

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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**Couples Celebrate
Jubilee Anniversaries
at Special Mass**

Page 2

**Local Parishes to
Venerate Relic
of St. Jude**

Page 4

**Eucharistic Revival
Launches Small-
Group Program
for Parishes**

Page 5

**Ten Things to Know
about the Synod
in Rome**

Pages 9-10

**Meet Four NFP
Instructors Serving
in the Diocese**

Page 11

125 Years of Faith and Community: Most Precious Blood Celebrates Storied Legacy

BY KATIE MURRAY



Katie Murray

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 11043 serve brunch during the celebration of Most Precious Blood Parish's 125th anniversary, which took place during the weekend of September 16-17 and included the parish's annual Fun Fest, tours of the school and bowling alley, and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades.

Amid the joyous celebration of its 125th anniversary, Most Precious Blood Parish and School in Fort Wayne took a nostalgic journey through its rich history on Saturday, September 16, and Sunday, September 17, reflecting on its origins and the tireless efforts of its founders. The occasion was marked by games of pickleball, an open house, the annual Fun Fest hosted by the Home and School Association, a silent auction, dinner and a dance for adults, and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades, which was followed by a brunch hosted by the Knights of Columbus. All of the events of the weekend were filled with gratitude and remembrance.

Attendees at the open house had the chance to reminisce through the displays of photo albums of years past, yearbooks, and a guided tour from current students.

The history of Most Precious Blood Parish, which opened in 1897 and established its school in 1898, traces back to a time when the Catholic community in northern Indiana was rapidly growing because of the immigration of Germans and

PRECIOUS BLOOD, page 16

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Couples Mark Special Jubilee Anniversaries

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

With joyful enthusiasm, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a special Wedding Anniversary Mass honoring dozens of married couples at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, September 10.

Emphasizing the special graces given to husbands and wives through the Sacrament of Matrimony, he reminded couples that the sacrament is intended "to perfect the couple's love and strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace, they help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children," Bishop Rhoades said.

Present at this special Mass were 41 married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries: four marking their 25th anniversary, 15 celebrating their 50th, seven their 60th, and four their 65th. Bishop Rhoades thanked these couples for their witness of fidelity and reminded them that since their wedding day, God has been giving His grace to strengthen and persevere their marriages in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.

"Christ dwells with couples who receive this sacrament, giving them the strength to take up their crosses and follow Him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another's burdens, and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love," Bishop Rhoades said. "This is what we are celebrating today – the Lord has dwelt with our anniversary couples through all these years. He has sustained and strengthened their marriages. And they have opened their hearts to the Lord's grace that they have received and continue to receive in the Sacrament of Matrimony."

Recognizing the societal challenges and trends showing steep declines in the number of people getting married, Bishop Rhoades shared details of his recent conversations with young adults in the diocese. "These young people were practicing Catholics and were very open to the vocation of marriage," Bishop Rhoades said, "but they shared with me that many of their peers were not. I asked why and received a variety of answers: some because they were afraid of making a lifetime commitment, others didn't think marriage would be happy and fulfilling, and still others questioned the value of marriage itself. But the underlying problem, it seems, was an attitude of individualism, to see self-giving love in marriage as something negative and restrictive."



Photos by Christopher Lushis

Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries, along with their families, listen to Bishop Rhoades' homily during a special Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, September 10.

In response, Bishop Rhoades said he "invited these young adults to consider how this way of thinking relates to the call of Christian discipleship, and particularly Jesus' words in last Sunday's Gospel where Jesus said, 'For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.' This is the Christian paradox. The sacrifices that come with marriage (or with ordination, or religious life for that matter) are really life-giving. I invited the young people to consider how the limitations to one's individual freedom that come with marriage actually open one to a greater freedom – the freedom to love."

Pointing to the many sacramentally married couples in attendance whose years of love in exclusive service to one another have deepened their mutual love, Bishop Rhoades said: "It's love that makes life fulfilling, that satisfies the deepest longings of our heart. When we lose our life, we find it; when we find love, we find life. I'm sure our anniversary couples can testify to the truth of this logic – the logic of Jesus, the logic of love, of gift, and sacrifice. In a concrete way, they have offered their lives for the good of each other and their families. And even amid the hardships and challenges that are part of life, they know the interior joy and peace that comes from love, that comes from God. Ultimately, it is the love of God that gives the deepest meaning and purpose to our lives."

He concluded by reminding



Bishop Rhoades poses for a picture with Donald and Katherine Keefer, parishioners at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in May.

those at the Mass that the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony "is a journey with a destination: heaven! Your task in marriage is to help each other get to heaven. Of course, you need nourishment and strength for this journey, that's why you are here today, and why we celebrate your anniversaries at the banquet feast of the Eucharist, the holy body and blood of the Lord, the sacrament of Christ's love. My dear couples, may Jesus in the holy Eucharist increase your love and strengthen you on your journey to heaven!"

Following the homily, all the jubilee anniversary couples were invited to stand, join their hands, and renew their marriage vows. First the husbands, then the wives, then each couple together prayerfully

renewed their commitment of marriage with and for one another. Bishop Rhoades then imparted upon these couples a special blessing.

After Mass, a reception was held where the couples were able to meet Bishop Rhoades and share details of their marital and family journeys with him.

Paul and Jackie Oberhausen, who celebrated their 40th anniversary on May 21, joked with Bishop Rhoades about "turning 40" before him, since he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priesthood on July 9 of this year. The Oberhausens, parishioners at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, have seven children on earth, six in heaven, and 18 grandchildren, with one currently in the womb and five in heaven.

Donald and Katherine Keefer celebrated 65 years of marriage on May 3. Katherine remarked that she "doesn't know where the time has gone!" Originally from Huntington, they were married at SS. Peter and Paul, and over the many years have been blessed with six children, 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Now they are parishioners at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne but also frequently attend Masses at St. Joseph in Roanoke. Katherine mentioned that Donald had spent several years in seminary before they started dating. She said cheerfully, "I wanted to get to heaven!" And he had the same goal, as well. It continues to be their goal together, as she remarked with a smile, "hanging onto his coattails, I hope I get up there!"



Photos by Bethany Beebe

Individuals connected to Our Lady of Good Hope School in Fort Wayne shovel dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the school's new gymnasium and activities center, held on Sunday, September 10. Pictured from left are: Ken Tippmann of Shawnee Construction; Father Ryan Timossi, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Good Hope; Adam Schillinger, Athletic Director; Bea Royal, Principal of Our Lady School; Steve Kohrman, Property Manager; Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General and Pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope; and John Schenkel of Shawnee Construction.

Our Lady School Breaks Ground on New Gym, Activities Center

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne marked a key milestone in a planned renovation as the parish celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for its new gymnasium/activities center on Sunday, September 10. Leaders at the church and school hope the project will be completed before the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

"It will serve as a general activities center for the parish as well as a gymnasium for the parish grade school ... during the day and outside the school day for extracurricular activities," said Father Mark Gurtner, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope and Vicar General of the diocese.

The school's current gym does not have a regulation-sized basketball court, but the new one will. The new facility will also have the space for two volleyball courts, giving the school the ability to host tournaments.

"As a student, there is a real sense of pride playing on your home court in front of your family, friends, and fellow students," Adam Schillinger, Our Lady's Athletic Director, told Today's Catholic.

"As a parent, I know we are all excited to have more home games and ... [fewer] away games that we have to travel to," Schillinger said. "I can't wait for that first home game where we will all stand for the Our Lady School song and National Anthem."

"This parish and community are a huge part of our life," Schillinger continued. "The school is already such a blessing, and this new gym is really taking us to another level."

Schillinger is not the only



Community members of Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne look on during the groundbreaking ceremony of the parish and school's new gymnasium.

parent to see benefits. Kari and Jeremy Cattaneo have two children who are current students and have had a total of eight go through the school at Our Lady. "I'm excited to have a real gym," Kari Cattaneo said. Jeremy Cattaneo said he is looking forward to the home-court pride and space for larger crowds. "The gym we have now," he said, "is not really adequate for the size of the church and parish."

The students are not the only ones who will benefit, Father Gurtner said.

"It is our hope that the whole parish will also benefit from the gym for various activities which arise in parish life."

Schillinger said annual activities such as a father-daughter dance, mother-son night, and trivia nights are examples of activities that might occupy the new space.

Our Lady Principal Bea Royal is also looking forward to the space for indoor recess options, as currently the classes take turns skipping recess when the weather is bad because enough space for all does not exist.

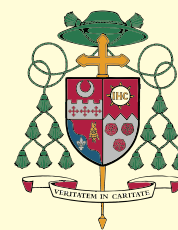
Students will also see benefits in the new space since they eat lunch there, as well. "Splitting lunch/recess between the two

places will be beneficial to the daily activities of the students," Royal said. Funeral lunches for the parish will also likely be held in the new gymnasium. Construction on the building was scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 12, and Shawnee Construction is the designer and builder for the approximately \$2.7 million project.

In the works for about three years, financial support came from a number of avenues. A May 2022 gala raised \$500,000, which received a matching grant of \$500,000 from the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, which also gave a \$200,000 grant and has put on the table another \$200,000 if the parish matches those funds. The remaining funds will come from parishioner donations and parish savings.

