art through sculpture.

"I find the diocese has more vivacity and vitality than I remember as a kid," he said, "and it's great to see the vitality that it is here."



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8 a.m.: First Saturday Devotions

9 a.m.: Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
with Father Glenn Kohrman,
Father Robert Garrow and Father
Stephen Felicichia at the Cathedral of
the Immaculate Conception

11 a.m.: Breakfast with Guest
Speaker Father Felicichia

Tickets: Adult \$20 - Children 3-12 \$14
2 and younger FREE
RSVP @ FatmaFWSB.org

Students Can Integrate Faith While Combatting Anxiety

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

It's the first day of school, and hearts are racing, palms are sweaty, and butterflies develop in the stomach. Known as nervousness or anxiety, it's the body's way of dealing with the apprehension that comes with the beginning of a new school year.

"Anxiety is our body's normal stress response, and it generally involves feeling stressed, activated, and/or worried. However, when symptoms of anxiety are prolonged and significantly impact a person's life, it can indicate the presence of an anxiety disorder," said Beth Hlabse, Program Director of the Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, where she also serves as Assistant Teaching Professor of Neuroscience and Behavior.

Signs of Anxiety

According to Hlabse, there are several types of anxiety disorders, including generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, and phobia-related disorders, such as social anxiety disorder. Generalized anxiety disorder is the most common and involves persistent worry about nonspecific life events and situations. Anxiety disorders are generally identified based on symptoms. In high school and college students, anxiety symptoms can include:

- Racing heart
- Shortness of breath
- Tightness in the chest
- Gastrointestinal issues, including, but not limited to, nausea and vomiting
- Frequent headaches
- Irritable or easily agitated
- Mood swings
- Low energy
- Constantly moving or being unable to sit still
- Sleeping too little
- Having frequent nightmares

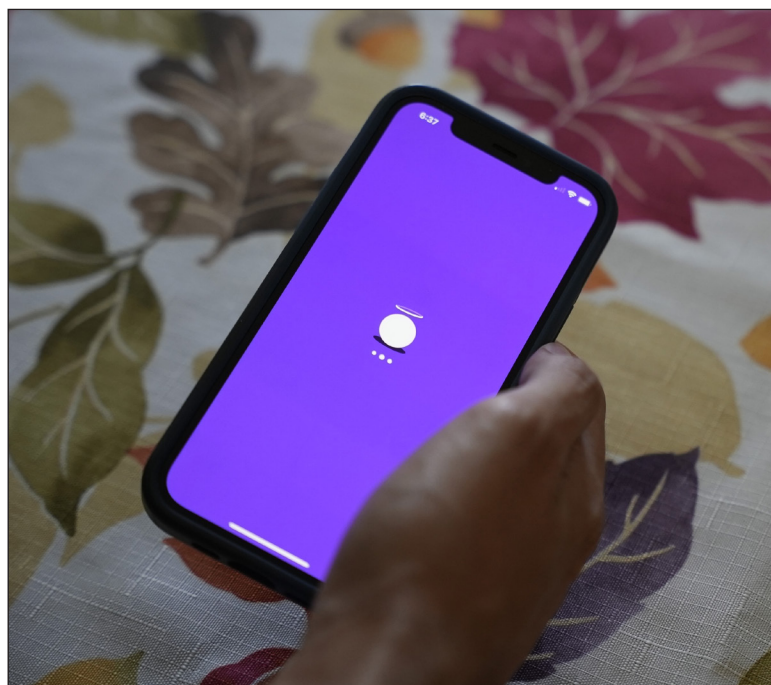
Emotional, Behavioral Symptoms May Include:

- Frequently voicing fears and worries
- Spending increased time alone, or avoiding social events
- Worsening educational performance, including skipping classes

Treatments

When a student tries to combat the effects of anxiety, it's important to integrate various methods of treatment, Hlabse said.

"With the Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health, we often talk about how important it is to draw on the resources of both faith and science. As a starting point, it can be



important to seek the support of a mental health counselor," Hlabse said. "In terms of daily life, understanding how anxiety presents can help us to understand the different practices that help to manage it. The nervous system plays an important role in our experience of anxiety because it is through the nervous system that we first register life experiences as stressful or threatening."

"With anxiety disorders, the nervous system is chronically activated, including during times when we aren't facing a clear presenting stressor," Hlabse said. "Because of the role of the nervous system, it's helpful to begin with physiological calming techniques and then to address anxiety with more cognitive strategies. By taking deep, intentional breaths and engaging in movement, especially bilateral right-to-left movement (for example, taking a walk), we can help regulate the nervous system. Given the way the nervous system and brain relate, it's helpful to begin with the body, and then we are better able to utilize cognitive strategies like noticing negative thinking patterns and working to reframe or focus on the positive."

Feelings of anxiety can sometimes lead to isolation for many young adults, said Hlabse, who believes it's important to avoid withdrawing from social interactions, stay engaged in activities, and spend time with friends.

"Those with anxiety can also be inclined to try to numb the feelings of anxiety through scrolling on their phone, social media, gaming, binge-watching TV, YouTube, or TikTok," Hlabse said. "Even though this can feel calming, when we zone out, we're not able to process our emotions. Try doing something more engaging like going for a walk, engaging your hands in drawing, knitting, gardening, or some other craft. Remember that we can utilize physiological techniques to calm

the nervous system, such as breathing and bilateral movement."

Incorporating Faith

Faith is an impactful tool to incorporate into the treatment of anxiety.

"I encourage folks to share their faith with their therapist and to express that they would like faith to be a part of their journey," Hlabse said. "The secular psychological community often highlights the helpfulness of mindfulness for managing anxiety. But, for Christians, we should consider how mindfulness is related to prayer. Whereas secular mindfulness can promote a focus on self or on vacating the mind, as people of faith, we should remember that we are always in a relationship with a God who loves us. We're not just individuals, but we're beings made in the image and likeness of God who is perfect relationship and relationality as Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hence, when I practice deep breathing, I pray with the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, and I consider how mindful meditation can involve entrusting ourselves to the presence of a loving God who is present with us even when we cannot experience the consolation of His presence."

Advice for Parents

Having a child or grandchild suffering from anxiety is painful for those who struggle seeing a loved one in pain. While parents might feel tempted to simply tell a loved one not to be anxious, Hlabse said it's important to understand that the nervous system cannot be ordered to stop producing anxious response. She suggested offering gentle support with outreach that could include deep breathing, praying together, or simply going for a walk together.

"Through neuroscience,



BETH HLABSE

we've learned that our nervous system is always co-regulatory," Hlabse said. "This means that we are made in such a way that our

nervous system is best able to calm down through the secure, stable, caring presence of another person. Before we're even cognitively aware of it, our nervous system picks up on how stressed or calm another person is through the faculty of neuroception. Hence, as loving friends, mentors, teachers, and parents, we can cultivate an awareness of our own level of stress and anxiety and work to manage this such that we can be a co-regulatory presence for others."

The prayer and meditation app Hallow has resources available to help respond to anxiety and mental health issues. Hlabse suggested two

ministries for learning more about mental health: Souls & Hearts Ministry (soulsandhearts.com) and Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries (sanctuarymentalhealth.org/catholics).

Hlabse said parents and guardians should avoid giving advice or telling a young adult what to do.

"We also want to avoid being consumed by the emotions of the other. Christ is a powerful example to us of the way of encounter – of receiving and walking with another in the midst of their illness and suffering while holding onto hope for them," Hlabse said. "St. Elizabeth of the Trinity is also a beautiful inspiration. She would pray, 'Lord, the one you love is sick.' When those I love are suffering and struggle to pray or believe, I try to pray this prayer, bringing them to the heart of Christ, and our faith assures us of Christ's presence in the midst of anxiety and illness."

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Bishop Rhoades Makes First School Visit of New Year

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

A two-hour delay on Monday, August 21, couldn't stop Bishop Rhoades from his first school visit of the academic year to St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

"I got a phone call from Father Nathan [Maskal] very early this morning, and he left a voicemail message saying you had a two-hour delay. So, I looked outside, and I thought, oh my goodness, it can't be snowing in August," Bishop Rhoades joked with the congregation at the Mass, which began his visit. Fog may have delayed the beginning of Mass, but the celebration of the feast of St. Pius X and the parish's 40-Hour devotion continued for the students, faculty, staff, and families.

During his homily, Bishop Rhoades told students of the importance of Pope St. Pius X, the patron saint of first communicants and pilgrims, sharing that the future pope walked to school every day and ate just a raw potato and bread for lunch. His poverty as a child greatly influenced his love and care for the poor throughout his ministry.

