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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 96 No. 32

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Fort Wayne Hosts Investiture for Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI



Scott Warden

Bishop Rhoades uses holy water to bless the capes of those joining the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem during a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Saturday, September 16.

Scores of people processed under sunny skies through downtown Fort Wayne to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, September 17, as the North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem inducted its newest members into the order during its Investiture ceremony, which was followed by a memorial Mass. Twelve candidates were named Knights, 11 were named Dames, and eight were named Priest Knights. The weekend, hosted in Fort Wayne, was a chance for members to connect, listen to lectures, take part in educational sessions, pray, visit local exhibitions, and take part in the official ceremony and induction of its new members.

The North Central Lieutenancy covers the geographical area of the states of Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. According to its website, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is the only lay institution of the Vatican State charged with the task of providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and for all the activities and initiatives that are necessary to support the

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On Mission in Maui, Clergy Provide Comfort

BY PATRICK DOWNES

(OSV News) – A smile. A wave. A hug. A bottle of water. An attentive and compassionate ear. A shoulder to cry on. A prayer. A ministry of presence. A steady stream of priests and deacons from across the Diocese of Honolulu has been making its way to west Maui to provide spiritual support for the victims of the Lahaina wildfires, the worst natural disaster ever to hit the state of Hawaii. Called the Maui Mercy Mission, it was initiated 10 days after the catastrophe with a letter from Bishop Larry Silva to Hawaii's deacons and priests. "Many of those affected by the fire simply need someone to talk to, to pray with them, and to comfort them," Bishop Silva wrote. There is also a need to bless the bodies of the dead in the temporary morgue if families request it, he said.

"I am asking all the priests and deacons, whether on Maui or on other islands, to consider lending spiritual support by going to Maui for a day or two to be present to those in need and to offer prayer, spiritual counsel, and your presence," said the bishop, who has been on one of these mission trips himself.

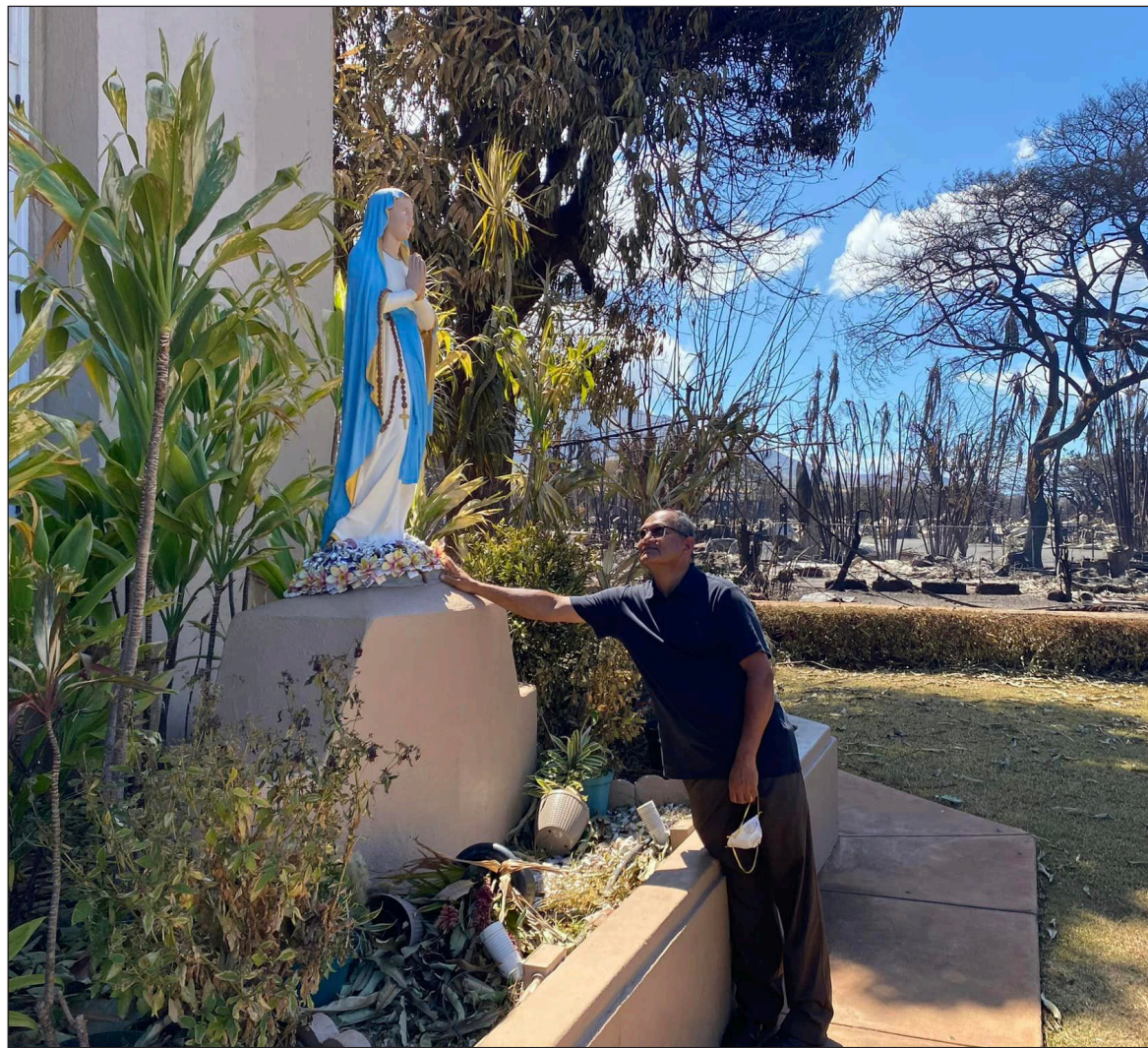
The bishop also asked the priests and deacons to donate their airfare. Ground transportation and overnight accommodations, if needed, would be arranged.