Schillinger said the benefit of the new gymnasium and activities center to the Our Lady community goes beyond the dollars and cents.

"Our Catholic identity will be physically on display from the crucifix inside and on the outside of the building," Royal said. "We hope that this helps to keep our student athletes focused toward doing all things in Christ."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, September 25: 10 a.m. – Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, September 30: 5 p.m. – Ecumenical Prayer Vigil, Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City
 Sunday, October 1 to Tuesday, October 3 – Spiritual Retreat for Synod Delegates, Fraterna Domus, Sacrofano, Italy
 Wednesday, October 4 to Sunday, October 29 – XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Paul VI Hall, Vatican City



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

St. Dominic, Bremen: November 5-7
 St. Aloysius, Yoder: November 5-7
 St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle: November 9-11
 St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome City: November 19-21
 St. Joseph, Bluffton: November 26-28
 Christ the King, South Bend: November 26-28

DECEMBER

Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne: December 3-5
 St. Augustine, South Bend: December 3-5
 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Mother of God, Fort Wayne: December 3-5
 St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol: December 3-5
 Immaculate Conception, Ege: December 6-8

2024

JANUARY

St. John Bosco, Churubusco: January 29-31, 2024

FEBRUARY

St. Joseph, Garrett: February 11-13, 2024
 Immaculate Conception, Auburn: February 18-20, 2024
 St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne: February 25-27, 2024

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

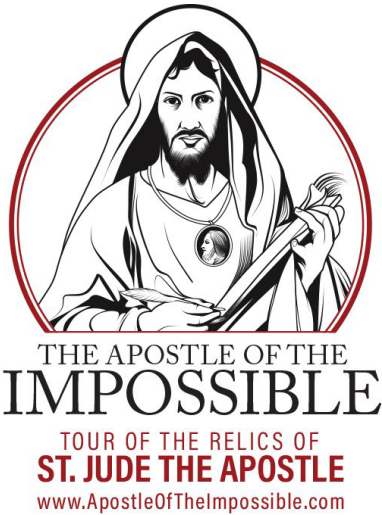
Relic of St. Jude to Make Two Stops in Diocese

BY TODAYS CATHOLIC STAFF

In early October, the faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will have two opportunities to venerate a relic of one of the most beloved and called-upon saints in the Church: St. Jude, Patron of Lost Causes.

For the first time in history, bone fragments from an arm believed to belong to St. Jude Thaddeus will leave Italy and be shown in the United States. The relic will be available for veneration at St. Jude Parish in South Bend on Saturday, October 7, and at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne on Sunday, October 8. At St. Jude, public veneration of the relic will take place from 1-9 p.m., with a Mass celebrated in St. Jude's honor at 4:30 p.m. At Our Lady in Fort Wayne, the faithful can venerate the relic from 1-10 p.m., with a special Mass to be celebrated at 5 p.m.

The tour of the relic across the Midwest, sponsored by



Treasures of the Church, began on Saturday, September 9, in Chicago, and, in 2023, will include stops at parishes in Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The 2024 stops have not yet been announced.

As the church-appointed custodian of the relic, Father Carlos Martins, a priest of the Companions of the Cross religious community, is directing the tour.

"The visit provides an opportunity for individuals to experience intimacy with someone who dwells in heaven and beholds God face to face," Father Martins said in a news release. "It allows devotees to receive his blessing and entrust him with their petitions."

Father Mark Gurtner, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, told Today's Catholic that a parishioner at Our Lady knows Father Martins personally, and because of this connection,



OSV News photo/courtesy Father Carlos Martins

This relic of St. Jude the Apostle, currently touring the midwestern United States, will make two appearances in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend – at St. Jude Parish in South Bend on Saturday, October 7, and at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne on Sunday, October 8. Both locations will hold public veneration of the relic and a special Mass in honor of St. Jude.

from the visit of the relic, many people will feel the closeness and love of God, that He really cares for them," Father Gurtner said. "I hope, too, that even some miracles will take place through the intercession of St. Jude – physical healings, spiritual healings, emotional healings. I have found myself personally devoted to the relics of saints and have had the opportunity to visit many saints' relics and burial places throughout the world. In fact, when I lived in Rome for a time while studying, I visited and venerated this particular relic of St. Jude several times and am excited that it is now coming to my parish."

St. Jude Thaddeus was a first cousin of Jesus Christ – the son of Mary of Clopas (Cleophas), a relation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following his martyrdom around AD 65, when St. Jude was killed with an ax, his body was buried in Beirut, where he was slain. According to Tradition, the apostle's remains were transferred to Rome during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine, and his tomb rests directly below the main altar of the left transept of St. Peter's Basilica.

The arm was separated from St. Jude's remains several centuries ago and placed in a wooden reliquary carved in the shape of an upright arm in the gesture of imparting a blessing. It bears the seals of Cardinal Francesco Marchetti Selvaggiani, who was vicar general of Rome from 1931 to 1951.

According to a news release by officials with Treasures of the Church, pilgrims will be able to receive an extraordinary plenary indulgence issued by Pope Francis and published by the Vatican's apostolic penitentiary.

OSV News contributed to this report.

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

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Father Martins asked if the parish would be interested in hosting the relic in Fort Wayne. Father Gurtner said Father Martins will be giving the homily at the special Mass in honor of St. Jude at 5 p.m. on October 8.

"My hope is that through the graces God allows to come

Photographers & Writers

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Lisa Kochanowski

Parish point people gather at St. Thérèse, Little Flower Catholic Church in South Bend on Thursday, August 31, to learn more about how they can help their parishes best implement the National Eucharistic Revival's Year of Parish Revival.

Revival Launches 'Plug-and-Play' Small-Group Program for Parishes

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the momentum for the National Eucharistic Revival's Year of Parish Revival is strong. Recently, leaders from each parish in the diocese came together for an evening of collaboration with Jason Shanks, President of the OSV Institute and a member of the National Eucharistic Revival's national team.

As the parish journey begins, the national office of the Eucharistic Revival has compiled and released small-group materials in English and Spanish titled "Jesus and the Eucharist."

According to Kris Frank of the National Eucharistic Congress, "Jesus and the Eucharist" is a seven-week series created specifically for the Eucharistic Revival. Working in collaboration with the Augustine Institute, this study consists of teachings, testimony, and discussion questions geared to deepen our understanding and devotion to God and the Blessed Sacrament. Sessions 1-4 immerse participants in the kerygmatic proclamation, and sessions 5-7 will unveil God's saving work in the Eucharist.

"The study is a great 'out of the box' solution for parishes and parish leaders," Frank said. "They simply need to train table facilitators and a core team to implement the study, and then set up a hall (or small group room) and press play. Training has already been recorded and posted on the revival website for viewing. 'Jesus and the Eucharist' is for everyone; from the theologian who wants to refresh their knowledge on the Eucharist, to the individual who is curious to hear about

the Church's teaching on the Blessed Sacrament, this series was created with everybody in mind."

'Deeper Encounters'

Tanner Kalina, a Eucharistic Missionary with the National Eucharistic Revival, said the program is geared toward robust formation, one of the four pillars of the Year of Parish Revival.

"By offering parishioners across the country strong kerygmatic and Eucharistic formation, we pray parishioners will be led into deeper encounters with Jesus," Kalina said. "When our minds can understand the Faith, our hearts can open to the beauty in front of us. Each session is no more than two hours."

"This study is designed to be press and play," Kalina continued. "A professional host in the video guides everyone, so parish leaders don't have the pressure of providing formation or structuring an entire study themselves. They can focus on being present and forming personal relationships with the people around them."

Frank said the primary goal of "Jesus in the Eucharist" is that those who partake in this series will offer the parish a renewed sense of formation around the Eucharist. "Further," he said, "we also hope this small-group series will serve as a launching point for further small-group initiatives bringing about greater community within the parish."

Kalina added: "In Acts of the Apostles, when groups of people had the Gospel presented to them, they caught on fire with the love of Christ and then went out and spread the Gospel to others. We hope this resource has a similar effect."

St. Mary of the Assumption

Chris Langford, Eucharistic Revival Point Person for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said the available materials should provide parishes with everything they need for recruiting a core team and table facilitators, as well as promoting the program in parishes across the diocese.

Some parishes throughout the diocese have begun planning study sessions for their congregation.

Ginny Kohrman of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Avilla was asked by Father David Voors, Pastor of St. Mary, to assist with the Eucharistic Revival in the parish. Kohrman has found the experience to be a lot of fun and a great way to get to know more parishioners. She and her fellow volunteers have several activities planned throughout the year.

"The church high altars have been repainted and the gold leaf trim on the altars repaired," Kohrman said. "The interior of the church is so beautiful, and it was completed prior to our 40 Hours of devotions that took place August 13-15. In addition, the exterior of the church was tuckpointed, and the front steps of the church were repaired just in time for 40 Hours. There is an initiative in process to post Mass/confession signs within the church for parishioners and visitors. We are looking into the possibility of repairing or replacing our current parish sign to alert parishioners of parish and school events, including confession, adoration, and Mass times."