"He loved the poor, sick, and needy. He spent his whole life, even as pope, helping those who were in need," Bishop Rhoades said. "And when he became pope, there's one thing he wanted to do: He wanted to teach people to receive holy Communion more often, so he wrote about this and talked about it. He taught the priests all over the world to teach the people that they should go to holy Communion more often, even every day, because this is a great gift from Jesus."

According to Bishop Rhoades, St. Pius X was so passionate about the Eucharist that he changed the rules on when children could receive their first Communion, moving it from around age 11 to around age 7, when they reached the "age of reason," according to St. Pius X.

"We ask him (St. Pius X) to pray for us that we can grow in our love for Jesus, our love for the holy Eucharist, our love for the poor, and to try to be peacemakers like he wants us to be," Bishop Rhoades said at the end of his homily.

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades and David Maugel, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, were able to visit several classrooms to meet students and talk with educators. A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to celebrate twin second-graders Brody and Avery Carrol turning 8. Bishop Rhoades got to wish the students a happy birthday



Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass during his visit to St. John the Baptist in New Haven. It was Bishop Rhoades' first school visit of the new academic year.

Photos by Lisa Kochanowski



Bishop Rhoades poses on Monday, August 21, with David Maugel, left, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Principal Tina Voors, and Father Nathan Maskal in front of a banner autographed by students and faculty to welcome Bishop Rhoades on his visit to St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven.

and enjoyed a Kit Kat birthday treat with Brody.

Bishop Rhoades visited the second graders and talked about their upcoming first confession and first Communion preparation. In Jay Crisp's junior high history class, Bishop Rhoades joined the class discussion about Christopher Columbus. They also discussed the eighth graders' confirmation preparation and the saint names they are preparing to choose. While visiting Justin Pranger's sixth-grade class, Bishop Rhoades discussed how the students were focusing on praying the Rosary in their religion class. Questions about the different hats worn by Bishop Rhoades became part of the discussion, and he gave two lucky students the chance to try on his zucchetto, a closely fitted cap worn during official functions and liturgical events and taken off during the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Rhoades' final destination was the junior high classroom of Jeanette Martinez, where he talked with the students about the importance of their study of the Rosary in religion class.

St. John the Baptist School was formed in New Haven in 1859 with a single teacher educating the children of St. John's Parish in a house on Powers Street. They have seen extensive growth since those early years, and currently educate 224 students from preschool (beginning at age 3) to eighth grade.

"We are studying the Beatitudes as a school, learning how each one might be lived out by our young people,

teachers, and staff each day," Principal Tina Voors recently wrote in the parish's bulletin. "We will focus on one each month, September through April, as teachers seek to share examples of them throughout the day. The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes hard to take in, especially in our world. God gives our teachers and students opportunities to practice these and to grow our faith as we journey toward heaven together as a strong community."

The administration team works diligently to live out a Christ-centered way of life and assist students in achieving academic success. Examples of unique school activities from last year include fourth graders visiting Sauder Village to obtain a better understanding of early Indiana history, eighth-grade students participating in a community day that included praying the Rosary with their "faith families" followed by Mass at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel downtown, seventh-grade students writing and illustrating their own novels that were then read to students in the younger grades, and first graders celebrating Día de los Muertos by bringing in photos and items of loved ones for their classroom altar followed by a sharing circle of favorite memories.

St. John the Baptist offers several clubs and activities for students in areas such as faith, service, theater, and academics. Last year, the St. John's Light of Christ Service Club ministered to those in need at a Franciscan Center out- ing. The St. John's Drama Club

ar to St. John the Baptist in New Haven

presented "The Princess Who Had No Name," complete with costumes, makeup, sound, and lighting.

Along with a stellar academic environment, students in fifth through eighth grades can participate in a variety of athletic opportunities through the CYO of Fort Wayne. Some sports offer earlier training programs in grades 3-4. In the fall, St. John the Baptist School, known as the Raiders, offers girls' volleyball. Football is available through a combined team of several Catholic schools called Central Catholic. In the winter, both boys and girls can participate in basketball. During the spring, the athletic department offers soccer, track, and softball.

The school's mission is to help each child become a life-long learner, be taught a Christ-centered, Catholic way of life, and achieve academic success.

"The absolute presence of the Holy Spirit, the long-standing traditions, and the multigenerational ownership of families is what makes this place special," Voors said.



Bishop Rhoades stands in front of the classroom in Justin Pranger's sixth grade math class during his visit to St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven. He talked with the sixth graders about how they are learning the mysteries of the Rosary in their religion class.



Bishop Rhoades poses with St. John students Brody and Avery Carroll, twins who celebrated their eighth birthday during the bishop's visit. While visiting their second-grade classroom, Bishop Rhoades enjoyed a Kit Kat birthday treat to celebrate with the students.



During his visit to Justin Pranger's sixth-grade classroom, Bishop Rhoades explained to students about the different hats he wears. During the discussion, he gave a couple of lucky students the chance to try on his zucchetto, a closely fitted cap worn during official functions and liturgical events and taken off during the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School

Location: 204 S. Rufus Street, New Haven

Phone: 260-749-9903

Grades: Preschool (beginning at age 3) through eighth grade

2023 enrollment: 224

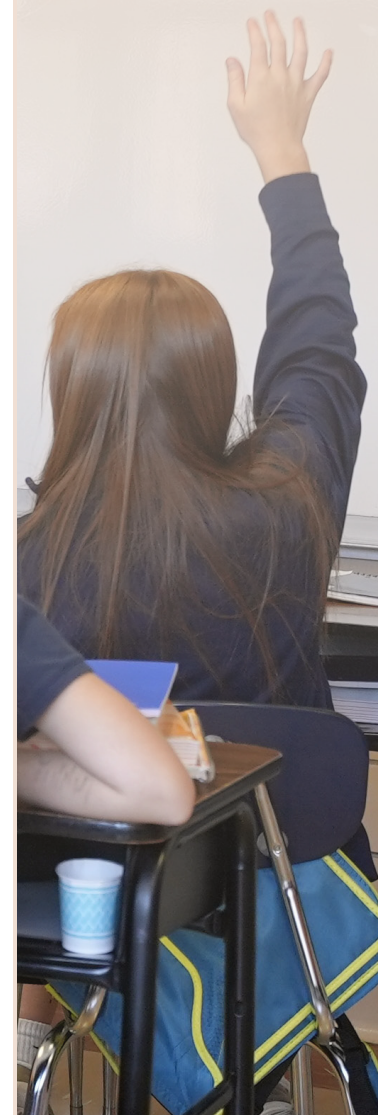
Principal: Tina Voors

Teachers: 15 lay teachers, two lay resource program teachers, and three special area teachers

How to Enroll: Visit school. sjnewhaven.org

Mission Statement: "Our mission is to help each student become a life-long learner, be taught a Christ-centered, Catholic way of life, and achieve academic success."

Philosophy on Technology: "Our school believes in the responsible use of technology. Students need clear guidance, through Christ, as to how to best use this powerful force for high school and the modern workforce. With this however, total technology use in time and scope must be limited and monitored so that children can engage in meaningful relationships, professional dialogue with their teachers, and engage with real-world manipulatives. Student screen time generally should not exceed more than 90 minutes per day."





Formations Scheduled Locally for Parish Leaders of the National Eucharistic Revival

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Wars and military conflict, increased poverty, climate change, high crime rates, and human rights violations plague our society. In an effort to find peace and understanding through a deeper devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the National Eucharistic Revival in the summer of 2022 – a three-year period of discernment, encounter, and grassroots response at the diocesan, parish, and individual levels. The goal is to unite Catholics, inspire them, and help lead them into an intimate relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The feast of Corpus Christi on June 19, 2022, launched widespread Eucharistic processions and adoration, including an impressive turnout for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's procession in Warsaw. These monumental moments were followed by the Year of Diocesan Revival from June 19, 2022, until Sunday, June 11, 2023, inviting bishops, priests, and diocesan staff a chance to plan Eucharistic events and outreach efforts with many

executing their events throughout the year.

We are now in the Year of Parish Revival, which began June 11 and will continue until July 17, 2024. This next phase will foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level. Each parish and parish school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has developed its own plan for the parish year that best meets the needs of its community.