The bishop asked Father Arnold Ortiz, who retired in June as a parish pastor, to coordinate the mission's logistics.

About 15 deacons and three wives of deacons were part of the first wave of Maui "missionaries," said Father Ortiz, not including those from Maui and elsewhere who have come on their own. Priests from Oahu and neighboring islands and a few priests from the mainland have participated in the Maui mission.

"The Maui priests, deacons, and sisters, of course, have been the primary source of help," led by Msgr. Terrence Watanabe, Vicar of Maui, he said.

Maui Deacon Chris Ribucan of Kahului is the primary mission organizer on the island, arranging transportation from and to the airport and getting the clergy to the mission stations, which are open tents where the ministry is offered, advertised by signs that read, "Spiritual Assistance: Prayer, Guidance, and Sacraments." "The primary services are spiritual comfort and prayer, counseling, sacraments, computers and daily supplies," Father Ortiz said in an email to the Hawaii Catholic Herald, the newspaper of the Diocese of Honolulu.



OSV News photo/courtesy Maria Lanakila Parish

Missionaries of Faith Father Kuriakose Nadooparambil, Pastor of Maria Lanakila Church in Lahaina, Maui, on Wednesday, August 16, touches a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that still stands amid foliage untouched by the wildfire that scorched trees across the street and destroyed the entire town of Lahaina.

By Wednesday, August 30, two mission stations were set up, one at Napili Park, "around the corner" from Sacred Hearts Church in Kapalua, and the other at Lahaina Gateway Center. More mission stations were being considered for the hotels where more than 4,000 people have found shelter.

"Most important for the Diocese of Honolulu is to have a strong presence," Father Ortiz said.

"It's heart wrenching to see the ruins of the fire, but gratifying to see people coming ... for help," he said.

"One of the deacons listened long and patiently to a person tell her story about how she lost everything. We saw the stress on her face and in her demeanor, but just telling her story to someone who really cared was important for her to begin to find a sense of calm and peace," Father Ortiz said. But this is just the beginning, he said. "I believe we recognize now this mission effort will be needed for many years."

"It's important we stay organized and encourage volunteers to be flexible," he said. "Over time, the process for managing the missions will be refined as they will most likely continue to grow in number."

Deacon Michael Weaver, Director of the diocesan Office for Deacons, went on mission

on Monday, August 28. "The day I went over, we were in Napili Park in Kapalua. It's one of the major staging areas for aid."

He told about one woman who came over and said, "I'm not Catholic, but I really need to talk to someone." Deacon Ribucan sat her down and got her some water. She told him of how she had gone through multiple evacuations – the most recent one based on a false rumor – from her still undamaged house. "I can't take this!" she told Deacon Ribucan, who let her talk, commenting occasionally, "as she just let her feelings out."

"Thirty minutes later, she was calmer and laughing," said Deacon Weaver. "She hugged Chris, who said a prayer with her, shook my hand and Father Arnold's as well, and walked quietly off. She turned as she got to her car and waved."

"That's pretty much how the day went," said the deacon. Deacon Charles Mapa, from Mountain View on the Big Island of Hawaii, and who serves as a deacon at Sacred Heart Church in Pahoa, gave a brief homily at Sunday Mass at Sacred Hearts Mission on Sunday, August 27. He spoke about his part in the mercy mission.

"Speaking as a deacon, I know

that most of us came with little expectation that we had to do something when we got here. We knew that if we could just be here, God would use our presence to let us listen to you and pray with you," he said. "I saw a great dynamic happening because of this situation," he said. "I saw on the Big Island a great outpouring of love that I knew was happening throughout our beautiful islands, and you are the target of that love."

"I have seen here signs of great resiliency and hope. That you are even having Mass here in this mission church, this beautiful mission church, is a wonderful thing," Deacon Mapa said.

"There seems to be, in spite of the tremendous hardships placed on you, a huge outpouring of the Holy Spirit here," he said. "There is vibrant life here, and it is here because you continually say 'yes' to God's promptings. You will endure and I see you as beacons of love and hope for all of Lahaina."

"In closing, I quote Pope St. John Paul II, 'Couraggio! God is with you!'"

Patrick Downes is Editor of the Hawaii Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Honolulu.

In Marseille, Pope Says Welcoming the 'Stranger' Is a Global Mandate

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – In a visit of less than 30 hours to Marseille, France, Pope Francis highlighted his key appeals and positions concerning migration and the mandate for people of faith to care for the “stranger” in one’s land.

With just four main events and accompanying speeches, “I hope I have the courage to say everything I have to say,” he told the journalists flying with him from Rome for the trip, which took place Friday, September 22, and Saturday, September 23.

What he said, in essence, has been the main thrust of his pontificate: The world must choose either the path of human fraternity and cooperation to have any kind of peaceful future or choose the downward spiral of indifference, division, and confrontation. And, most importantly, the faithful must be exemplary models of the right path of sharing and caring for the outcast with joy and compassion.

The trip to the port city of Marseille was less about the city or nation and more about the Mediterranean Sea it touches. The Mediterranean has been a constant concern of this pope. It is the most dangerous migration route in the world, according to the International Organization for Migration. The minimum estimated number of recorded deaths between 2014 and 2022 is more than 24,000 people.

No other place comes close: Minimum estimates for the same period for the Sahara Desert are 5,323 fatalities, and the estimate for the U.S.-Mexico border crossing stands at 3,761 people dead.