SMALL GROUPS, page 14

The Arm of
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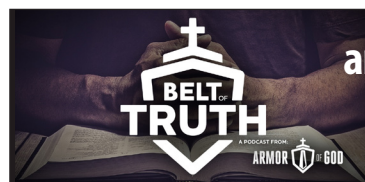
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Pope to Global Leaders: Save Children, the Planet 'Before It's too Late'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Kicking off a global meeting of leaders in New York on Monday, September 18, Pope Francis told the global community via video conference to take action to ensure peace for future generations and stop climate change “before it’s too late.” Asked what ordinary people can do to address society’s towering problems, Pope Francis responded: “We are in need of a great and shared assumption of responsibility,” adding that “no challenge is too great if we each meet it with personal conversion and the personal contribution that each of us can make to solve it from an awareness of what makes us part of one destiny.” Pope Francis continued, saying: “Difficulties can bring out the best or the worst in us. Therein lies our challenge: fighting selfishness, narcissism, division, with generosity and humility.” In his opening talk, Pope Francis urged the leaders to “work together to stop ecological catastrophe before it’s too late,” again sharing that he decided to write another document on the subject eight years after the publication of his encyclical *Laudato Si’*. The document, which Pope Francis has said will be an apostolic exhortation, is expected to be released on Wednesday, October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Court: Christian Group Should Be Reinstated as Public School Club

SAN FRANCISCO (OSV News) – A federal appeals court on Wednesday, September 13, found that a public school district in California must reinstate a Christian student group. The club asks its leaders to embrace their core religious beliefs, and the district alleged it discriminated against LGBTQ+ students. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a 9-2 decision that the San Jose Unified School District likely violated the Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ First Amendment right to free exercise of religion when it revoked its status as a recognized high school student club. According to court documents, as part of FCA’s Christian Character and Mission requirements, student leaders must also conform to FCA’s Sexual Purity Statement, which states that “God desires His children to lead pure lives of holiness,” and that “the appropriate place for sexual expression is in the context of a marriage relationship. The biblical description of marriage is one man and one woman in a lifelong commitment.” A lower court previously found that the requirement

Flooding in Libya Kills More than 5,000 People



OSV News photo/Libyan Red Crescent Ajdabiya via Reuters

Members of Libyan Red Crescent Ajdabiya work in an area affected by flooding in Derna, Libya, on Tuesday, September 12. Authorities in Libya estimated that more than 5,100 people have died and 10,000 are reportedly missing as of Monday, September 18. Millions of cubic meters of water destroyed the city after two dams failed during Storm Daniel.

discriminated against LGBTQ+ students, which the appeals court overturned.

Cleveland Diocese Issues 'Sexuality and Gender Identity' Policy

CLEVELAND (OSV News) – The Diocese of Cleveland recently issued a new policy governing the approach to “sexuality and gender identity” in its parishes and schools. A letter to the diocese from Bishop Edward C. Malesic dated Wednesday, August 30, said that in the midst of “a polarizing and tense time in our culture,” the diocese would issue the new policy as part of efforts to “accompany our brothers and sisters in Christ with compassion, mercy, and dignity so that we might lovingly help them navigate the confusion and arrive at the truth.” The policy states that “the Church recognizes that there are and will be persons who experience gender dyspho-

ria and/or gender confusion. Such experiences can be complex and emotional to work through and, for some, incredibly burdensome and painful.” It requires, among other measures, that “only pronouns that accurately reflect a person’s God-given biological sex shall be used when addressing that person,” and that all persons must present themselves as their biological sex and use corresponding bathrooms or other facilities.”

Syriac Catholic Bishops' Synod in Iraq Called 'Unprecedented'

BEIRUT, Lebanon (OSV News) – Syriac Catholic bishops from around the world met for their annual ordinary synod in Iraq, the first to be held outside Lebanon – where the patriarchal seat is located – in more than 125 years. The gathering, held Sunday, September 10, through Friday, September 15,

with Syriac Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan as presider, took place in the new headquarters of the Archdiocese of Mosul and its dependencies in Qaraqosh, from where Christians were expelled by ISIS in the summer of 2014. “Convening an Ordinary Synod of the Bishops of our Syriac Catholic Church outside Lebanon, and most particularly in Iraq, is an unprecedented historical event not happening in modern times,” Patriarch Younan told OSV News. In a statement at the conclusion of the synod on September 15, the bishops said they had focused on what Syriac Catholics are suffering as a result of “difficult conditions, persecution, acts of violence, terrorism, displacement, killing, destruction, and the uprooting of a large number of faithful from the land of their fathers and grandfathers.” Patriarch Younan told OSV News that the situation of Christians in Iraq “in general is improving” but they still face “many challenges.”

Cardinal George Remembered in D.C. Event

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – On Thursday, September 14, memories of the late Cardinal Francis E. George (1937-2015) flowed at a discussion at The Catholic University of America of Michael Heinlein’s biography, “Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I.,” published by OSV. Archbishop of Chicago from 1997 to 2014, Cardinal George was defined by “his humility,” his “beautiful mind” and a sincere quest to learn about people, said Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez. As a result of polio Cardinal George contracted at 13, he “turned to the cross as a way of making sense of what was happening,” Heinlein said. With his pain, Cardinal George developed the discipline to focus on his intellect and develop into a gentle, compassionate force who refused to have his defenses of Catholic orthodoxy pigeonholed into political categories. “I think his life truly was an offering, and that’s why he continued to push himself every day, because it wasn’t about him,” Heinlein said. Heinlein recounted that when first made Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal George resisted being labeled liberal or conservative. He responded, “The Catholic faith is not liberal or conservative. The Catholic faith is true, and I will preach that.”

Praying for Vocations Means Understanding Church's Needs, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – While vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life are declining in developed countries around the world, prayers for vocations should not try to “convince” God to send more workers for the Church but seek to better understand the needs of its people, Pope Francis said. Meeting with a group of Rogationists and Daughters of Divine Zeal at the Vatican on Monday, September 18, the pope praised the example of their founder, St. Hannibal di Francia, who made praying for vocations central to the charisms of the congregations he began. St. Hannibal, he said, “understood that the first thing to do was pray, certainly not to convince God to send shepherds, as if he did not care for his people, but to let himself be overwhelmed by the deep passion of his paternal and maternal love, to learn – by praying – to be sensitive to the needs of his children.” The pope urged those walking in the path of St. Hannibal to communicate God to the world through their example.

Welcome and Thank You



Photos by Nicole Hahn

An open house was held in the gym in the building attached to St. Mary Church in Huntington on Sunday, September 17, to celebrate two important people. Father Evaristo Olivera, Parochial Vicar, was officially welcomed to the parish. Father Olivera was assigned to St. Mary to begin offering Spanish Masses and catechesis to the growing Hispanic population in Huntington County. Spanish Masses are held every Sunday at 2 p.m. and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Father Thomas Zehr, Pastor, said he is very grateful to have Father Olivera at St. Mary to serve the Hispanic population. This is the first time Spanish Masses have been offered in Huntington. The open house also celebrated Joyce Rethlake. After decades of being a volunteer and more than three years serving as Pastoral Assistant, Rethlake is retiring from her position at the parish. Rethlake's children, other family members, and friends joined in the celebration. Father Zehr said Rethlake has been a big help in the office, but it is not goodbye, as she will continue to volunteer at the parish.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Understanding the Sacrament of Marriage



Scott Warden

Father Mark Gurtner, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne and Vicar General of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, engages with the audience during his talk at the parish on what the Church teaches about the Sacrament of Marriage. The session, which took place on Thursday, September 14, was the second of a series of two talks Father Gurtner gave on Canon Law. Father Gurtner began the session by giving the crowd the Church's definition of marriage, which can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1601: "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."





CNS photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters

Pope Francis celebrates a Mass to open the listening process that leads up to the assembly of the world Synod of Bishops in 2023, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this October 10, 2021, file photo. The Synod of Bishops on synodality is set to begin on Wednesday, October 4.

10 Things to Know about October's Synod on Synodality in Rome

BY MARIA WIERING

(OSV News) – The eyes of the Catholic world turn to Rome beginning on Wednesday, October 4, as the worldwide Synod of Bishops convenes on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi to focus on “synodality” and understanding what it means in terms of “communion, participation, and mission” in the Church.

Bishop Rhoades will be in Rome for the duration of the synod, as he was one of five bishop-delegates chosen to participate from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As the synod prepares to commence, here's an overview on what it is and what to expect.

1. The synod on synodality is three years in the making.

Pope Francis announced in March of 2020 (at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Italy) that the next Synod of Bishops would be held in October of 2022 on the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission,” which quickly became known as the “synod on synodality.” In May of 2021, Pope Francis postponed the two-part meeting to 2023 (with a second gathering in 2024), due in part to the pandemic, and announced that it would be preceded by a two-year process.

That decision reflected Pope Francis' vision for the Synod of Bishops outlined in the 2018 apostolic constitution *Episcopalis Communio*, including what Cardinal Mario Grech, the General Secretary for the Synod of Bishops, described at the time as “transforming the synod from an event into a process.” Pope Francis officially opened the “synodal path” with a Mass on October 10, 2021, with dioceses around the world following suit.

2. Synodality is “the action of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the People of God.”

Despite the long history of synods in the Church, the term “synodality” is relatively recent, emerging in Church documents about two decades ago. In 2018, the topic was addressed by the International Theological Commission, which defined it as “the action of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the People of God.”

Synodality was also a topic of conversation at the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme “Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment” that took place in 2018.