According to Chris Langford, Eucharistic Revival Point Person for the diocese, many parishes are hosting a 40 Hours devotion, the practice of continuous prayer before the Blessed Sacrament with three successive evenings of Eucharistic preaching. A full schedule of 40 Hour devotions can be found at diocesefwsb.org/eucharist.

"Many parishes in our diocese will be offering the 'Jesus and the Eucharist' small group study this fall or spring," Langford told *Today's Catholic*. "A recent Pew study found that a shocking number of Catholics simply don't know what the Church teaches about the Eucharist. This study is an invitation to change that! The small groups will gather regularly to have their faith

nourished by kerygmatic (the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for our salvation) Eucharistic teaching and to support one another in their faith. This intimate style of learning will enable parishioners to form tighter connections and grow together in the safety of a group they know."

To assist parish priests and administrators with fostering community outreach, point people within each parish were selected to serve as the parish's primary contact with the diocese for the revival. These men and women who have been chosen will also serve as the parish's point of reference for the pastor, parish ministries, and regional apostolates regarding the Eucharistic Revival, as well as coordinate with the pastor and parish leadership team to identify new and existing parish initiatives that can support this process and make events known to their parish communities.

Langford said that parish point persons were appointed by the pastor, based on characteristics such as familiarity with parish organization, ministries, and processes, as well as having the desire to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus in the most Holy Eucharist. Having responded to the call to live as a missionary disciple, pastors have chosen people who they think are capable of galvanizing parishioners into action with the joy and zeal of missionary discipleship, to lead collaboratively with charity, patience, humility, empathy, and authenticity, and who are prayerful, organized, and who have displayed the ability to prudently discern and engage others.

Two evenings of formation for parish point persons and anyone else helping with the Revival in their parishes are scheduled. The first event was held on Thursday, August 31, at St. Therese Little Flower parish in South Bend. The second will be held on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne.

"This event, created by

the National Revival Team, is an evening of formation, retreat, and encouragement for all those generous souls who will engage their parishes this year," Langford said. "Bishop Rhoades is asking all parish point persons and all those who will be assisting them to attend one of these evenings. The evening will include information regarding the National Revival Team's Parish Playbook and how to implement it, along with other important resources. The national speaker will be Jason Shanks of Our Sunday Visitor, who is also a member of the National Eucharistic Revival team."

Anyone interested in contributing to the Eucharistic Revival in their parish is encouraged to reach out to their pastor and parish staff, especially their parish's point person. Upon completion of the Year of Parish Revival, the Church will begin the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from May 17, 2024, through July 16, 2024, where people will process with our Eucharistic Lord more than 6,500 miles, through cities, along highways, and past rural towns, to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. After the congress, the Church will begin the Year of Going Out on Mission from July 21, 2024, until Pentecost 2025.

"Our hope for the parish year is that every parishioner will deepen their understanding and devotion to our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and will become equipped and inspired to spread the Good News of Jesus and his Church with the world, including their friends, co-workers, neighbors, family, and especially those on the margin," Langford said. "We also encourage all the faithful to look forward to the National Eucharistic Congress, which will occur in Indianapolis in July of 2024, immediately following the conclusion of the parish year."

Discount passes to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis are available from the diocese at diocesefwsb.org/eucharist.

Personal Formation

In addition to the National Eucharistic Revival initiatives planned within each parish, there are other opportunities sponsored by the diocese that are available to the faithful in order to foster a deeper devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.

Take a 'Pilgrimage' of Devotional Activities:

As our diocese moves through this Parish Year of the Eucharistic Revival, individual faithful are invited to journey deeper with Jesus by embarking on opportunities of personal encounter and personal faith formation. On the diocesan Revival website (diocesefwsb.org/eucharist), an array of free options are listed, including videos, audio presentations, and articles. Also listed are ideas for personal encounter, including Eucharistic adoration, Eucharistic miracles, and attendance at daily Masses. There are lists for both adults and children. Various activities are featured on the website each month. Using a "passport" from the website, people who complete six or more of these options can receive a free gift from Good Shepherd Books & Gifts in Fort Wayne or Full of Grace Gifts in Mishawaka.

'I AM HERE':

Parishes across the diocese are participating in the national I AM HERE project. To inspire devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and participation in Eucharistic adoration, parishioners are encouraged to share how they have found in the Eucharist the strength and purpose for their lives. The testimonies are submitted electronically through parish social media and then posted on the national I AM HERE website (iamhere.org). Testimonies can also be submitted and viewed from our diocesan Revival website.

Missionary Sending:

Regional evangelization training in Spanish is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2024, at St. Casimir Parish in South Bend. For more information, contact Esther Terry at eterry@diocesefwsb.org.

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Christ Child Clothing Center in Mishawaka Sets Record

BY ANN CAREY

The Christ Child Society of South Bend distributed new children's clothing to a record number of families during the first week the clothing center opened for the 2023-24 season.

Some 177 families came to the society's clothing center in Mishawaka on Miracle Lane in the Town & Country Shopping Centre on August 9 and 10, the week before schools opened. This is the 76th year the local chapter of the society has been helping to clothe children in need.

Qualifying families receive layettes for newborns, while children up to and including 14 years of age receive a new winter coat, hat, gloves or mittens, pants, a T-shirt (or a school uniform), a sweatshirt, athletic shoes, seven pairs of underwear and socks, a book, and dental supplies. Children may also obtain gently used clothing if their size is in stock.

Melissa Baltz, who is chapter Co-President along with Sue Seall, predicted that, at this rate, the organization likely will exceed its record number of children served, which was 4,500 last school year — 1,000 more than it had the year before.

With the number of clients growing, the Christ Child Society in 2020 was able to move its clothing center from the former St. Patrick's School building to a larger former retail building. Here, the members have developed a system that directs clients through the building quickly and easily to pick up the clothing.

Today's Catholic followed a mother of five as she obtained new clothing for her children. First, she received

a number based on when she arrived in the line at the front doors. She secured eighth place by showing up two-and-a-half hours before the center opened at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 10. Society members reported that some clients were in line at 4 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. opening on Wednesday, August 9, the first day of the new season.

To be eligible for the free winter clothing, families must have an income at or below 130 percent of the poverty level and be referred by a school, church, or social services agency. (To qualify for a newborn layette, mothers must be at or below 150 percent poverty level.)

The client first met with an interviewer, who checked her referral and identification and



Photos by Ann Carey

This school year, the Christ Child Society of South Bend expects to give out more than 5,000 coats to children in need. Coat room volunteers, from left, Laura Trippel, Susy Porter, Bette O'Malley, and Judy Farrell, display some of the coats with coordinating hats, gloves, or mittens.

then recorded information about her children's sizes.

With the interview complete, her information went out electronically to the various stations: new clothing, shoes, coats, and used clothing.

After a short wait, the mother was given a red canvas wagon for her shopping as she proceeded to the various clothing stations. There, volunteers had already filled and bagged her order. The last stop was checkout, where the client was given a book and dental supplies for each child. Near the checkout was a boutique where clients may take donated household goods or used clothing in adult sizes.

Of course, this efficiency requires many hands, and Baltz said the

system uses around 60 volunteers to keep the line of clients moving smoothly. Many of those volunteers come from the local society's membership of about 375, but other people also volunteer because they find it so rewarding to help clothe disadvantaged children.

Longtime Christ Child member Susan Wendowski began knitting baby layettes 30 years ago during the summers when she wasn't teaching. Now that she is retired, she can be what she calls a "Jack of all trades" at the clothing center.

As a public-school teacher, she said she witnessed the tragedy of children coming to school without adequate clothing, wearing shoes too small for them, and even without winter

coats in freezing weather.

"I always think: These, too, are Christ's children. ... What's the point of our faith if we aren't doing something? Jesus did things: He preached, but He did things, and that's what this is," Wendowski said.

Another volunteer said she sees many "God moments" at the clothing center, and she noted it is quite appropriate that the center is on Miracle Lane.

Society member Judy Farrell, who works in the coat room, told Today's Catholic how rewarding it is to see what the new clothing means to the families she sees. She is particularly moved to see the joy in the children who receive the clothing, recalling one 12-year-old who exclaimed, "This is the first new coat I've ever had!"

One key volunteer group is students, middle school through college, for they often help during evening hours when senior members may be reluctant to drive at night, or on Sundays when members may have family gatherings.

Many of those students continue to help even after graduation because they find the work so rewarding. Molly Killilea, a recent college graduate, said that she was motivated to volunteer by a friend who had enjoyed the experience, and by the fact that her grandmother, the late Diane Killilea, had been a Christ Child Society member.