“We need deeds, not words,” Pope Francis said during a powerful moment before he led a minute of silence with bishops from around the Mediterranean, local religious leaders, and groups assisting migrants.

All migrants are people who have names, faces, hopes, and dreams, he said at a memorial overlooking the sea, and those “who are at risk of drowning when abandoned on the waves must be rescued. It is a duty of humanity; it is a duty of civilization!”

The cultural and religious diversity on display at the memorial ceremony and in Marseille underlined another important message of the pope: Diversity can be an opportunity, not a threat. He praised the city’s longstanding active dedication to interreligious dialogue and mutual cooperation



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Four children and a young man give Pope Francis gifts while French Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne looks on during a brief welcoming ceremony at Marseille International Airport in Marseille, France, on Friday, September 22.

on concrete issues promoting fraternity and peaceful coexistence.

Like a handful of other trips, the prime purpose of the pope’s visit was to encourage a major event being held there; in this case, it was part of a Church-led series of meetings that brings bishops from around the Mediterranean region together with a variety of other leaders and young people. The meetings, which began in Bari, Italy, in 2020, recognize that the complex problems of migration, human trafficking, environmental degradation, conflict, and economic disparities between North and South require strategies and solutions that involve multiple nations and sectors of society.

In a lengthy speech at the final session of the “Mediterranean Meetings” at the Pharo Palace on Saturday, September 23, the pope covered all of that as well as some hot-button political issues.

The duty to protect the dignity and foster the well-being of every migrant is no different from the duty to protect the unborn, the elderly, young people who lack guidance, exploited workers, families, and those who are escaping violence and persecution, he said, effectively condemning moves or current measures to support abortion, “assisted dying,” cutbacks to social or economic opportunities, and to not recognize the rights of refugees or deny them full citizenship.

“Indeed, the real social evil is not so much the increase of problems but the decrease of

care,” especially for the most vulnerable, he said.

When it comes to migration, people have the right to not have to flee their homes, he said in that speech, and this calls for greater global justice.

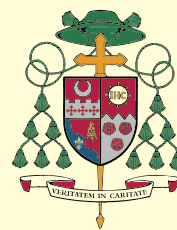
“The Mediterranean mirrors the world,” he said, with the North exuding “affluence, consumerism, and waste” while the South or developing countries are “plagued by instability, regimes, wars, and desertification” and look to who are well-off.

The change needed for “peace to take root,” he said, is for communities to treat newcomers as brothers and sisters, “not as troublesome problems,” to integrate them and give them dignity through coordinated, equitable, legal, and regular channels of entry.

The trip was a prelude to the September 24 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which was celebrated in Marseille by Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Echoing the pope’s words, he said in his homily that the world must commit to ensuring migration pathways that are “orderly and safe, guaranteeing that everyone’s rights and dignity are respected. This requires knocking on doors, expanding regular migration channels, and the chance to become ‘full citizens.’”

“Because all have in common the same hope: to be able to guarantee a dignified life for themselves and their families,” he said.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

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



Priest Assignment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignment:
Reverend John Santone, CSC to Parochial Administrator, St. Augustine Parish, South Bend



Deacon Assignments

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

Deacon Juan Campos, from diaconal ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville to St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, effective October 30, 2023.

Deacon Ricardo Garcia, from diaconal ministry at St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, effective October 30, 2023.



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
 St. Mary Mother of God, Fort Wayne: October 27-29

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

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

Impactful Experience Inspires Monument to Unborn Children

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

All Souls' Day 2022 had a lasting impact on Cindy Robertson and her husband, Jeff Robertson. Cindy is a board member of the Holy Innocents Pro-Life Action Group of Elkhart County. The couple attended an evening outdoor Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in Elkhart and were invited to a special recognition event in honor of the infant souls who have passed.

"At the end of the Mass, Father Craig Borchard, Pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, invited those who wished to stay to participate in a lighted procession to inter the remains of the unborn children who had passed away during that year," Cindy said. "By this time, the sun had set, and it was dark out. We elected to participate and were deeply touched by the solemn reverence as we sang and prayed together along the way to the burial site. A further invitation was given to all those who wished to stay for the actual burial, and, again, Jeff and I chose to remain. The small box was placed into the prepared grave, after which the kind man [the gravedigger] shoveled and tamped the earth over the little ones in a holy, alternating rhythm until the burial was complete. Father Craig and those in attendance held a silent vigil throughout the process and then quietly left."

Days later, regular in-person



Provided by Cindy Robertson

Members of the Holy Innocents Pro-Life Action Group of Elkhart County pose for a photo on Friday, August 25, following a ceremony to dedicate the new Monument to Unborn Children at St. Vincent Cemetery in Elkhart. The event was officiated by Father Craig Borchard. Wearly Monuments of Osceola made and installed the monument.

meetings resumed for the Holy Innocents group after the COVID-19 lockdown. At the meeting, the group prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet, asking for the Lord's guidance concerning the direction of activities for the group.

"Before adjourning, we decided that we would all go home and pray for this specific guidance," Cindy Robertson said. "That very night, guidance was given to honor God's littlest ones with a monument, which would also provide a sacred place for grieving families. This proposal was brought before the Holy Innocents Board, and all agreed to pro-

ceed with this project."

Ahead of Respect Life Month, celebrated by the Church every October, the Monument to Unborn Children at St. Vincent Cemetery was dedicated on Friday, August 25. Wearly Monuments of Osceola made and installed the monument, which cost slightly more than \$4,000. Two fundraisers – a carnation sale on Mother's Day, and a spiritual bouquet card sale on Father's Day – were held at all four churches in Elkhart County to help pay for the monument: St. Vincent de Paul and St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, St. John the Evangelist

in Goshen, and St. Mary of the Assumption in Bristol.