In the synod on synodality's “vademecum,” an official



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis leads a meeting with representatives of bishops' conferences from around the world at the Vatican on October 9, 2021. Also pictured is Maltese Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops.

handbook issued in September of 2021, “synodality” is described as “the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit

to proclaim the Gospel,” adding, “Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working.”

In his homily for the Mass opening the synod process, Pope Francis said, “Celebrating a synod means walking on the same road, walking together.”

He said that when meeting others, Jesus would “encounter, listen, and discern,” and those verbs “characterize the synod.”

“The Gospels frequently show us Jesus ‘on a journey’; he walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts,” Pope Francis said. “He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often rocky roads of life.”

He continued: “Today, as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves, all of us – pope, bishops, priests, religious, and laity – whether we, the Christian community, embody this ‘style’ of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: ‘It’s useless’ or ‘We’ve always done it this way’?”

3. A synod is a meeting of bishops.

It has ancient roots in the Catholic Church's history and continuity in the Eastern Churches, but declined in the Latin Church. The modern Synod of Bishops was instituted near the end of the Second Vatican Council.

“Synod” has been historically interchangeable with “council,” such as the Churchwide Council of Nicea or

the Council of Trent, or more localized meetings, such as the Plenary Councils of Baltimore, which brought the U.S. bishops together in 1852, 1866, and 1884. The late Jesuit Father John W. O'Malley, a theologian at Georgetown University, noted in an essay for *America* magazine in February of 2022 that local councils declined in use following the First Vatican Council, which defined papal primacy, but they didn't die out: "One of the first things that the future Pope John XXIII did when he became patriarch of Venice was to call a diocesan synod," he wrote.

The idea for a permanent bishops' council surfaced during the Second Vatican Council, and in 1965, Pope St. Paul VI established the Synod of Bishops with "the function of providing information and offering advice." "It can also enjoy the power of making decisions when such power is conferred upon it by the Roman Pontiff; in this case, it belongs to him to ratify the decisions of the synod," St. Paul VI wrote.

4. The synod on synodality is the 16th Ordinary Synod since the institution of a global Synod of Bishops.

Three extraordinary general assemblies have also been held, including in 2014 to complete the work of the 2015 ordinary general assembly on the family. An additional 11 special Synods of Bishops have been held to address issues facing a particular region. Among them was a special synod on America in 1997 and one on the Amazon region in 2019. Synods have regularly resulted in the pope, who serves as the synod president, writing a post-synodal apostolic exhortation.

5. Preparations for the synod on synodality sought to be the most extensive ever, with an invitation to every Catholic to provide input.

An unprecedented worldwide consultation occurred at the diocesan, national, and continental levels. The synod's two-year preparation process invited all Catholics worldwide to identify areas where the Church needed to give greater attention and discernment. That feedback was gathered and synthesized by dioceses, and then episcopal conferences, before being brought to the continental level. The syntheses from episcopal conferences and continental-level meetings

were shared with the Holy See, and they informed a working document known as an "instrumentum laboris" for the general assembly's first session. The document's authors describe it as "not a document of the Holy See, but of the whole Church." However, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' report indicates that only about 700,000 Catholics in the U.S. participated, representing a little more than 1 percent of the U.S. Catholic population of 66.8 million.

6. The synod on synodality's objective boils down to answering a two-part question.

According to the vademecum, "The current synodal process we are undertaking is guided by a fundamental question: How does this 'journeying together' take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel, and what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?"

The working document released in June to guide general assembly participants includes many other reflection questions; but it particularly asks participants to reflect on these priorities, guided by its focus on communion, participation, and mission: "How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?"; "How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?"; and "What processes, structures, and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal Church?"

7. For the first time ever, non-bishops – including lay men and women – have a vote in the synod.

The synod's general assembly includes more than 450 participants – 363 of whom are voting members – with leaders from the Vatican Curia and episcopal conferences. More than a quarter of synod members are non-bishops, including laypeople, who for the first time will have a vote during synod deliberations. A deliberate effort was made to include women and young adults. As of July 7, when the Vatican released the initial list, the number of voting women was the same as participating cardinals: 54. The list was subject to change ahead of the synod, organizers said.

In previous synods, some non-bishop participants held the non-voting role of "auditor," which has been eliminated at this assembly, although some attendees will be non-voting observers, called "special envoys," or non-voting



OSV News file photo/Paul Haring, CNS

Bishops pray at the beginning of a session of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment at the Vatican on October 9, 2018.

facilitators or advisers.

The presence of "non-bishops," according to Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the synod's General Relator, in a letter published at the time the change was announced, "ensures the dialogue between the prophecy of the people of God and the discernment of the pastors."

8. More than 20 Catholics from the United States have been invited to participate.

Participating American bishops chosen by Pope Francis are Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, D.C., Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston, and Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego.

Along with Bishop Rhoades, additional bishop-delegates selected by the USCCB and confirmed by Pope Francis are Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who leads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and serves as USCCB President.

American prelates Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, and Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, formerly the bishop of Dallas, are also delegates by nature of prior papal appointments. Cardinal Tobin is an ordinary member of the Synod of Bishops, and Cardinal Farrell is Prefect of

the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life.

Pope Francis also nominated synod member Jesuit Father James Martin, Editor-at-Large for *America* magazine and founder of Outreach, a ministry for Catholics who identify as LGBTQ+.

Other U.S. delegates were nominated by the USCCB and confirmed by the pope. They include: Richard Coll, the Executive Director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Integral Human Development; Cynthia Bailey Manns, Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Minneapolis; Father Iván Montelongo of El Paso, Texas; Wyatt Olivas, a student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming; Julia Oseka, a Polish student at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia; and Sister Leticia Salazar, a member of the Company of Mary, Our Lady and Chancellor of the Diocese of San Bernardino, California.

USCCB-nominated delegates participated in the continental synod, and Coll, Bishop Flores, and Sister Salazar were members of the 18-person North American Synod Team that prepared the North American continental synod report for the U.S. and Canada. Bishop Flores has been named one of nine delegate presidents of the assembly.

Sister Maria Cimperman, a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart and theologian at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and American Jesuit Father David McCallum, Executive Director of the Discerning Leadership Program in Rome, are among the 57 non-voting experts.

9. In the U.S., the meeting has been a source of great expectation and great apprehension.

The synod has inspired both great praise and deep criticism for its approach, including allowing laypeople to vote, and its subject matter, which includes controversial topics such as leadership roles for women, ministry to Catholics who identify as LGBTQ+, and the relationship between laypeople and clergy. At least one cardinal expressed concern that the meeting could lead to confusion and error in Church teaching.

However, Bishop Flores, speaking recently with OSV News, said the meeting aims to better understand people's reality so it can better minister to them. "We can't respond with the Gospel if we don't know what the reality they're facing is," he said of people, especially those on margins and in difficult situations.

10. October's meeting is just the beginning.

In an unusual move, the synod general assembly has been divided into two sessions, with the first being held October 4-29 and the second planned for October of 2024. The decision, announced in October of 2022, has parallels to the Synod of Bishops on the family, which met in 2014 for an extraordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops, and then continued its work the following year as an ordinary assembly. The work of both meetings culminated in the post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), released in 2016.

Before the synod, Pope Francis presides over an ecumenical prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square on Saturday, September 30. Synod participants attend a retreat from September 30 to Tuesday, October 3. The retreat includes morning meditations – offered by Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe of the United Kingdom and the Benedictine Reverend Mother Maria Ignazia Angelini of Italy – as well as afternoon small groups and Mass.

Meanwhile, the Taizé community and other organizations have organized a meeting in Rome that weekend called "Together – Gathering of the People of God" for young people to pray for the synod.

The synod's general assembly opens on Wednesday, October 4, with a papal Mass that includes the new cardinals created at a September 30 consistory, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Maria Wiering is Senior Writer for OSV News.

Most Precious Blood Principal Embracing New Community

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

A love for education, a deep devotion to the Catholic faith, and an altruistic spirit brought Rachel Ottenweller to Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne this academic year as the school's new principal.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in third grade," Ottenweller said. "I was blessed with wonderful elementary school teachers and wanted to emulate them and their joy in the classroom. I knew from a young age that I loved to help others and watch them succeed or try something new that I had taught."

Ottenweller received a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Ball State University in 2013 and taught second grade in the public school system for three years. She then spent six years as a first-grade teacher at St. Louis Academy in New Haven. While teaching first grade, she earned a master's degree in educational leadership in 2022.

At Precious Blood, Ottenweller has goals for her first year on campus and hopes to have a positive impact on the school and her staff.

"I hope to be a positive role model and mentor to my team of educators and students in the building. I want to help everyone grow in their love and knowledge of God and their formation as a Catholic member of the community," Ottenweller said. "I hope to still be a teacher like Christ. I understand that this is a new role, and I will face a new set of challenges and successes that I will have to grow and learn from. I may not have a class of students anymore, but I do have a 'class' of educators that I hope to continue to teach and help them grow in their ability



Today's Catholic File Photo

Students from Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne pose outside the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum after the 2022 All Schools Mass in Fort Wayne.

as professional educators. I knew that in my classroom I could only affect the education in my room, but it is my hope that by being an administrator I can help grow all the students in every room by providing my teachers with best practices, knowledge, and classroom strategies."

Even though she won't be in front of a class in her new role, she wants to continue working closely with students to help them achieve success.