Killilea said she likes to make connections with the families and see how excited the children get over their new clothes. "I remember when I was growing up getting a new pair of shoes for the school year, and I see that reflected in the kids here," she said.

With a \$550,000 annual clothing budget, the society's Clothing Committee uses creative methods to purchase quality clothing as reasonably as possible. They buy clearance items, use coupons, ask stores for overstock items, etc. Baltz said some local stores at times have even donated end-of-season items. Also, many volunteers knit and crochet at home and donate many hats, scarves, and mittens for older children, as well as baby items for the layettes.

The South Bend Chapter of Christ Child Society receives no government or United Way funding. It is funded entirely by donations, grants, and its annual fundraising events: "Let Love Shine" dinner auction, Annual Appeal Campaign, and Clothe a Child Paper Doll Drive.

For more information about joining or volunteering for the Christ Child Society of South Bend, email info@christchildsb.org or visit the website at christchildsb.org. The website also has a list of the multiple social service agencies that provide referrals.



Molly Killilea, a recent college graduate who works in the shoe room, was inspired to volunteer by a friend and by her late grandmother, Christ Child Society member Diane Killilea.



Clients are encouraged to take home one book for each child served by the Christ Child Society of South Bend.

The Christ Child Society receives

no government or

United Way funding.



Provided by Beth Bubik

Beth Bubik, known as the Catholic Fasting Coach, is the founder and CEO of a unique and fast-growing business that helps people lose weight and deepen their relationship with God through the Blessed Mother by teaching people how to spiritually fast. In her 12-week signature program, The Delay and Pray Group Coaching Experience, participants learn to delay food, or certain foods, for a period of time with a spiritual purpose.

Catholic Coach Extolls Spiritual, Physical Benefits of Fasting

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

St. Augustine said: “Fasting purifies the soul. It lifts up the mind, and it brings the body into subjection to the spirit. It makes the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of desire, puts out the flames of lust, and enkindles the true light of chastity.”

Reaching these depths of enlightenment requires physical and spiritual guidance – opportunities available with Beth Bubik, known as the Catholic Fasting Coach. She is the founder and CEO of this unique and fast-growing Catholic business that helps people lose weight and deepen their relationship with God through the Blessed Mother by teaching people how to spiritually fast. In her 12-week program, The Delay and Pray Group Coaching Experience, participants learn to delay food, or certain foods, for a period of time with a spiritual purpose. Bubik and her team are on a mission to bring one million Catholics back to the Catholic faith through spiritual fasting.

“The Blessed Mother is always pointing us to Jesus, and Jesus has a mission for me,” said Bubik, who has worked with devout Catholics and fallen away Catholics looking for a way to deepen their faith. “So many Catholic women want to lose weight and also want to spiritually fast, but they never thought of combining the two. This is the way that works.”

Bubik said the difference between dieting (obsessing with the exterior self) and spiritual fasting is the focus on interior self-improvement, transformation, and closeness with God as the exterior changes with time. This is all done

“Catholic coaching is still quite new and is the key to delaying what we desire, paired with sacramental attendance.”

– Beth Bubik

by utilizing our agency under the power of the Holy Spirit. The program focuses on delaying sugar, flour, and alcohol until Sundays while offering up the fast as a sacrifice for the intention of others and loving ourselves as God loves us while eating on an “eat, fast, feast cycle” every week. The key is Catholic coaching and becoming metabolically flexible over time.

“My clients find out it’s Catholic coaching, and they are intrigued,” Bubik said. “Catholic coaching is still quite new and is the key to delaying what we desire, paired with sacramental attendance. It is challenging, and guidance is needed, but when they start listening to the podcast and reading the blogs and start realizing that there is a way with God, they sign up and get started. With God’s help, we can do anything. It’s really about getting away from self-reliance, asking God into the struggle, and offering up your discomfort for others. It’s also about getting away from the diet mentality of being centered on just me and my bodily appearance. Instead, it’s a transformation of inviting the Lord into the weight struggle and literally embracing it as a weakness that the Lord can transform from the inside out. Scripture tells us that we are strong in our weaknesses because this is where we must rely on God. This is where He can show His power,” Bubik said. “Not only do my clients lose weight and deepen their

faith through the sacraments, but they start to learn to redirect their thoughts outward toward helping others.”

Within the program, Bubik teaches clients that high consumption of processed food, sugar, and white flour drives insulin levels up, causing hormone imbalance that leaves us experiencing a heightened desire for food and leads to overeating. This process is biological, neurological, and theological, affecting both body and soul.

“Why soul? Because sugar and flour drive gluttony and sloth, making it hard to physically or spiritually fast when stuck in this cycle of vice,” Bubik said.

Grace through the sacraments is imperative to finding success in the program, Bubik said.

“I encourage one or two daily Masses a week, weekly adoration, and monthly confession to start. Every year, we add a daily Mass along with 30 minutes of prayer every morning and night. I teach them about the body-soul composite and how our body and soul are integrated at every level. God wants us to be healthy in both body and soul. This is the way we can live out His mission with strength and endurance to finish the race.”

Bubik said she has come to realize that weight struggles are “a gift from God.” She added: “We can use all the suffering with weight loss to grow closer to God, grow in virtue, and help others. This is

about permanent weight loss through spiritual fasting, offering up this heart-wrenching struggle to God. ... This is about thought-work, which is where Catholic coaching comes in. I teach my clients about setting two goals that are basically the inspiration and motivation, or the ‘why that makes you cry.’ This is ultra-important to remember, because these goals will drive your desire to stay committed while you are going through this suffering in the first place,” said Bubik. “The first goal is a weight goal, while the second is a spiritual goal usually involving praying children or husbands back to Mass, unity in families, interceding for an immoral culture, and so much more. The goal of the course is to give Catholics inspiration to set impossible goals that seem impossible at first but when dreamed with God can be realized through grace from the sacraments and lots of hard work. Praying and fasting do indeed cast out demons. And this can be done in your own life, the life of our families, the Church, and the nation.”

As a practicing Catholic, Bubik said she has been elated at creating a business that allows her to build the Catholic economy with an ethical business for the people.

Bubik has a podcast called “Delay and Pray” and was a 2022 finalist in the Our Sunday Visitor Innovation Challenge, where she finished 11 out of 1,300 entries. Bubik has been featured on Danielle Bean’s

“Girlfriends Podcast,” Lisa Canning’s “Possibility Mom Show, The Catholic CEO,” and on Matt and Erin Ingold’s “The Catholic Coaching Podcast,” and many others.

“We have an event coming up in September called ‘Hungry for God.’ It is a virtual dinner party with guests who are experts at fasting and reaching for their dreams amongst struggles. I want people to dream with God again and to recognize that their weaknesses can work for them and not against them. I want them to get excited about being Catholic. We’re in a very difficult time right now in our Catholic Church. We’re in a difficult time in our nation, and in our economy, and I want people to not lose hope and get discouraged but to get excited about following the wishes of the Blessed Mother, who is always asking us to fast. We actually change the world for the better if we fast. There are other saints to follow, too, like Esther and Joan of Arc. We were born for a time like this, and we can learn to spiritually fast together as a community. I can teach you how to do that. Then we can go out into the world, and we can stand up for our faith in small but mighty ways,” Bubik said.

Bubik is writing a book that she hopes will be released this November. She will also continue growing her outreach efforts with events and church workshops as well as developing an app to stay connected to a wider audience.

To learn more about Bubik’s Catholic fasting program, visit thecatholicfastingcoach.com, listen to the podcast “Delay and Pray,” or visit @thecatholicfastingcoach on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

Area Colleges Help Students Continue Their Faith Journey

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Parents are the first teachers of the Faith for their children, guiding them with nightly prayer, participation in the sacraments, and attendance at weekly Mass. As young people become adults and head to college, they embark on a journey of newfound independence. Decisions about where to live, what area to study, and campus involvement are no longer made by loving parents. Neither is the decision to continue on in their faith journey. Young adults have to forge their own path and devotion to the Catholic Church, and many college and university campuses in northern Indiana offer organizations with active faith lives.

"The mission of the Newman Catholic Fellowship is to bring Christ to students of Trine, helping them strengthen their relationship to Christ and learn more about the Catholic faith," said Peter Klee, President of the Newman Catholic Fellowship at Trine University in Angola. "I would like members to learn more about the Catholic faith and grow closer to Christ during the influential college years of their life, as well as meeting other people their age striving to strengthen their faith."