"For over three years, I've had the honor of partnering with Brad Billings on this spiritually impactful project," said Dorinda Dietz, Funeral Director at Billings Funeral Home and a new member of the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery Board.

"When the House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1337 was amended in 2020, which mandates a dignified disposition for miscarried, aborted, or stillborn remains, it became clear to us that we had a sacred duty to exercise the corporal work of mercy of burying the dead. Previously, these remains were considered medical waste. Our Catholic faith teaches us to value every human life from conception to natural death, and this initiative gives these precious souls the dignified interment they rightly deserve."

The Garden of the Holy Innocents memorial is both a symbolic and physical marker, Dietz said. It is situated in the "Babyland" section of St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, where little ones have been laid to rest.

"Each year, beginning with a special Mass on All Souls' Day, November 2, we have offered these children a Christian burial, providing them with a dignified and sacred resting place," Dietz said. Dietz told Today's Catholic that the number of children buried at the cemetery continues to grow over the years, with 431 being laid to rest over the past three years. Dietz said it is "a somber

but necessary testament to the value of every life."

Five years ago, Jeff Kendell, Chairperson of the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery Board, said Father Borchard tasked him with leading the effort to clean up and make improvements to the cemetery and complete necessary projects.

"One of these projects was the establishment of a dedicated section of the cemetery for the interment of babies," Kendell said. "This is the section that the Garden of Holy Innocents is within."

The cemetery board hopes to incorporate this Garden of Holy Innocents into a major columbarium and meditation garden.

"It is my hope we can raise awareness for respect for life in the community and show through our Holy Innocents ministry our respect for the sacredness of all life including these little souls," Kendell said. Anyone interested in contributing to the cemetery maintenance or specifically the Holy Innocents Garden can learn more at catholiccemeryelkhart.org.

Losing a loved one is never easy, and this monument allows for a place where grieving families can find peace.

"Our deepest hope is that the project serves as an enduring reminder of the sanctity of life. We aspire to create both a resting place and a sanctuary for prayer and reflection," Dietz said. "Plans are underway to extend this area into a memorial garden and meditation area, where families and community members can come to remember, pray, and find peace."

Robertson said she hopes people will come to the memorial site to pray for an end to abortion, for those working to end abortion, and that life at all stages will be respected.

"In the past, the remains of many unborn children were treated as medical waste," she reiterated. "The parents and family members mourning those children had no physical place at which to honor them. One of our hopes is that these parents will find solace and comfort here, and that they may bring flowers from time to time as they reflect on the gift of that child, perhaps asking for his or her intercession, maintaining an ongoing relationship within the communion of saints. I also hope that all those who honor life will visit and pray for these families."

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

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Provided by Central Catholic High School Board

Fort Wayne Central Catholic High School board members pose during a recent reunion. They are, from left to right, Mark Linker, Vicky Linker, Dan Vought, Elaine Fritz, Laura Stuckey, Leanne Mensing, and Mary Lou Morris. Missing from the photo is fellow board member Judy Potosky. Central Catholic High School closed in 1972, but former students still gather regularly for reunions.

Friendships Celebrated at Central Catholic Reunions

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne closed in 1972, but classmates continue to gather once a year for an all-school reunion. On Wednesday, September 20, former Central Catholic students celebrated an all-class reunion with a lunch at Classic Cafe.

"The first reunion was a success because some classes didn't have annual reunions anymore," said Central Catholic's first Alumni Association President, Mary Lou Thieme Morris.

As the organization's first president, Morris organized the first reunion. It was her vision that launched what has become a longtime tradition.

"I was inspired to find a way to get everyone together because I thought everyone would have a lot of fun," Morris said.

While no longer serving as president, Morris sits on the Central Catholic Alumni Association's board as Chair of Memorabilia. She has remained very active with the community and regularly attends reunions.

"It's always exhilarating. We're all getting older, but it's still always exhilarating to see our old classmates," she commented.

Leanne Mensing, Class of 1956, attended this year's all-class reunion and others in the past. For Mensing, the people present are the highlight of the reunion.

"It's always about seeing who's there and making those acquaintances and meeting new people," she said.

Also this month, what would have been Central Catholic's Class of 1973

(should the school have stayed open another year) celebrated its 50th reunion.

"None of us graduated from Central Catholic 50 years ago," Sue Densmore, Class of 1973, explained. "Yet we've all maintained our friendships."

"Some of us went to Bishop Luers, Bishop Dwenger, Northside, and I think Elmhurst," Densmore said. "Even though we were all separated our last year of high school, we've all stayed so close. We're 70, and we're still all friends."

Many from what would have been Central Catholic's Class of 1973, but graduated from other schools after Central closed in 1972, choose to attend Central Catholic's reunion instead of the reunions at the schools from where they actually graduated.

"We have held reunions every five years since that non-graduation," said Mary Lou Plummer. "Many people have not attended the reunions of the schools they received their diplomas from, but instead have remained true to the memory of our Central Catholic class."

Karen Archacki also attended the 50th reunion for the Class of 1973. She was impressed by the turnout.

"I thought we had a fantastic turnout considering the fact our class didn't actually get to graduate together," Archacki said.

Between the all-class reunion and the non-graduating Class of 1973, the Central Catholic community remains strong. Despite the closure, friendships continue to form and grow through such reunions.