"I hope that my students can see me and find joy," Ottenweller said. "I want them to know of my high expectations not only academically but also in their faith and in them as a person in our community. I want them to feel excited to come to school and to look



RACHEL OTTENWELLER

back on their experience here at Precious Blood with great fondness."

Ottenweller said one of her priorities is to make sure the students at Precious Blood

know that they are valued and loved by Christ despite society too often telling them otherwise.

"I am very optimistic about the school year and all the successes we are going to be achieving," she said. "I also understand that while we are growing our students to be Christ-like, there is a whole world out there on the news and social media who are trying to tear down what we are trying to build up. I believe the biggest challenge for any Christian school is to teach the students the word of the Lord in a society that is more concerned with the word of man. In order to overcome these challenges, we are going to have to maintain our light of the Lord and let that shine

through to our students in everything we do."

Ottenweller has had many amazing, memorable, and impactful moments during her teaching career.

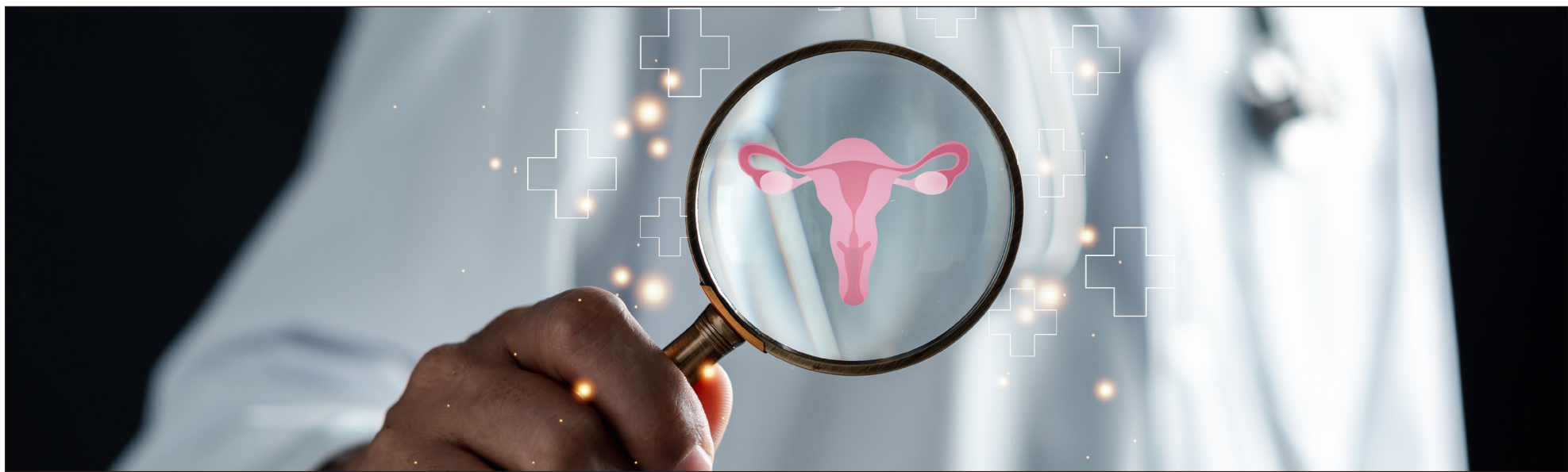
"In teaching, every day is something new and exciting. I taught first grade for six years, but not a single day was ever the same. The students brought with them different challenges and successes, and watching them overcome a mountain they thought was going to be impossible is one of the greatest joys," Ottenweller said. "However, some of my most memorable moments are with my St. Louis family. It was hard to have a bad day at that school. Not only are the students and their families some of the best that I have ever encountered, but the staff that I was able to work with and grow alongside are some of the best people that I know. I could not have asked God for a better staff to walk alongside me in my journey as an educator. I am excited to continue my professional career here at Precious Blood and create new memorable moments."

Ottenweller said the Most Precious Blood community has been welcoming and gracious to her, and she appreciates the history of so many generations attending the school. She finds the sense of family and community overflows into every aspect of the position, something that makes it unique in today's culture.

"Also, I am very excited to see my first Most Precious Blood school play. I have heard so many wonderful things about the theater here, and I cannot wait to see it for myself," she said. "We have a wonderful new director this year who has deep ties to the theater community, and I am looking forward to seeing the production and what he is able to create with our students."

Ottenweller said the school year is off to a strong start, and she is overjoyed at the opportunity to join and embrace her new community.

"I pray that the students know just how loved and cherished they truly are by their families and the staff here at Precious Blood. I was coming to school this summer trying to get myself ready for the school year, and the number of teachers I saw working through the summer to prepare just blew me away," Ottenweller said. "The dedication the staff has to students and this community in helping to build it up is immeasurable. I also pray that the staff have peace throughout the school year and that they always feel supported by me and the Precious Blood families. The sense of community in this area is something that I hope everyone feels."



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Exciting Innovations 'Bearing Fruit' in the Natural Family Planning World

BY ABBY KYLE

Complicated. Unrealistic. Ineffective. These are words sometimes used to describe natural family planning (NFP). Or, at least, they used to be. Now more than ever, NFP is effective, accessible, and affordable.

The FEMM method (Fertility Education and Medical Management), along with other innovations such as the Mira monitor, are new on the scene and offer fresh options for couples hoping to follow God's plan for marriage and fertility. But married couples are not the only ones who will find these new developments useful. Women often report being misunderstood and dismissed when voicing their concerns about their reproductive health. The increase in popularity of fertility awareness-based methods of natural family planning have helped women in receiving the care they need.

Meet some of the newest instructors of fertility awareness-based methods (FABMs) of family planning in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Currently in the South Bend-Elkhart area, there are four FEMM-certified instructors who are imparting their knowledge in various ways. Ryenn Andreassi manages the Mishawaka location of Women's Care Center. Dr. Sarah Kruis brings her knowledge to her clinical practice as a chiropractor with her focus on fertility and prenatal patients. Kristin Soukup is passionate about working with women experiencing symptoms of underlying reproductive health issues. Midwife Lauren Cox wanted to integrate FABM instruction into her practice, Sacred Journey Midwifery, which serves women in the diocese with her unique holistic approach.

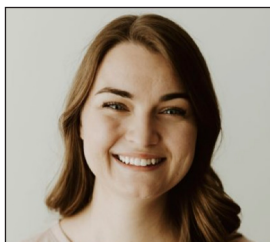
Cox has even had the privilege of beginning her relationship with a patient by treating

"The fact that FEMM is a comprehensive women's health and wellness program for optimal reproductive health, can make it attractive to those who might not otherwise be interested in what the Church teaches about sexuality and fertility."

— Lisa Everett



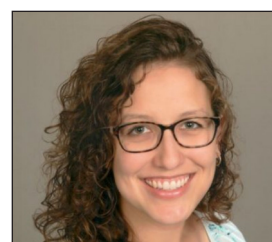
**RYENN
ANDREASSI**



**DR. SARAH
KRUIS**



**KRISTIN
SOUKUP**



LAUREN COX

them for fertility or hormonal complications and has helped them "find answers to be able to conceive and then went on to be part of their delivery." She reflected: "I held the conviction that there had to be more to women's health than handing women a pill that evidence has now shown is associated with countless side effects and does not actually treat the problem. I wanted to be a provider that considered the physiology of hormonal dysfunction and provide treatment that would lead to healing for the whole person. It has been exciting to see how fellow colleagues have also become more interested in this kind of care and are providing it in our area, as well." Cox concluded, "I have watched so many women come out feeling heard by a provider, validated in what they are feeling, and empowered to know they have the resources to heal by really focusing on their health and well-being as a whole."

Soukup, who recently received her certification as a FEMM instructor, reflected on her desire to become a teacher: "I wanted a method that would provide good education to any woman, be accessible, and be applicable not only for avoiding or achieving pregnancy but also helpful in identifying and treat-

ing underlying health concerns, which FEMM has the ability to do through their Medical Management providers," she said. "Working with individual women, the biggest impact I have seen is an appreciation and greater understanding of their bodies, their cycles, and the ability to recognize what is healthy and seek medical support as needed. They have been very grateful for the information that they have not learned elsewhere, and for validation when something about their cycles has been difficult."

Lisa Everett, Director for Marriage and Family Ministry for the diocese, pointed out that "the fact that FEMM is a comprehensive women's health and wellness program for optimal reproductive health can make it attractive to those who might not otherwise be interested in what the Church teaches about sexuality and fertility."

All methods have their downsides, and the instructors will attest that FEMM is no different. "FEMM relies on the LH (luteinizing hormone) biomarker, and 1 in 5 women will not be able to get a positive reading," Andreassi explained.

Soukup said she believes time can be an obstacle. "This is something that can take time to learn and become confident

with." But no one can say that this method is unaffordable. Women will spend mere dollars per month on test strips, with a free app and no requirement for a monitor.

These innovations are not just for those blessed with ready access to doctors, pharmacies, and health care in developed countries, either. Now these methods are also being taught to women in third world countries who have been unserved by a push for barrier methods or sterilization. According to Andreassi, "Doctors in third world countries use FEMM as a holistic/functional means of treating gynecological patients and are often working with FEMM Medical Management doctors to treat any disorders they may have."