The group has weekly meetings that include a free home-cooked meal and lively



Photos provided by Peter Klee

Students from the Newman Catholic Fellowship at Trine University pose for a picture after Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola.

discussions on Church teachings, Scripture, or other topics related to faith. Monthly, the group joins St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church across the street from the campus for a student Mass, which is followed by pizza and fellowship.

Catholic students can attend weekly and daily Mass at St. Anthony's, where students will

sit together and socialize afterwards. Other available activities are game nights and trips to nearby Catholic locations, such as the Our Lady, Patroness of America Center in Rome City.

"On September 8 this year, Newman Catholic Fellowship is partnering with St. Anthony's for a Eucharistic procession and adoration," Klee said. "The

event will start with Mass at 6 p.m. at St. Anthony's, followed by a procession to Trine's Fabiani Theatre for a night of adoration and worship." Klee added that "game nights are frequent on campus, held by members of the club. Newman Catholic Fellowship hosts an annual broomball game inside Thunder Ice Arena, Trine's

hockey stadium. Each semester, the group hosts a bake sale at St. Anthony's as a fundraiser for us."

According to Klee, Newman Catholic Fellowship welcomes any Trine student, regardless of their religious beliefs. To learn more, send an email to trinewman@gmail.com.

At Purdue University Fort Wayne, the Student Catholic Mastodon group is an organization that celebrates and embraces a student's Catholic faith on campus.

The mission or goal of the group is "to bring together interested Catholic and non-Catholic students, faculty, and staff to provide opportunities for growth, prayer, workshop, and community-building," said Alice Jordan-Miles, the group's Faculty Adviser. The group also aims to "provide information on Catholic teachings, practices, and beliefs to interested students, faculty, and staff," she said.

Resources available to students include weekly Mass, monthly confession, and community gatherings. On campus, students are invited to pizza parties and movie-watching nights.

Jordan-Miles said she hopes students find an encouraging sense of community and strong support and encouragement for one's Catholic faith while in college. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact her at jordana@pfw.edu or by phone at 260-481-4184.

St. Monica Couples Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversaries

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

Janet Lattrez met her husband, Eric, when they were on a November trip with a Catholic young adult club. He was sitting in the front seat on the bus, and she joined him to say hi. The rest is history. The two were engaged three months later in February and married that summer, in August of 1973.

Eric and Janet Lattrez, as well as another couple, Craig and Karen Baldini, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries on Friday, August 18. Both couples were married on the same day, and both couples now attend St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka. The Lattrezes and Baldinis renewed their wedding vows at their home parish after the vigil Mass on Saturday, August 19.

Both couples met in the South Bend area, where they have lived most of their lives. Craig and Karen Baldini's relationship began right after high school (they were married soon after), but their story began even earlier. "We grew up in the same neighborhood and

knew each other most of our lives," Karen said. "I always say I married the cutest boy in the neighborhood," she said with a laugh. "He lived behind me and down two houses."

Craig Baldini had gone to grade school at St. Monica Catholic Church, and his family had attended the church his whole life. When the two were married, Karen was and always had been Episcopalian. When Karen converted to Catholicism four years into their marriage, partly due to the witness of Craig's family, she in turn bore witness to her husband, who became more invested in their home church and the Faith. Karen is grateful to Craig's family as well as women at St. Monica's for their support of her as a young bride and mother, and for encouraging her in the Catholic faith. Craig and Karen have attended St. Monica Catholic Church ever since.

Eric and Janet Lattrez met in a group of Catholic young adults. Their Catholic adult club fostered more marriages than just their own. Janet recalled other couples from the group that were married in the area

and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries this year, as well.

Eric and Janet were both working when they met and got married – he in manufacturing and she in teaching, a career she would keep throughout her life. During their whirlwind courtship, Janet was in school, traveling abroad, and planning the wedding, and the two were both working full-time as well as designing and hiring a company to build their house. The house was done a week before the wedding. "It was the fastest house they ever built," Janet said.

Janet taught at several different Catholic schools in the area during her career, and the couple attended several different Catholic churches in the area, from St. Matthew Cathedral, where they were married, to St. Monica, where they attend currently.

When looking back at how people in the church have viewed marriage throughout her lifetime, Karen Baldini said she has seen an increase



Kasia Balsbaugh

Father Jason Freiburger, left, and Father Toby Agha officiate at the renewal of wedding vows for the 50th wedding anniversaries of Eric and Janet Lattrez and Craig and Karen Baldini at St. Monica Church in Mishawaka on Saturday, August 19. Both couples were married on August 18, 1973.

'Totus, Totus, Totus!': A Reminder and a Correction

Allow me to start this column repeating three times a word many Catholics know or have heard: "totus, totus, totus."

It means "everyone" – no exceptions.

It evokes wholeness and communion.

If at any point we find ourselves searching for a word capable of capturing what it means to be Catholic Christians, "totus" may be that word. It is a term impregnated with universality and a radical invitation toward embracing, in one breath, everyone and everything that exists.

I am still processing the electrifying moment when Pope Francis said in his native Spanish, "todos, todos, todos" during the opening ceremony for the 2023 World Youth Day in front of hundreds of thousands of young people from every corner of the planet gathered in Lisbon.

It was one of Pope Francis' clearest moments in his pontificate, calling all Catholics to remember who we are and what it means to be Church.

The pope insisted: "There is room for everyone. Everyone. In the Church, no one is left out or left over. There is room for everyone. Just the way we are. Everyone. Jesus says this clearly."

More electrifying, however, was the roar of the multitude echoing the triadic mantra in

their own languages at the pope's invitation: todos, todos, todos; everyone, everyone, everyone. Our young Catholics spoke, guided by the Holy Spirit, in unison with the successor of Peter.

We live in a world marked by tenacious battles aiming to include and exclude. Individuals, organizations, institutions, nations, and powers fight to set rigorous criteria about who belongs and who does not belong – who gets access to be in and who stays out. Those excluded struggle for survival and (whenever possible) a place at fellowship.

Instead of acknowledging that life constantly unfolds at the crossroads of difference and the astounding array of ways in which human beings actually live out their existence, our contemporaries are enmeshed in ideological battles that divide, hurt, and sometimes kill.

Then, we hear our Catholic youth clamoring in one voice: totus, totus, totus. Such clamoring is not mere wishful thinking. It is a reminder and a correction. A reminder of God's original project for the Church – that the Gospel of Jesus is about welcoming, not excluding. It is a correction of course, especially when talk about exclusion enters our faith communities, our schools, and even our own families.

To be a Catholic Christian



HOSFFMAN OSPINO

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

must not be considered analogous to proving worth in order to join a membership club with a particular label (e.g., traditional, progressive). Sometimes we forget this. Despite our differences and opinions (and the daily struggle to make sense of the mystery of being human), ecclesial communion, for all the baptized, is our de facto starting point – we are already in! Communion is a permanent invitation.

Of course, there is sin and the possibility of someone intentionally opting out of ecclesial communion. Yet, the doors to forgiveness and reconciliation are always open. Ours is a Church with room for everyone: "totus, totus, totus."

Hosffman Ospino is a Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College.

Patient Hearts and Horse Dreams

There's something about girls and horses.

Call it a sweeping generalization, sure, but it often holds true. While boys dream of faster forms of transit – racecars, rocket ships – girls prefer to amble along on a four-legged friend. While boys fantasize about making the major leagues, girls harbor another ambition: to one day own a horse.

Every summer, horse camps fill up with girls. They are drawn to the massive, mystical mammals, somehow sensing that a form of therapy is available on their backs. Preteen troubles can be smoothed out with a curry comb.

This summer, I observed a horse camp in rural Minnesota, where suburban girls donned boots and jeans, not a cellphone in sight. Each girl was assigned to a horse for the week, and no sooner were the pairings announced did that horse become hers.

All was well with the world. After 51 weeks of longing – of remembering and dreaming and waiting – this was the week where dreams and reality aligned.

The Caldecott-winning illustrator Susan Jeffers turned that longing into art with her 2003 book "My Pony." It chronicles a girl's wish for a horse, which her parents cannot afford or lodge. Instead, she draws pictures of a dappled mare named Silver, then fantasizes about



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

riding it through the woods in the moonlight.

"My earliest memories are about wanting a horse," Jeffers writes in the author's note at the end of the book. "But what to do with all that longing?"

Her answer is unflinching.

"I think if I had gotten my wish for a horse, I may not have found my love for drawing," she writes. "My pencil and paints became the vehicle to my life of fantasy horses. My pencil seemed fueled by the desire to be with those exquisite animals."