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Pope Condemns Child Pornography: 'Criminality Available to Everyone'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Child pornography is “criminality available to everyone through their phones,” Pope Francis said while discussing abuse prevention with representatives of a safeguarding research and formation center from Latin America on Monday, September 25, at the Vatican. The pope put aside his prepared remarks to address “a problem that is very serious on this matter of abuse, the filming of child pornography.” Pope Francis continued: “Unfortunately, by paying a small fee, one can have it on their phone. Where is this child pornography made? In which country is it made? Nobody knows. But it is criminality available to everyone through their phones.” At the Vatican on September 25, he told the safeguarding representatives that the Church has come a long way in combatting abuse thanks to “prophetic pastors” such as Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the Commission for the Protection of Minors, who was in Rome for the commission’s plenary assembly. The pope praised the cardinal, who was at the meeting, for being able to take hold of the “hot potato” that was the clerical sex abuse crisis in Boston. Still, Pope Francis recalled the “sad reality” of abuse cases in the Church and in the world, objecting to people who may say, “ah, there aren’t so many.” Pope Francis said, “If it were only one, it would already be scandalous, just one, and there are more than one.”

Michigan, Florida Bishops Decry ‘Grave’ Abortion Efforts

(OSV News) – The Michigan Catholic Conference – the public policy arm of the state’s bishops – is calling on state legislators to oppose what it called an “appalling” package of bills that would scrap widely supported regulations on the abortion industry in the state. The so-called “Reproductive Health Act,” which passed the Democratic-controlled House Health Policy Committee in the state House of Representatives on Wednesday, September 20, would legalize third trimester partial-birth abortions, end state-required inspections and licensure standards for abortion clinics, and overturn informed-consent laws that require clinics to warn women of the dangers of the procedure. The Michigan Catholic Conference appealed to lawmakers to conduct a “conscience check” and reject the extreme bills. Similarly, Florida’s Catholic bishops in

Pope at Angelus: God’s Generosity Is Boundless



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Visitors gather in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis on Sunday, September 24. Reflecting on the Gospel’s parable of the workers, Pope Francis said, “Sometimes we risk having a ‘mercantile’ relationship with God, focusing more on our prowess than on the generosity of his grace.”

mid-September alerted the faithful to an “extremely grave initiative” underway in their state that “seeks to erase pro-life protections by banning government regulation of abortion in our state constitution.” They urged Catholics not to sign any petition to get this “pro-abortion constitutional amendment, titled Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion, placed on the statewide ballot for the November 2024 election.” “A network of abortion activists is working to gather (900,000) petition signatures,” the bishops said in a statement released in Tallahassee by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett Praises ‘Academic Freedom’ at CUA Law Event

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett discussed the importance of academic freedom and offered career advice in remarks to law stu-

dents at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, September 21. In an event hosted by the school’s Project on Constitutional Originalism and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Barrett participated in a discussion about the study and practice of law, and offered insight about her own rationale for deciding whether she will file a concurring opinion in cases at the high court. Admitting her views could change over time, Barrett said, “The way that I think about it right now is I would say that I have what I might think of as an institutionalist perspective on opinions. And if I’m in the majority, my presumption is that the court’s opinion speaks for the court.” An estimated 250 people attended the event. Barrett, a Catholic jurist who was previously a professor at the Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, said academic freedom at a Catholic university “really opens up more lines of inquiry than narrows or shuts them down because it invites, very explicitly, another perspective to the table.”

Garland Questioned Over FBI Memo on ‘Radical Traditionalist Catholics’

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Attorney General Merrick Garland was questioned about a controversial and retracted FBI memo that suggested some “radical traditionalist” Catholics pose threats of racial or ethnically motivated violence during testimony on Wednesday, September 20, before the House Judiciary Committee. Garland reiterated his previous condemnation of that memo, which was leaked earlier this year. The memo said “Radical Traditionalist Catholics” are typified by rejection of the Second Vatican Council and can include an “adherence to anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ, and white supremacist ideology.” It listed as examples several groups and persons who identify as Catholic but take openly adversarial positions against the Catholic Church’s leadership or official teachings. The memo defined “radical traditionalist” Catholics as “separate

and distinct” from “traditionalist Catholics” or Catholics who “simply prefer the Traditional Latin Mass and pre-Vatican II teachings.” Garland noted his previous condemnations of the now-retracted memo and said it was “absurd” to suggest he would discriminate against any religion when his own family’s history involved fleeing religious persecution in Eastern Europe and losing relatives to the Holocaust. Garland said, “Catholics are not extremists, no.”

Pope Names Two Chinese Bishops to Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – On the recommendation of the Catholic bishops of mainland China in consultation with the Chinese government, Pope Francis has named two bishops from the country’s mainland as members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 4. Bishop Joseph Yang Yongqiang of Zhoucun, who has served as vice president of the government-related Council of Chinese Bishops, and Bishop Anthony Yao Shun of Jining, the first bishop ordained after the Vatican and China signed a provisional agreement on the nomination of bishops in 2018, will be among the 365 synod members, a number which includes the pope, the Vatican said. The Vatican released an updated list of people expected to participate in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Thursday, September 21.

U.S. Catholic Archbishop Receives Award from Ukraine President

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia received the Cross of Ivan Mazepa from Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday, September 21, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Zelenskyy visited the U.S. capital for meetings after addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, September 19. Established in 2009, the award honors individuals who have made “significant personal contribution to strengthening interstate cooperation, support of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and popularization of the Ukrainian state in the world,” according to a news release from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Ukrainian First Lady Olena Zelenska said at the ceremony that the U.S.-born archbishop, who is the son of Ukrainian immigrants, “is known to thousands of Ukrainians – soldiers, displaced persons, and many others whom he helps, and young people who, thanks to him, get a great education.”