New developments in the technology of FABMs also provide much-needed clarity and specific instruction for two populations that have historically been let down by other NFP methods – postpartum and perimenopausal women, according to Dr. Chris Stroud and Dr. Tom McGovern from the locally produced podcast "Doctor, Doctor."

With these new innovations, couples have more options and better chances, both with achieving and avoiding pregnancy, and single women are

being offered more methods to better their health.

As exciting as these new developments are, there is one piece of the NFP technology puzzle that has not been perfected yet: the progesterone test. Stroud said that with the genesis of a home urine test for progesterone, couples could know with near certainty that ovulation has occurred and, therefore, be even more confident in identifying the end of the fertile window in a given cycle.

All of this knowledge about the newest innovations in natural family planning is also important for couples preparing for marriage. Everett shared that a two-hour online NFP Overview Session is now required for all engaged couples. Each session covers the physiology of male and female fertility, the science behind fertility awareness-based methods of family planning, an overview of the major methods of NFP presented by instructors in each method, the "theology of the body" on which NFP is based, what the Catholic Church means by "responsible parenthood," what NFP looks like in the (real) life of a married couple, and all of the options for learning NFP both online and in-person in our diocese.

"We encourage the engaged couples to talk about what they have seen presented on the NFP overview session and decide which NFP method they want to learn, and then sign up for either in-person or online instruction via our NFP webpage at diocesefwsb.org/nfp," Everett said. "We also offer these NFP overview sessions in Spanish and encourage couples to explore our Spanish NFP webpage at diocesefwsb.org/pfn. The fact that there are also online options for instruction for all the methods makes it easier than ever for engaged and married couples to learn a method of NFP and experience how it can foster their physical, emotional, and spiritual health."

The Joyful Heart of St. Philip

This past summer, I had the joy of participating in a conference for Church communications professionals from around the world, hosted by the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. My hotel was located on a small side street in the heart of the city, just behind the church of Santa Maria in Vallicella. This particular church, commonly known as “Chiesa Nuova,” or “new church,” was built in the 1570s by St. Philip Neri, founder of the Oratorians religious order.

St. Philip’s body is buried in a chapel of the Chiesa Nuova, and one day after Mass, I took a moment to kneel in prayer to ask for his intercession. I soon realized that I knew very little about the man other than that he had founded a religious order that continues to flourish, and that he had built this church, which even after 450 years, continues to be known as “the new church.” And my friends, I soon learned that St. Philip Neri was a model of joyful holiness for every Christian to emulate, no matter your state in life: layperson, religious, even cardinal or pope!

Philip was born in 1515 in central Italy, and after a brief stint working in the family business, he experienced a religious conversion and moved to Rome, where he devoted his labors to caring for the sick and poor of the city. He was renowned for his habit of enthusiastically engaging every person he met in conversation

as he walked the streets of Rome, sharing the love of God and the joyful hope that he found in his Catholic faith. He became one of the most well-known people in the city, was popularly hailed as “the Apostle of Rome,” and for 17 years continued his ministry as a layman, inspiring young men of the city to join him in his service to the poor.

In 1848, with his confessor, he organized these men into a confraternity to minister to the thousands of pilgrims who came to the Eternal City, as well as to accompany the sick who languished in hospitals and recovery rooms. The confraternity quickly grew, and within a few years, it bore the character of a religious community. The 36-year-old Philip, as leader of the confraternity, was ordained a priest. Eventually, he formally established the order known today as the Oratorians, named for the social hall in which they would host weeknight prayer meetings featuring hymns, readings from Sacred Scripture, preaching, and musical interludes. These compositions gave rise to the form of music known as “oratorio,” of which Handel’s “Messiah” is perhaps the most well-known.

As a result of his years as a lay street evangelist, Father Philip knew how to engage the people of his day in an authentic way. He was learned in books but also acquainted with the affairs of the day, and this enabled him to be genuinely



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

interested in each person he met. He had a real gift of being able to read hearts, which made him a popular confessor and spiritual director. His sense of humor was legendary, including being able to laugh at himself. He wasn’t above playing harmless pranks, especially if they might inspire conversion of heart. Knowing that one of his brothers struggled with vanity, Father Philip directed that the brother should wear a ridiculous hat with purple and gold streamers every time he went out to minister on the streets of Rome. The ridicule that the silly hat invited helped the brother embrace the virtue of humility, furthering his formation as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Deeply in love with Christ and His Church, Father Philip envisioned new ways to share the joy and hope he knew as a Catholic. He introduced the 40 Hours devotion, the forerunner of today’s Eucharistic adoration, and instituted the tradition of visiting seven particular pilgrim churches in

HALLENIUS, page 13

Doubting Thomas, Science, and the Point of Eucharistic Knowledge

Jesus said to Thomas, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (Jn 20:29).

A recent OSV News article by Maria Wiering examined Eucharistic miracles – particularly situations in which a host appears to bleed. In a number of these miracles over the years, scientific examination of the host has revealed the presence of striated muscle tissue – the kind of tissue found in the human heart – and the presence of AB-positive blood, the same blood type found on the Shroud of Turin.

Father Robert Spitzer, head of the Magis Center in California and author of the forthcoming OSV book “Science, Reason, and Faith: Discovering the Bible,” sees in these miracles God’s response to the widespread lack of belief in the Real Presence among American Catholics, documented in a 2019 Pew Research Center survey. In a world in which only knowledge that is derived from the scientific method is regarded as true, such miracles may, in fact, reinvigorate the faith of those doubting Thomases for whom seeing is believing.



ALL THINGS NEW

SCOTT P. RICHERT

Yet, as Christ Himself said to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Our knowledge of the reality of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is not confined to those rare circumstances in which the true substance of the host post-consecration, normally hidden beneath the appearance of bread, is revealed. The sacrament itself is the sign of the hidden reality of Christ’s presence among us, in the body and the blood. As Pope St. Leo the Great put it, “What was visible in our Savior has passed over into His mysteries.”

Coming to recognize that reality is not a mere matter for the intellect. 2,000 years ago, Christ Himself walked the earth, and yet, as Matthew makes clear in Chapter 16 of his Gospel, not everyone who

RICHERT, page 13

To Gain Eternity, We Must Choose to Follow God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The last section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading. Virtually none of the prophets of ancient Israel wrote when times were good, or at least when the prophets perceived the times to be good.

Certainly, the author of the section of the Book of Isaiah from which this weekend’s reading comes hardly regarded the times to be good.

An added dimension to the story of the unhappy plight then being endured by God’s people is that when they returned from Babylon, where they and their ancestors had

been in exile for four generations, they found not relief but want. Having greeted the fact that their exile was over with great rejoicing, convinced that God had provided for them and had rescued them, they found misery and despair waiting them.

It is easy to imagine their anger. They were furious with God. For generations, they had trusted that God would come to their aid. This prophet had to restore their trust in God.

In this reading, Third Isaiah warns the people not to put their trust in scoundrels. The prophet tells the people to call upon God, the source of true strength, regardless of fleeting appearances to the contrary.

For this weekend’s second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians. The Apostle Paul, in this epistle’s soaring language, proclaims the divinity of Christ, the Savior, the Son of God. Paul continues to explain the intimate, inseparable link between the Lord and true disciples. Come what may

on earth, a disciple will never die, if the disciple is constant in loving God and following Christ in obedience to God.

St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading, a parable. This parable is set within the context of everyday life in Palestine at the time of Jesus. Agriculture was the pursuit of most. Life was hard. Poverty was epidemic. Gainful employment was at a premium. Men looking for work, and income, came to village centers each morning, making themselves available for work. Persons with projects came to these places and hired these men.

It was a buyer’s market. No labor statutes or requirements for any minimum wage restrained employers in their pursuit of profit. Still, at least for Jews, certain expectations of fairness prevailed. A denarius was a typical day’s wage.

Jesus used the term “vineyard.” It immediately recalled Old Testament references to Israel as God’s vineyard. So, the story from the beginning had a theological and moral

quality. God owned and cared for the vineyard. He set the rules, but God hires the men. He, therefore, provides them with survival itself.

Two powerful lessons emerge. The first is that God is enormously generous. The second is that God’s ways are not necessarily our ways – a reality we seldom remember.

Reflection

For some weeks, the Church, through these weekend readings, has been calling us to follow Christ. Wisely, in this process, the Church recognizes that some of us hesitate not because we do not want to be with the Lord, but because we bear the burden of guilt or doubt, assuming that our self-created distance from God is too great to bridge.

Emphatically, in these readings, the Church reassures us of the unlimited mercy of God. God is the source of life. He lavishly offers it to us.

Whatever our sins if we repent, even at a late hour,

God’s loving forgiveness awaits us.

Ultimately, however, we must choose to be with God, to be disciples. No one is dragged, kicking and screaming, into heaven. Discipleship requires faith. Paul’s words call us to faith with the reminder that, without God, all is folly, all is impermanent, and all is death. God alone offers life.

READINGS

Sunday: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a
Monday: Ezra 1:1-6; Psalms 126:1-6; Luke 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b; 14-20; Psalms 122:1-5; Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezra 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2, 3-4, 7-8; Luke 9:1-6
Thursday: Haggai 1:1-8; Psalms 149:1-6, 9; Luke 9:7-9
Friday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; Psalms 138:1-5; John 1:47-51
Saturday: Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jeremiah 31:10-13; Luke 9:43b-45

What Catholic Parishes Can Do to Observe Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year, between September 15 and October 15, the United States observes Hispanic Heritage Month. The observance began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and, in 1988, was extended by law into a full-month celebration.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we all are invited to honor and highlight the many stories, experiences, and contributions of Hispanics living in the United States, which are integral to who we are as a nation.