The absence of horses made space for the art that became a fulfilling career. The horses would come. As an adult, Jeffers rode horses daily – just as surely as she drew.

I've been thinking about dreams deferred. The end of summer calls them to mind, that bittersweet time when a new school year encroaches on the vast freedom of summer. Did we do all the things? Did we make all the memories?

August brings a reckoning,

CAPECCI, page 17

Those Who Truly Believe in God Endure Much



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 16:21-27

The Book of Jeremiah provides this weekend's first reading. Since Jeremiah was the son of a priest, Hilkiyah, he almost was reared amid great devotion to Hebrew religious tradition. A prophet for two generations, he unfailingly was outspoken, easily provoking opposition and controversy. Angry listeners even threatened to kill him!

Undaunted, he ignored all these criticisms, but only in the process of reinforcing, and repeating, his denunciations of all that was occurring around him, but insisting that he had

no other choice if he were to be faithful to his role as a prophet. He earnestly believed God had called him to the role of prophet.

He boldly spoke out for obedience to God and let the chips fall.

Yet, even in this conviction, he did not fail personally to say that he had resisted the divine call and frankly admitted that pursuing the call given him by God created all the misery and abuse that he experienced. Nevertheless, he never renounced his calling.

As other prophets, he saw human misfortune ultimately as the result of human sin. He bluntly told the people that their disloyalty to God would reap for them the whirlwind.

Jeremiah is regarded as one of the Major Prophets. It is no wonder. The Book of Jeremiah is long in length, but the prophet's eloquence, drawn from his deep faith, makes it outstanding.

Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. In this reading, Paul pleaded with his readers, the Christian Romans, to offer "their bodies

as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God." The language was very relevant indeed for the Roman Christians. The culture around them seethed with hedonism and gross sexual license. To be true to the Gospel, Christians had to exercise virtuous restraint.

Looming ahead in not too much time was actual persecution. Being a Christian soon became a capital crime, as Paul's own martyrdom would show. Christians would have to pay for their faith by surrendering their own bodies for torture and execution under terrifying circumstances.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend presents a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel. It is a continuation of the reading from Matthew last week.

In this story, the Apostles remain with the Lord at Caesarea Philippi, the place that now is something of a resort, at the beginning of the Jordan River north of the Sea of Galilee. Earlier, the reading recalled Peter's fervent proclamation that he believed that Jesus was

the "Son of the living God." It was a glorious proclamation, and it raised the image of the Lord's glory and triumph. Easily following this image was the thought of victory over evil and oppressive forces, and vindication after suffering.

Jesus warned and indeed insisted that true followers of the Gospel must themselves endure much. They would have to carry their crosses in the footprints of Christ the crucified.

Reflection

Many, many centuries have passed since the time when Jeremiah wrote, and almost 20 centuries have come and gone since the preaching of Jesus. While times have changed, little basically in human experience fundamentally has changed since human nature has not changed.

Sin still lures humans into confusion and heartache, and indeed even into a state of eternal death. Sin leads to further sin. Our sinfulness disorders our lives. Human sin deforms our entire world.

Christians must live amid this distortion and chronic sin.

Therefore, it is important for us to realize that these ancient Scriptures have a relevance and immediacy for us.

To the point, sin brings to us nothing good. It brings loss of eternity, of course, but also disorder and often heartbreak in this life. Jeremiah told his contemporaries to obey God for their own sake. It was the message of Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2-6, 8-9

Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18 Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13 Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8 Ps 52:10-11 Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14 Ps 98:2-6 Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 13:6abc Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Saturday: Col 1:21-23 Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8 Lk 6:1-5

Catholic Media Use on the Upswing

The good news today is that Catholics are still reading, listening, and watching Catholic materials. The better news is that the numbers who are reading, listening, and watching have been going up.

The bad news, of course, is that it isn't everybody.

Catholic statistics of all sorts have been trending downward for years, highlighting a frustrating decline in sacramental practice and attendance. Only 21 percent of Catholics are attending Mass weekly or more. In fact, 53 percent of self-identified Catholics go to Mass only a few times a year or not at all.

Yet a new survey by the premier Catholic research institution known familiarly as CARA (the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) shows that Catholics are accessing Catholic materials at a significantly higher rate than when the survey was last taken in 2011.

Here is some of what the CARA survey is telling us:

Watching religious or spiritual video content nearly doubled from 24 percent in 2011 to 45 percent in 2023. (Thank you, "Chosen.")

Listening to religious or spiritual audio content more than doubled from 13 percent to 29 percent. (Thank you, Bishop Robert Barron and Father Mike Schmitz.)

Reading a print or e-version of a religious or spiritual book also jumped, as did the purchasing of these materials. (Thank you, Catholic publishers, for hanging in there!)

When it comes to news-

papers, the numbers are also heartening. The reading of print copies of magazines or newspapers has stayed flat at 18 percent, but reading a newspaper or magazine online jumped from 3 percent to 13 percent. A total of 21 percent get information about the Church from print or online newspapers. Only parish bulletins or word of mouth rank higher.

For all the chancery naysayers who repeat the cliché that print is dead and urge the killing of the newspaper or magazine to save money, the survey may be a disappointment. But for Church leaders

committed to keeping Catholics both inspired and informed, it is validation that a both/and approach to communications remains the recipe: Print plus online plus social media.

The survey also underscores a fact often missing when talking about the cost of a diocesan

publication. The most faithful and dedicated Catholics read and rely on them.

CARA found that 62 percent of weekly Mass attenders believe the print version of their diocesan newspaper or magazine is an essential part of how the diocese communicates. Sixty percent of monthly Mass attenders responded similarly. And "54 percent of weekly attenders agree that they would be upset by any suggestion that their diocese stop producing a print version of its publication. Fifty-three percent of monthly attenders responded as such," the report said.

Only 55 percent of Catholics



GREG ERLANDSON

AMID THE FRAY

regularly contribute to the parish offertory collection. While CARA did not specifically ask this question, my guess is that the largest percentage of those donors would be those weekly attendees and media readers.

The survey recognizes that there are a wide range of Catholic communication efforts, from websites, social media and blogs, to television, radio, video, print, and online. The number of Catholics actively practicing their faith may be in slow decline, but those who are committed are relying now more than ever on Catholic media.

The takeaways are this: Church leaders should want to be in the game, not standing on the sidelines while others control the messaging. And they should also want to be committed to providing resources of high quality because it maintains their connection with their most committed parishioners. This isn't their only audience, and newspapers and magazines are not their only tools, but they remain essential in a world where secular mass communications are becoming more sophisticated and, too often, more manipulative.

When weighing the cost of their media efforts, dioceses should make sure the mission value of these investments makes it into their spreadsheets as well.

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

CAPECCHI, from page 16

revealing the gaps between our hopes and realities.

I believe God places dreams on our hearts with purpose. They are not wrong or selfish. They come from the Creator, and their intensity emboldens us, just as they propelled the great artists, explorers, and saints.

But some dreams are not meant to be realized today or this year or ever, even – at least not in the way we envision. We cannot know the reasons, but we can trust that God will do something special with the unfulfilled spots in our heart. Something new.

Maybe we're not ready yet.

Perhaps God is quietly preparing us – equipping us through unwelcome trials, leading us to other loves first, introducing us to helpers, teaching us through the waiting.

Father Ron Rolheiser gave a name to the stirrings of the heart: "the holy longing." They are a sign of a fruitful spiritual life, placing us on the path intended by God. A beginning.

"Long before we do anything explicitly religious at all, we have to do something about the fire that burns within us," Father Rolheiser writes in his bestselling book "The Holy Longing."

"What we do with that fire, how we channel it," he added,

"is our spirituality."

The holy longings are leading us somewhere. And the dreams we cannot realize today may be sweeter later.

"There is a time for everything," Scripture promises.