Fort Wayne Christ Child Society Celebrates at Annual Mass, Dinner

On Tuesday, September 19, St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne hosted the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne's annual Mass and Appreciation Dinner with Bishop Rhoades, who is the Spiritual Adviser for the Fort Wayne Chapter, as well as a huge supporter of the work the Christ Child Society. The Mass and dinner celebrated the accomplishments of the organization and was held in appreciation for all that the members and their husbands do for the love of the Christ Child.

Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Mass, and Father Kevin Bauman, Pastor at St. Joseph, assisted. Father Nathan Maskal served as Master of Ceremonies, and he was assisted by Deacon Orlando Miranda. Ken Jehle provided the music.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades thanked the Christ Child members and their husbands for the work they do in caring for the needs of children. Bishop Rhoades spoke of the heart of the Christ Child members so filled with love that it moves their hands to do good work for children in need.

"We are called to perform the works of mercy," Bishop Rhoades said. "You provide wonderful help to poor and needy families and children, including such necessities as clothing and school supplies. You work hard with your hands – obtaining, packing, and delivering items for the children. But there is something that precedes your work with your hands. What you do starts in your hearts, then ends in your hands – the works of mercy. What starts in your hearts is love and compassion. You are moved in your hearts, like Jesus was moved in His heart and then performed the miracle. Jesus' compassion

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Bishop Rhoades, above, receives the gifts of bread and wine during a Mass celebrating the Christ Child Society's Fort Wayne Chapter at St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, September 19. Following the Mass, Chapter President Lori Neumann, below, addresses attendees at the organization's Appreciation Dinner, which took place in the gymnasium of St. Joseph School.



Photos provided by the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne

Mass was followed by a dinner catered by Casa D'Angelo in the gym of St. Joseph School. Chapter President Lori Neumann welcomed and thanked everyone for all their amazing accomplishments. Neumann shared that, in 2022, the Fort Wayne Chapter touched the lives of 5,991 children in 2,860 families. Neumann told Today's Catholic that 177 members of the Chapter completed 10,522 volunteer hours, during which they distributed more than 5,500 books and more than 46,000 diapers. The chapter gave out nearly \$170,000 worth of clothing, baby items, and more – all made possible, Neumann said, because of the "generosity of our donors."

Before the close of the celebration, Board Member Pat Spoltman stepped forward to share with those in attendance how successful the Baby Bottle fundraiser has been in the 10 years since it began. Spoltman thanked everyone for their work coordinating the Baby Bottle drop-off and pick-up at area parishes. Special thanks and recognition were given to Bishop Rhoades, who has been an instrumental supporter, encouraging parishes to welcome the Christ Child Baby Bottle fundraiser, Neumann said. Each year, Bishop Rhoades presents the Chapter with a Baby Bottle filled with coins. In thanks and recognition of his wholehearted support, Spoltman called Bishop Rhoades forward to present him with a baby bottle filled with Hershey Kisses.

Neumann said the members of the Christ Child Society truly believe in the words of Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder of the Christ Child Society and a Servant of God: "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne is inspired by Mary Virginia's call to "find a need and fill it."

led to His taking action. Pope Francis has said that mercy is a journey that goes from the heart to the hands.

"As disciples of Jesus, we have experienced Jesus' love and compassion, His tenderness and mercy, in our lives. Our life in Christ involves taking on His interior sentiments, His love, tenderness, mercy, and compassion," Bishop Rhoades continued. "And then, with truly Christian hearts, we do works that express our love and compassion for those who are poor and suffering. That's our mission. It's the Church's mission. And it's the mission of the Christ Child Society. I am so grateful for your commitment to this mission, for all your hard work on behalf of the children and families you assist."

Jesters Program Awarded \$50,000 Grant



Provided by the University of Saint Francis

The Jesters program at the University of Saint Francis gratefully received a \$50,000 grant from AWS Foundation, a university spokesman announced on Monday, September 19.

The grant will be used to support the general operations of the Jesters, a performing group of people ages 8 and older with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Saint Francis has sponsored the Jesters since 1978.

"The Jesters program and the University of Saint Francis are always grateful for AWS Foundation's grant support," said Jesters Director Allison Ballard. "These funds help provide the staff, materials and opportunities needed to provide a quality experience for participants with intellectual/developmental disabilities, their families, and the community."

The Jesters' annual spring performance will take place at the Saint Francis North Auditorium on Saturday, March 9, at 6 p.m., and Sunday, March 10, at 3 p.m. To learn more about the program, visit Facebook.com/USFJesters.

INVESTITURE, from page 1

Christian presence in the Holy Land. The contributions made by its members throughout the world are therefore the main source of funding for the institutions of the Patriarchate.

The Order's Mission

The order's support for the Christians in the Holy Land does not just take the form of financial contributions and prayers. All the order's lieutenancies arrange formal pilgrimages, in the course of which members do not simply view and explore the area's holy sites, but also have the opportunity to meet the people whom they are supporting and assure them that they are not forgotten.

The order is charged, in its constitution:

To strengthen in its members the practice of Christian life, in absolute fidelity to the Supreme Pontiff and according to the teachings of the Church, observing as its foundation the principles of charity which make the order a fundamental means of assistance to the Holy Land.

To sustain and aid the charitable, cultural, and social works

More photos are available at todayscatholic.org



and institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, particularly those of

and in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with which the order maintains its traditional ties.

To support the preservation and propagation of the Faith in those lands and promote interest in this work not only among Catholics scattered throughout the world, who are united in charity by the symbol of the order but also among all other Christians.

To uphold the rights of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

'Ancient and Significant'

Deacon Matthew Levy and his wife, Lisa Levy, were both candidates who participated in the investiture ceremonies on the weekend of September 16-17. The couple said the most memorable part of the weekend in Fort Wayne was the sense of welcome and belonging felt the moment they arrived and the sheer delight of becoming members.