For U.S. Catholics, Hispanic Heritage Month should be a major occasion to affirm and celebrate who we are and who we are becoming. Of the approximately 63.7 million Hispanic people living in this country, about 31 million self-identify as Catholic. What's more, about 43 percent of all Catholics in the United States are Hispanic.

Educational institutions at all levels in our nation engage in different activities to highlight Hispanic cultural elements and learn more about the Hispanic population. Teachers do a superb job creating moments where this happens, in the classroom and through schoolwide activities. Many other organizations do likewise.

I must say, however, that I do not see the same level of enthusiasm observing Hispanic Heritage Month in our Catholic parishes. It is rather strange, because nearly half of all U.S. Catholics are

Hispanic and fully 25 percent of parishes have developed some form of Hispanic ministry.

We don't seem to have developed a strong culture of parochial observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. But that can change. A communal culture is built through small practices and the commitment to perform these regularly. Here are five practical ideas.

- Start with the parish bulletin and social media. Write a weekly article about Hispanic Catholics; highlight the Hispanic community of your parish or your town; explain a Hispanic popular Catholicism practice – for example, posadas, altarcitos, quinceañeras; share the story of a U.S. Hispanic, Latin American, or Caribbean saint; invite young Hispanics to write something about growing up in a Hispanic Catholic household.

- Set up a book display in the back of your church, at the parish hall, or perhaps in the parish office (think of an often-frequented space in your community) with works that describe Hispanic Catholicism and books written by Hispanic Catholics: poetry, novels, theological works, spirituality guides. The literature on Hispanic Catholicism is abundant!

- Organize at least one evening parish lecture or presentation during this special month with a speaker who shares something interesting about Hispanic Catholics.

These practices don't take much effort or money. The effects upon the parish community can be invaluable as they help us to appreciate our Hispanic Catholic roots more.



HOSFFMAN OSPINO

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Promote the event among all parishioners of your community. If your community is multilingual, host events in different languages. And make sure you offer some Hispanic food!

- Those who preach can take advantage of this time of the year to intentionally say something about the Hispanic Catholic experience from the pulpit as they break open the word. Catechists and teachers in the parish should be encouraged to share about Hispanic Catholicism in their lessons. Give them some resources.

- This is the perfect time of the year to invite your parish community into fiesta! It does not take much to bring the community together to enjoy each other's presence. It could be a picnic, a large meal, or maybe a bazaar. Share Hispanic food and music. Start with a bilingual or multilingual Eucharistic celebration. Pray in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and Latin American indigenous languages.

These practices don't take much effort or money. The effects upon the parish community can be invaluable as they help us to appreciate our Hispanic Catholic roots more. Such practices are instrumental in reminding us of who we are and who we are becoming as U.S. Catholics. Happy Catholic celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month!

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

HALLENIUS, from page 12

Rome, which quickly became and remain beloved practices to nourish the faith of millions of Catholics. One might even say that we American Catholics can thank St. Philip Neri for inspiring the Eucharistic Revival and national pilgrimage that culminates in Indianapolis next summer with our Eucharistic Lord.

Father Philip served his brother Oratorians as their leader until his death on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1595. He was canonized just 25 years later at the same time as

St. Teresa of Avila (foundress of the Discalced Carmelites), St. Ignatius of Loyola (founder of the Jesuits), St. Francis Xavier (patron of missionaries), and St. Isidore the Farmer. All were from Spain, and the Romans, perhaps overly proud of their own son, St. Philip Neri, claimed that the pope that day had "canonized one saint and four Spaniards." No doubt the joyful hearted St. Philip would've appreciated the joke.

Thinking about the life and ministry of St. Philip, I am inspired by his manner of genuine engagement with everyone he met, his deep

personal devotion to the Lord Jesus that overflowed into practicing charity toward the poor and the sick, and his joyful heart, which brought happiness to so many during his lifetime and continues to do so today. The order he established also continues to inspire holiness, giving us St. John Henry Newman and St. Francis de Sales, among others. May their numbers ever increase!

St. Philip Neri, pray for us!

Ken Hallenius is a syndicated radio host and podcaster living in South Bend.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 24, 2023
Matthew 20:1-16a

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: The generous landowner. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HIRE	LABORERS	AGREEING
USUAL	DAILY WAGE	NINE O'CLOCK
IDLE	AGAIN	NOON
FOUND	ALL DAY	NO ONE
THE LAST	FIRST	RECEIVED
EQUAL	BURDEN	HEAT
FRIEND	ENVOIOUS	GENEROUS

THEIR PAY

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

RICHERT, from page 12

met Him recognized Him as the Son of God. When Jesus asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responded in faith, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And to that, Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

Thomas was already a follower of Christ before he encountered Him in the Upper Room. He had faith, but his faith had been shaken by Christ's passion and death. How did he recognize Jesus? Through the wounds of His passion. How did the disciples who walked with Christ on the road to Emmaus say that they recognized him? In the breaking of the bread. "[W]hat was visible in our Savior has passed over into His mysteries."

The scientific confirmation of Eucharistic miracles may revivify a flagging faith, but it is unlikely to spark faith where none previously existed nor, on its own, to sustain the faith it has temporarily revived. The only sign that we truly need to feed our faith is present before us in the hands of the priest at every Mass. The outward appearance of bread and wine may be all that we can see, but it need not be all that we can sense. Peter, in declaring that Jesus is "the Son of the living God," was not judging

by outward appearance ("flesh and blood has not revealed this to you") but was distilling his lived relationship with Christ into a statement of faith.

That experience – that lived relationship with Jesus – cannot be quantified and tested and retested in scientific experiments. But it is no less real than the presence of heart tissue or type AB-positive blood in a host in Poland or in Argentina.

There is a difference, though, between knowledge of a verified Eucharistic miracle and the experience of a lived relationship with Christ. The knowledge that we gain from that lived relationship requires action on our part. No true relationship can only flow one way. A true relationship requires our active participation.

We aren't called merely to know what the Church teaches about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Many nonbelievers know that. In the Eucharist, we are called to a relationship with Christ in His death and resurrection. We are asked to place ourselves at the foot of the cross, to unite ourselves with His sacrifice, to die with Him that we may rise to new life in Him. Only then can we truly proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

Scott Richert is the Publisher of Our Sunday Visitor. Visit OSVNews.com.

SMALL GROUPS, from page 5

"Father Voors has been instrumental in promoting most of this work with great assistance from parish members," Kohrman said.

Another focus of the group at St. Mary is to reinvigorate the devotion of the Eucharist.

This past Corpus Christi Sunday, June 11, the committee successfully implemented a Eucharistic procession after each of the three masses, so all parishioners had the chance to participate in the time of devotion and prayer.

"Following Corpus Christi, the Revival team asked Father Dave if we could have additional adoration times that might fit the needs of working families in the parish," Kohrman said. "We began Eucharistic adoration times each Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. with Mass following. In addition, a Kingdom Builders Women's Eucharistic Adoration group has been initiated at St. Mary's with prayer and adoration times once a month. We are hoping to add Eucharistic

adoration times during the day so that St. Mary's students could spend prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament. During 40 Hour devotions, all children from the school spent time in the presence of Our Lord, either in silent prayer or in guided lectio divina," Kohrman said.

In preparation for 40 Hours, the team chose 10 Eucharistic saints to study. Framed pictures of each saint are hanging on the church walls for viewing, and a biography of each saint will be included in Sunday bulletins throughout a 10-week period. Within the saint's story is the recommendation to ask each Eucharistic saint to intercede according to their charism.

Parishioners at St. Mary flocked to the parish's 40 Hour devotion, which was held in mid-August. Litanies, morning and evening prayer, and participation from schoolchildren were all part of the event. Bishop Robert Barron's book, "This Is My Body," was given to all parishioners who attended. Father Brian Isenbarger, Parochial Vicar at St. Vincent



Today's Catholic file photo

Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka will begin planning small-group programs as part of the Eucharistic Revival Parish Year.

de Paul in Fort Wayne, was the main celebrant and homilist, delivering a powerful and inspirational message incorporating the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the patronage of St. Mary of the

Assumption on her feast day for the closing Mass.

The Eucharistic Revival committee at St. Mary has just begun watching the videos accompanying the "Jesus and the Eucharist" materials and hopes to implement a parish-wide study in the spring.

"Our parish is small and somewhat rural, so we are taking all of that into consideration in planning," Kohrman said. "We are also looking at some other options for the fall and spring that were recommended by other revival teams."

Queen of Peace

Michelle Szajko has been a member of Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka for 35 years and is part of the planning team that is working on various activities for the parish community.

"We recently held our 40 Hours devotion," Szajko said. "Father Bill Meininger shared a reflection on each of the three evenings. We held various prayers, including daily Mass,

sung vespers, each day we said the Angelus at noon and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m., and held a closing Mass the last evening with a small reception afterward," Szajko said. "We also plan on having multiple small groups run the program 'Jesus and The Eucharist.' Our Eucharistic Revival core team is meeting every month to continue to see how we can serve our parish and help them grow closer to Jesus in the Eucharist."