As summer gives way to fall, the lush greens fading into ambers and rusts, may we too find peace in the waiting, being patient with the parts that are unresolved, trusting that something beautiful is at work.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 3, 2023

Matthew 16:21-27

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: Jesus predicts his Passion. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

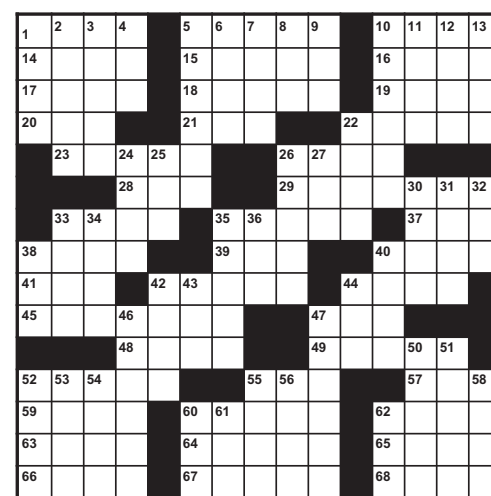
JESUS BEGAN
SUFFER
ASIDE
GET BEHIND ME
DENY
WORLD
ANGELS

TO SHOW
ELDERS
REBUKE
SATAN
CROSS
FORFEIT
GLORY

JERUSALEM
THIRD DAY
HAPPEN
HUMAN
LOSE IT
SON OF MAN
REPAY

WHAT MUST BE

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ACROSS

- 1 "Blessed is the fruit of your ____"
- 5 Number of days from Easter to Pentecost
- 10 Crustacean
- 14 Wading bird
- 15 Lend ____
- 16 In this place
- 17 US government disaster agency
- 18 Former Russian rulers
- 19 Anger
- 20 "His ____ is on the Sparrow"
- 21 Hairy Addams cousin
- 22 Magician who wanted to buy the gift of God's power in Acts
- 23 Not Gomorrah
- 26 Knocks on the head
- 28 Gaslight, for one
- 29 Rudimentary component
- 33 Deride
- 35 Water holes
- 37 Avian migration form
- 38 Collars
- 39 Snakelike fish
- 40 Type of trombone mute

DOWN

- 41 Golfer's aid
- 42 Burlap
- 44 Bits of thread
- 45 Gaunt
- 47 It precedes Eph
- 48 The ____ Family
- 49 Young hooter
- 52 Zechariah was the first person in the New Testament to see this
- 55 OT prophetic book
- 57 Biennial games org.
- 59 Thick fabric
- 60 Of sedate character
- 62 Home of the Taj Mahal
- 63 Defeat decisively
- 64 Multitude
- 65 Storage place (abbr.)
- 66 Hep
- 67 Of Nordic stock
- 68 English public school

DOWN

- 1 Priscilla, to Aquila
- 2 Follows orders
- 3 Xerox predecessor
- 4 Young men's org.
- 5 Our Lady of ____

- 6 Learning ctr.
- 7 Noteworthy achievement
- 8 Complete a street
- 9 Jr. and sr.
- 10 Perfumed oil, consecrated by the bishop
- 11 500 sheets
- 12 Jason's ship
- 13 Part of verb "to be"
- 22 *Gaudium et ____*
- 24 They have coming out parties
- 25 Smelter input
- 26 Fish part for Jonah
- 27 ____ Saints' Day
- 30 Designer Piccone
- 31 US Speaker of the House and convert to Catholicism
- 32 Pekoe
- 33 Greek goddess of the earth
- 34 "____ your pardon"
- 35 Sister ____, hermit, consecrated virgin and art historian
- 36 Even (poet.)
- 38 Utmost
- 40 Free ____
- 42 London jail
- 43 E-mail datum, perhaps
- 44 Ezra read this to the people (with "The")
- 46 Impoverished neighborhood
- 47 ____ calf
- 50 Number of humans in Noah's ark
- 51 Trunk of the human body
- 52 Hairstyle
- 53 Night light
- 54 Sate
- 55 The Blessed Mother
- 56 Verdi opera
- 58 City in Northwest France
- 60 ____ Na Na
- 61 Rocky pinnacle
- 62 Fear of the Lord

Answer key can be found on page 19



Provided by Eric and Janet Lattrez

Eric and Janet Lattrez on their wedding day, August 18, 1973. The two were married at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.



Provided by Craig and Karen Baldini

Craig and Karen Baldini on their wedding day at St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka, August 18, 1973.

COUPLES, from page 15

in young people in the church community who take marriage seriously. "I see these young couples that are courting and together, so not of the secular world," she said. She added, "I think before, people always got married for love, but they didn't think so much about whether your partner was faithful to God and going to church. Not just, 'I really like this guy,' ... but more, 'this is who God has chosen for me.'" She said this observation is "very heartening," and that it "makes your heart smile to see people going at it in the way

God wanted you to do it."

As for marriage advice, Eric and Janet Lattrez tell married couples to simply "do things" together. "Go on vacations and things in your marriage when you can do them," Janet said. Not even having their son stopped the Lattrezes from traveling – they just took him with them on their vacations.

Craig and Karen Baldini grew into their faith lives together, and they believe that if you can begin marriage in union with God, it provides a strong foundation for a relationship and helps prepare couples for whatever might come their way.



Coordinator of High School and Catechetical Ministries

Under the direction of the pastor, this coordinator is responsible for the ongoing management of the catechetical and spiritual formation with primary focus on high school and secondary focus on adult parishioners. While this position may perform some events directly, the position will more often coach and oversee teams who assist with the various ministries.

Essential Functions/Job Responsibilities:

- Oversee and direct CORE teams for youth ministry and adult groups with emphasis on high school youth ministry
- Organize bi-annual summer high school retreat (Damascus, Steubenville, NCYC, etc.)
- Interface with junior high youth ministry and assist with annual Confirmation Retreat Day
- Interface with children's ministries such as Vacation Bible School and Mass readings for children
- Assist with Religious Education two Sunday mornings to open, close, and substitute teach
- Assist with preparing an annual calendar of events and liturgies such as HS graduation Mass

Specific Job Skills/Qualifications:

- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills including public speaking
- Ability to foster trust and respect among parish staff and volunteer teams
- Collaborative work style, initiative, and flexibility

Preferred Education and Experience:

- A degree in teaching, catechesis, theology, religious education, or related field is helpful
- Live according to tenets, teaching, and practice of the Catholic faith
- Model Catholic and Gospel values as basis of actions
- Support and foster Catholic identity

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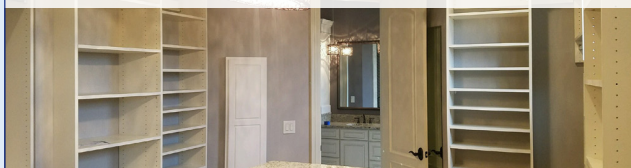
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

St. Patrick Summer Festival
SOUTH BEND — St. Patrick Parish, 331 S. Scott St., will have a Summer Festival from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, with live music by the CMR Band, a beer and wine beverage center, and \$16 meals of chicken, pulled pork, or Vietnamese dinners. Also offered will be Bruno's Pizza for \$3, pulled pork, and Polish sausage sandwiches for \$6. Contact Karen Horvath at 574-339-2375 or niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com for information.

Vespers in the Classical Roman Rite
MISHAWAKA — An evening of praying the psalms on the feast of St. Augustine together with the Saint Hildegard Project Choir will be held on Monday, August 28, from 7-8 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 220 W. Fourth St. It was St. Augustine who said, "Cantare amantis est" (Singing is for the one who loves). Contact Jerome Cole at 574-255-6134 or jcole@stjoemish.com.

Mass for the Return of Adult Children to the Faith
SOUTH BEND — A special Mass on the feast of St. Augustine will be offered to pray for the return of adult children to the Faith. Father William Orbih will preside and preach at this special Mass on

Monday, August 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Little Flower Church. After Mass, a Rosary will be prayed for this same intention. All are welcome. Sponsored by RETURN, an outreach of Ablaze Mission and Marriage & Family Ministry: ablazemission.org/return. For more information, contact Sean Allen at sallen@ablazemission.org or Lisa Everett at leverett@diocesefwsb.org.

St. Rose Church Fall Rummage Sale
MONROEVILLE — St. Rose Church will host a fall rummage sale on Thursday, September 7, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday, September


REST IN PEACE

Auburn Becky Derrow, 90, Immaculate Conception	Gary L. Meyer, 74, SS. Peter and Paul	John Christianson, 82, St. Joseph
Fort Wayne Rosemary Sweet, 95, St. Charles Borromeo	Dennis W. Michnal, 81, SS. Peter and Paul	Patricia DeMeester, 93, St. Joseph
Jeanne Woods, 77, St. Charles Borromeo	Monroeville Thelma Gerardot, 82, St. Rose of Lima	Daniel Votava, 36, St. Joseph
Herbert Chandler, 89, St. Vincent de Paul	Carl Sheehan, 83, St. Rose of Lima	South Bend Ted Buday, 85, Cathedral of St. Matthew
Huntington Sister Regina Marie Morrissey, OLVM, 94, Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel	Mishawaka Janice Bendix, 81, Queen of Peace	Joseph Dundon, 79, Holy Cross
	Roderick Church, 74, Queen of Peace	Steve Hinora, Sr., 90, St. Jude
	Charles Mahank, 83, St. Bavo	

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.