"Lisa and I have always felt a great love for the Christians in our Holy Land – that is why we have been so committed to leading pilgrimages," Deacon Levy said. "But now we have an additional dimension to our spirituality by putting our faith into action as we now can be even more focused in support-



Lisa Kochanowski

Scores of men and women with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem process through downtown Fort Wayne to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which hosted the order's Investiture ceremony, where 31 new members officially joined the order on Sunday, September 17.

ing them."

Sean McBride, a new Knight of the order, has been aware of the organization for quite some time because of the recognizable uniform and regalia. He learned about the group's mission and details about the organization through a personal invitation from John and Patricia Becker, who served as the hosts for the Investiture weekend.

"There are a few things that stand out," McBride said about memorable moments from the weekend. "These are a people of joyous service that take this charge seriously. Meeting such high-quality people made their company very enjoyable and fun. Being knighted by an archbishop [Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee] was truly amazing. The charge given to us, and honor bestowed upon us, was brought home in a big way. To see that many bishops and clergy in attendance ... was a great gift to behold. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem can trace its origins to Godfrey de Bouillon of the First Crusade."

McBride said wearing the cape and Jerusalem cross as a means of evangelization is truly humbling.

"The Investiture was an initiation into something ancient and significant," McBride said. "One can't be anything but humbled. We pray our efforts and those of the order continue to foster care, promotion, and protection of the lands and people of Christ's home while here on earth."

The Investiture rotates each year throughout dioceses within the North Central Lieutenancy. John and Patty Becker and a host of volunteers led this Investiture in Fort Wayne. They expressed their gratitude to Bishop Rhoades for his excellent talk on the Eucharistic Revival and for presiding at the Mass on Saturday, September 16. They also thanked Father Jacob Runyon, the Rector of the Cathedral of

the Immaculate Conception, Michael Dulac, the Director of Music at the cathedral, as well as Brian MacMichael and Karen Fitzpatrick in the Office of Worship for their assistance with the beautiful liturgies. Father Nathan Maskal and Michael Heinlein served as Masters of Ceremony. The next Investiture will be in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the fall of 2024, followed by Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 2025.

An 'Outward' Spirituality

Deacon Steven Jolly, who also was invested into the order over the weekend, became involved with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem through a good friend and member of the order, Deacon Shawn Glanville.

"I met Shawn several years ago when we began our formation for the diaconate program in the Rockford diocese," Deacon Jolly said. "We would travel to and from our classes together. Spending a lot of time together at class and other events, we became friends, sharing our experiences, studies, and prayer. During those times, we discussed our families, our spirituality, and other shared experiences and dreams. We discussed my desire to visit the Holy Land with my wife and other family members. Shawn had been on a pilgrimage and shared with me what an awesome trip it was – and also the plight of our Christian brothers and sisters. While I knew there were many problems and issues in the Holy Land, Shawn introduced me to the personal side of the situation. Our conversations focused on more than the political issues but also the socio-economic problems and how it impacted the people, especially the children. While I still wanted to visit the Holy Land, and will, I wanted to know how I could help now."

Deacon Jolly found the expe-

rience inspirational and had many memorable moments throughout the weekend.

"The actual Investiture dubbing by His Excellency, Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, is something I will never forget," Deacon Jolly said. "As I looked up into the archbishop's eyes, there was such a calming and peaceful look that I felt the Lord say, 'This is exactly where I want you to be.' It gave me a similar sense of peace and thanksgiving. I will never

forget the singing performance on Saturday night. I found myself just closing my eyes during the Ave Maria and living in the moment. It was amazing," Deacon Jolly said.

Deacon Jolly believes the Holy Spirit is alive and active in all our lives, and this opportunity, he said, will enhance his spiritual life.

"Not just because Jesus said the Advocate would come, but because I have seen the actions of the Holy Spirit in my life and the lives of others. I have been drawn to the Gospels and the life of Jesus and His Church for many years. I think this is why I am drawn to visit the Holy Land. Now, I have the opportunity not only to visit the Holy Land but to be a part of it through prayer, increasing awareness, and financial support. I think through my membership in the EOHSJ, I will connect and share my own spirituality with others in my family, parish, and community. Support of the Holy Land will help me turn my spirituality from an inward focus, just visiting the Holy Land, to an outward focus of how I can help those who live every day in the trials and tribulations of a political and economic society which hates you. For me, the Holy Land is not just a place to visit; it is an earthly connection between heaven and earth where our connection to Jesus



Scott Warden

A Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem carries a banner showing the Jerusalem Cross while processing out of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following a ceremony and Mass on Saturday, September 16.

and His Church is made manifest. Because of this, it offers all of us a chance to increase our spirituality and love of neighbor," noted Jolly.

A Vocation of Holiness

Following the Investiture ceremony, the community celebrated a memorial Mass, before which the names of 23 members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem who died in 2023 were shared, and after each name was read, a bell tolled.

During his homily, Archbishop ListECKI told the congregation that holiness is their common vocation. To lead a life of holiness, we must all be virtuous, he said.

Archbishop ListECKI recalled how, during the news report of early "Saturday Night Live" skits, actor Chevy Chase would look into the camera and say "Good evening, I'm Chevy Chase and you're not," establishing a truism, which is the beginning of humility.

God is God, and we are not, Archbishop ListECKI said, adding that all need to make God a priority in our lives, stating that the problems with society occur as a result of God not coming first. He discussed how each of the Mass readings gave examples of God being made a priority – and God being ignored.