The "Jesus and the Eucharist" small-group materials are a welcome resource for the planning team, Szajko said.

"The materials are great. I have watched the first session and really enjoyed it," Szajko said. "It is nice to have a free program that we can share with our parish to help them grow in their faith. Being able to download the videos for viewing and have supplied handouts really makes things easy."

According to Szajko, in the coming weeks, the planning committee will begin small-group programs.

"Our team just wants to see people grow closer to Jesus," Szajko said. "We are all at different points in our faith journey. Some of us are just getting started, and others need deeper enrichment. Meeting people where they are is important. It's sort of like running a marathon: You have to train; you don't just go out and run the full marathon. They can start with 10 minutes in adoration, or one decade of a Rosary. As they feel the effect it has on them, they will want to continue to do more. Before they know it, they are saying a Rosary every day or not wanting to leave adoration after an hour."

To learn more about resources for formation during the National Eucharistic Revival, including the small-group study "Jesus and the Eucharist," visit eucharisticrevival.org/formation-resources.

St. Jude

75

ANNIVERSARY

*Be a part of
the celebration!*

A Mass will be celebrated on
Saturday, October 28, at 4:30 p.m.

St. Jude Parish

19704 Johnson Rd., South Bend

*Dinner, dancing, and open bar will follow at
St. Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St., South Bend*

Tickets for the Dinner Dance are \$75/Adult and \$15/Child.

To attend RSVP to St. Jude Parish Office

574-291-0570 by October 9th.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Have you been a parishioner at St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Parish? Are you an alumni of St. Anthony school? We want to hear from you! Tell us about your favorite teacher or a memorable parish picnic or that time your team won the big game on a buzzer beater.

We are collecting stories about St. Anthony Church & School as a part of our 75th Anniversary. Visit stasb.org/reflect or call the parish office at 574-282-2308 to share your story with us.

QUESTIONS?

emailcommunications@stasb.org



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 School Alumni Reunion

FORT WAYNE – A St. Patrick School reunion will be held on Sunday, September 23, from 1-4 p.m. in the Lyceum, 2120 S. Harrison St. T-shirts will be available to purchase to honor the school. Sloppy Joe and a potluck for the side items will be offered. The \$5 fee will cover the donation for the Lyceum, the sloppy joe, and the paper products. There is Mass at 4:30 p.m. for those wishing to attend. Contact Karen Gordon at stpatsreunionftw@gmail.com.

Oktoberfest

HUNTINGTON – Knights of Columbus Council 1014 will host Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 30, at the 1014 Club, 2817 Theater Ave. Festive German music sets the tone for the club transformed into a beer hall and biergarten straight out of Munich. Come enjoy bratwursts, wienerschnitzel, German potato salad, kraut, pretzels, and autumn drink specials. Bring a table of friends to participate in the raffles, Alpine Climb, and stein hoist. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; last call at 11:30 p.m. Contact Nicole Hahn at 260-760-7409 for information.

Marriage Encounter at St. Charles - Married Couples Welcome

FORT WAYNE – Marriage Encounter helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply with your spouse. This Marriage Encounter Experience is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8, at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 4916 Trier Rd. Return to the comfort of your own home overnight. There's no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be. Apply at wwme-ni.org, or contact Jeff and Brenda at application@wwme-ni.org or 260-484-1664.

Walk to Remember for Perinatal and Infant Loss

HUNTERTOWN – The 10th annual Walk To Remember for Perinatal and Infant Loss will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Huntertown Family Park Pavilion, 2303 Woods Road in Huntertown. This free event offers something for everyone. The highlighted activity is a one-mile memorial walk around the park following a banner with your baby's name on it. Other stations with additional activities will also be available leading up to the walk. Visit walktorememberfw.org or Contact Dana Wyant at 260-450-0914 for information.

World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday Holy Mass and Breakfast

FORT WAYNE – The World Apostolate of Fatima will have a Mass on Saturday,

October 7, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Confession, Rosary, and First Saturday Devotions begin at 7:30 a.m. followed by Mass with Father Glenn Kohrman, Father Robert Garrow, and Father Stephen Felicichia at 9 a.m. A Marian procession will follow with breakfast at the Grand Wayne Center. Father Stephen Felicichia, Pastor, St. Mary of the Lake Church, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$14 for children 3-12 years old. Visit fatimafwsb.org or contact Seth Ball at 260-442-9957 or seth@fatimafwsb.org for information.

Third Annual Mary's Way Dinner

MISHAWAKA – Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4508 Vistula Rd., will host the third Annual Mary's Way Dinner on Sunday, October 8, from 1-4 p.m. Come and learn more about Mary

REST IN PEACE

Bremen

Juan Antonio Fernandez, 57, St. Dominic

Bristol

Jimmy Boal, 52, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Jacquelin Czarniecki, 91, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Catherine Weyant, 105, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Elkhart

Sheila Dibley, 90, St. Thomas the Apostle

Dennis Foster, 70, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Olga G. Puente, 87, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Elfriede Samuel, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

Agatha Tourney, 100, St. Charles Borromeo

Eileen Wilson, 68, St. Charles Borromeo

South Bend

Anton Pajor, 91, Christ the King

Mary Niezgodski, 95, Holy Cross

Bernard Kielton, 68, St. Adalbert

Greg Chavez, 68, St. Casimir

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.

while you deepen your faith. The guest speaker is Sister Stephen Culhane, a Franciscan Laity Missionary. The cost is \$25 and includes a casual dinner buffet, drinks, materials, and fellowship. Contact Patti Grenert at 574-255-9674 or Parishoffice@queenofpeace.cc for information.

Step Out in Faith: Exploring Catholic Opportunities after High School

FORT WAYNE – This college fair-style event held on Thursday, October 12, at the

University of Saint Francis - North Campus Gym, 2702 Spring St., will include opportunities for high school students to meet representatives from Catholic universities, missionary organizations, and priestly and religious vocations. A keynote will be given at 6 p.m. on the value of a Catholic education, and attendees are welcome to attend Adoration by candlelight in the St. Francis Chapel after the fair. Students can register by going to go.sf.edu/stepoutinfaith.

Memorial Masses

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD

Tue., Oct. 10 | 5:30 p.m. | English
St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart

Fri., Oct. 13 | 5:45 p.m. | English
St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Thur, Oct. 26 | 6:30 p.m. | Spanish
St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne

Fri., Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | Spanish
St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart

For more information, visit:
diocesefwsb.org/avas-grace

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WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA, U.S.A.
Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocesan Division

Holy Mass and Breakfast Saturday, October 7

7:30 a.m.: Sacramental Confession
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 Stephen Felicichia

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

SUBMIT EVENTS
at
TodaysCatholic.org
/event

PRECIOUS BLOOD, from page 1

Irish. The surge in the Catholic population led to a dire need for parishes and schools to serve the faithful. The second bishop of the diocese, Bishop Joseph Dwenger, who was a Precious Blood priest in Ohio before assuming his episcopal duties, played a pivotal role in addressing this need.

Before his death in 1893, Bishop Dwenger had a vision of establishing a Precious Blood Parish in the Bloomingdale neighborhood of Fort Wayne. His dream was realized by his successor, Bishop Joseph Rademacher, who invited the Society of the Precious Blood to create this new spiritual haven.

In 1897, Precious Blood Father Frank Nigsch was appointed as the first pastor of the burgeoning community. He was tasked to secure land for the church, school, and parish buildings, and to conduct a census of Catholics in the area for the new parish. Father Nigsch's census revealed that 155 Catholic families attended other parishes, most of whom eventually became the found-



Photos by Katie Murray

Several pieces of memorabilia were on display at the celebration of Most Precious Blood Parish's 125th anniversary, including historic photos of the church and school. Eighth-grader Brooke Griggs (below) was among the students leading tours of the school during the September 16-17 celebration, which included Mass with Bishop Rhoades (bottom right).



ing members of Most Precious Blood.

Given the significant number of school-age children in the community, parish leaders determined a school was needed. In 1898, a combined church and school building was erected, marking the genesis of the parish. The project came with financial struggles, but with the support of neighboring parishes and the dedication of the Precious Blood Sisters who staffed the school, the dream was realized.

In 1929, the parish made plans to build a new school to serve more families, which had grown from 250 to 450 students. At the time, the cost to build the new school was \$230,000, and to offset this cost, parish leaders conjured up an innovative idea to pay off the bill. They decided to build a bowling alley in the basement of the new school, which is still in use for the community. The bowling alley, which has a nostalgic feel of the 1930s, is kept up by Larry Sarrazin, who runs the center and is an alum of the school and longtime parishioner, alongside his sister, Wendy Luley, and her husband, Rich Luley. The bowling alley still uses classic ball returns and hand-written scorecards.

"I love the vintage aesthetic value that it brings," Sarrazin said. "You get this sense of love and care that you don't get at other places."

In his homily during Mass on Sunday, Bishop Rhoades said that Most Precious Blood Parish and School, with its 125-year legacy, stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith, community, and the Precious Blood of Jesus.

"For 125 years, parishioners here have given glory and honor to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus through prayer and worship, through adoration of the holy Eucharist, and through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We [look] toward the future, [and] I encourage your fervent devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus."