8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Hall at 208 Summit St. For information, contact Karen Castleman at 260-623-6439 or strosemonroeville@outlook.com. Proceeds will benefit St. Rose of Lima Catholic School.

St. Vincent de Paul Stores Need Donations
FORT WAYNE — Donations are always accepted for cars, trucks, and vans. Donations are tax deductible. Call 260-456-3561 for pick up or drop off at the store, 1600 S. Calhoun St.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School Math Teacher

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Fort Wayne is seeking a dynamic Middle School Math Teacher to join the middle school faculty and math program. The school seeks a candidate with strong math skills, experience, and differentiated instruction. This candidate will work collaboratively with the other middle school math teacher. This is a full-time position.

Licensed Resource Teacher

- Coach/mentor other professionals/peers who work with children with disabilities
- Collaborate with the support staff (e.g. school counselors and speech therapists) to create holistic intervention plans
- Work on a regular basis with the school's LEA to coordinate child studies, case conferences, and annual case reviews
- Coordinate all team meetings regarding student concerns (parents, classroom teachers, support staff, LEA)
- Serve as a liaison between parents, classroom teachers, and outside resources
- Provide direct instruction to students
- Create data-driven lessons that support individual learning
- Provide ongoing progress monitoring on students' goals

This is a full-time position.

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SHARE, from page 1

that provide full, dignity-filled lives for God's children.

"The people here inspire me," Father Blaney said. "Here they have responsibility; we have them do things they wouldn't have the chance to do otherwise." He said many villagers love knowing they can ride the tractor and do lawn work. Two hundred walnut trees were hand-planted by Father Blaney to provide a food source and income stream for the villagers.

"People here like each other, and that's what we want is for everyone to have continued friendship with each other," said Father Blaney, a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary.

According to its website, the residents work on the grounds five days a week, keeping Sharing Meadows beautiful and clean. When they are not at work, the residents are free to relax at home, spend time in town, or do whatever they choose. Stewards are always with the residents to provide companionship and guidance, and also to help the villagers meet their personal goals. The domestic environment is a unique opportunity for residents to live as independently as possible while being supported in a family-like surrounding. Each home consists of a kitchen, living room, laundry/utility room, dining room, bedroom with attached bath for the steward, two separate bedrooms (one per villager), and a bathroom that villagers share.

Harmon said that the SHARE Foundation receives no government support and gets funding for Sharing Meadows through fundraising and donations. The generosity of others provides the homes and services at no cost to the residents. "We don't charge the family," Harmon said.

Sharing Meadows also offers camps for individuals and families looking for short stays away from home. The camps offer a safe environment where other-abled adults can discover and develop as they strive to reach their full potential. Campers have fun while learning faith-based values, participating in arts and crafts, swimming, learning about animals with equestrian and therapy dogs, and participating in a musical theater performance. It is the starting point for many villagers to see if independent living is the right fit for them.

"Camp allows you to live out that life on a temporary basis," Harmon said.

Laura has been living at Sharing Meadows for 13 years and loves living on the grounds. She came to the community after her father passed away.

"I love about everything," said Laura. "I love it out here. They are kind to me."

Laura is an artist who loves to color, knit, and attend Mass. She has participated in the Special Olympics in swimming and bowling, advancing to state

in Terre Haute, winning a gold medal in bowling and a silver medal in swimming.

The amazing workers and volunteers are the backbone of the organization and one of the key reasons for its success.

"My team is really amazing and full of caring individuals," Harmon said.

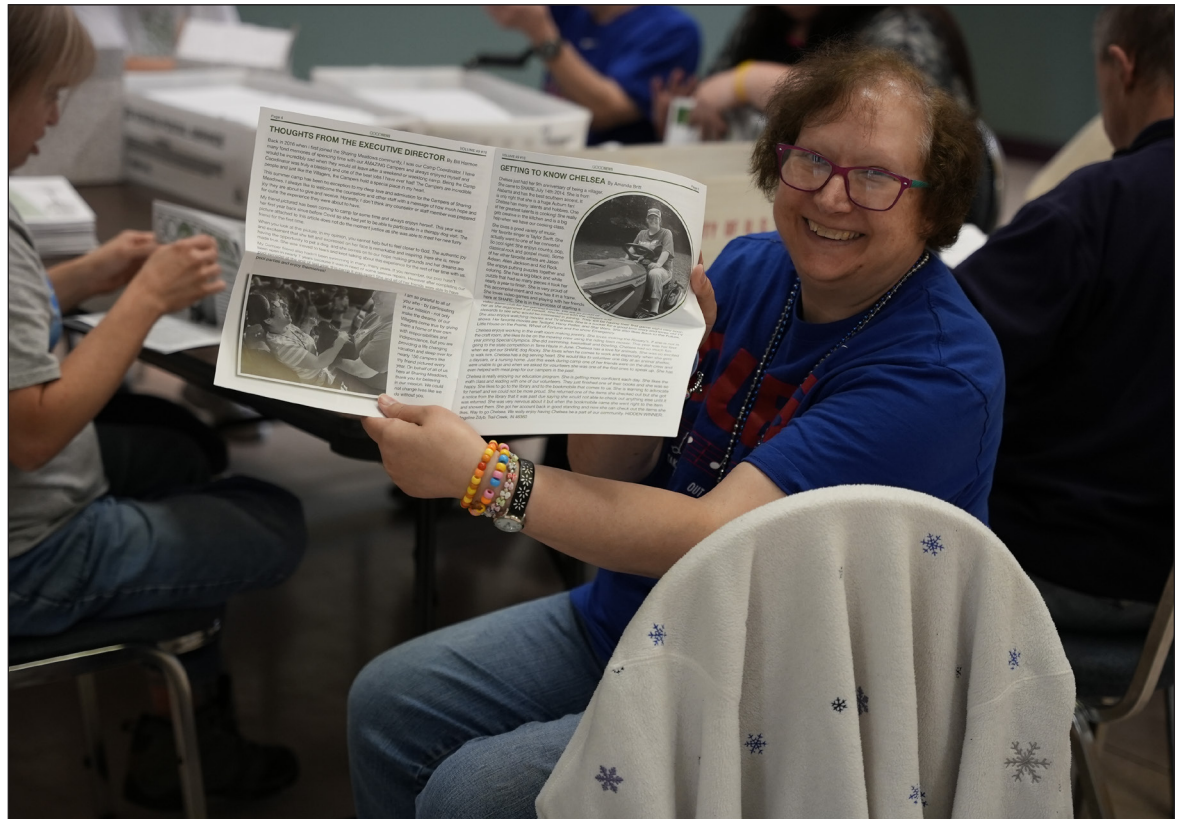
Sister Theopista of the Sisters of St. Joseph works at Sharing Meadows and loves the opportunity to connect with the villagers. Each day, they watch "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy" together, and she is amazed at how the villagers always know the answers to the puzzles and questions so quickly.

"When I teach a villager something, I actually learn more from them," Sister Theopista said.

Harmon is proud of the work being done at Sharing Meadows and the strong friendships among the villagers.

"I hope it provides a life of independence they have always dreamed of," Harmon said. "We really try to make their dreams come true."

To learn more, visit sharefoundation.org.



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

Sharing Meadows resident Laura holds up a recent edition of the "Good News" newsletter on Tuesday, August 15. One of her responsibilities at the residential facility in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, is helping to fold and stuff monthly newsletters. Laura, who has lived at Sharing Meadows for 13 years, is a proud member of the SHARE Foundation, a not-for-profit, privately funded Christian organization with a mission to provide residential living, services, and support programs for other-abled adults in a peaceful and loving Midwestern community.



Father Dennis Blaney, Founder and President of the SHARE Foundation, hugs Barb, a resident at Sharing Meadows on Tuesday, August 15. Father Blaney, a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary, founded the organization.



Bill Harmon, Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation, poses with David, a resident at Sharing Meadows, who shows off the rosaries he made in one of the craft rooms on Tuesday, August 15. The resident-made rosaries can be purchased at sharefoundation.org.



One of the ways villagers at Sharing Meadows spend each day is by working in the craft rooms creating various wood, ceramic, sewing, soap, rosary, and cooking products to earn money for various activities. This lavender soap from their spa line of products is available at sharefoundation.org.