"I am constantly amazed and challenged by the witnessing of the love of people through Christ in our Church," Archbishop ListECKI said. "Whenever I think I've seen it all or experienced it all, something else comes up and pushes me and touches me in such a way to say I know God's grace is acting and fully opening this person up to His love and to His life, which is going to be fully realized."

Queen of Palestine

On Saturday, September 16, the order gathered for an afternoon ceremony at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in which the can-



Provided by Ken Snow

Sean McBride is dubbed (knighted) by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee during the Investiture ceremony of the North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, September 17.

didates authenticated their promises to live out the order's mission and by its regulations. The event was presided over by Bishop Rhoades, who also blessed the capes of the incoming members.

The ceremony was followed by a votive Mass, celebrated by Bishop Rhoades, dedicated to Our Lady under the title Mary, Queen of Palestine, the patroness of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

"As Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, we have pledged to assist our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who are often at the crossroads of the battle between good and evil, afflicted by violence and terror, injustice, and hate," Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. "We ask Our Lady, whom we invoke as the Queen of Peace, to watch over our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. The Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother and our Queen, is a sign of hope and comfort for all of us on our pilgrim way."

Investiture Participants learn about Eucharist, Holy Land

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Rhoades kicked off the Investiture weekend at the Grand Wayne Center on Saturday, September 16, with a talk on the Eucharist as sacrifice, presence, and communion, and started by citing a Pew Research study that showed that a majority of Catholics only see the Eucharist as a symbol rather than the true body and blood of Christ.

"This was extremely disheartening. But at the same time, I think it woke all of us up – including the bishops – that we need to address this crisis of Eucharistic faith among many Catholics," Bishop Rhoades said. "I wonder why only about 20 percent of Catholics attend Mass every Sunday in the United States. Well, I can say, 'Why attend?' if you think it's just a symbol. Of course, this is part of the wider crisis of faith in our culture. We've seen the rapid growth in the numbers of people who no longer identify with a religion."

Bishop Rhoades went on to talk about the Eucharist as sacrifice.

"Jesus gives Himself in sacrifice for the beloved, for us, His bride, the Church. And Jesus' love for us, the Church, is sacrificial: It's infinitely so. He gave His life for us on the cross. The Eucharist is His sacrificial offering of Himself to the Father on our behalf. The Eucharist is one with Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. He makes Himself present as the victim of Calvary offered by Himself as the High Priest."

As it is understood in mod-



Joshua Schipper

Bishop Rhoades gives a talk on the Eucharist as sacrifice, presence, and communion at the Grand Wayne Center on Saturday, September 16, during the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem's Investiture weekend, which was held in Fort Wayne.

ern times, the idea of "memorial," Bishop Rhoades said, is about remembering with our minds. The Hebrew understanding, however, was more present and real.

"When Jesus said to 'do this in memory of me,' it meant more than just remembering with our minds, because, in the Jewish understanding, what one was remembering in liturgical events like Passover made the event, in a certain way, present and real."

He continued to discuss the Eucharist as presence, saying that Jesus is no longer present in the same way that He was

during His earthly life because He was subjected to the limits of time and space and was only physically present in His human form for 33 years on earth.

"In becoming present in the Eucharist, He allows His disciples, through the centuries, to have contact with His sacred humanity. Think about that. He's present not just in one place now. He's present in all the tabernacles of the world. In the Eucharist, He is present among us as our redeemer."

Finishing out his talk, he described the Eucharist as communion, saying that Catholics

are united to Christ "in the most intimate way when we receive His body and blood, which is why we call it holy Communion."

"This union with Jesus also brings us into communion with one another in the Church. That's why the Church teaches that the Eucharist makes the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas refers to the Eucharist as the sacrament of the Church's unity."

After Bishop Rhoades' talk, Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, spoke via Zoom about supporting Christians living in the

Holy Land. His family has been living in the Holy Land for several generations, and throughout the last century, has seen control of the area shift every few decades.

"The only constant thing in our lives, honestly, has been the Church and institutions of the Church," El-Yousef said. "This, I think, puts some important emphasis on the role that the Church plays in the life of people – not only Christians, not only Catholics in the Holy Land – in building societies through education, health care, and social services."

He continued to illustrate how, since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the proportion of Christians living in the Holy Land has plummeted. For example, the Christian share of the population in Jerusalem has dropped from 36 percent to 1 percent.

After identifying numerous political, economic, and pandemic-related issues he said are plaguing the Christian community in the Holy Land, El-Yousef noted the ways in which the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem has supported this community.

"One hundred seventy-five years of a two-joint partnership between the Latin Patriarchate and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – a partnership that truly has brought relief, joy, education, and faith-filled activities for so many thousands and thousands, if not tens and hundreds of thousands throughout the years. This is an opportunity to say thank you so much for your support. We truly appreciate all that support."

Call to Teach Changed Career Plans for St. Pius X Principal

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Chris Milliron left his undergraduate time at the University of Notre Dame bound for a Ph.D. program at the University of California San Diego. He quickly learned research work wasn't for him, but his involvement as a teaching assistant was fulfilling and impactful. After discernment revealed God's calling for him to become a teacher, he completed his master's degree and entered the world of education. This year, Chris Milliron begins his journey as Principal at St. Pius X Catholic School in Granger.

"I started out as a high school math teacher at a very small, rural public school in Oregon," Milliron today *Today's Catholic*. "From there, I transitioned to being the Vice Principal at a large Catholic elementary school in Eugene, Oregon. Last year, my family moved from Oregon to South Bend, and I served for one year as the Assistant Principal at St. Jude."

He is excited about this new opportunity and to continue the outstanding work of his colleagues.

"My main goal is to continue the tradition of excellence started by our Principal Emerita, Elaine Holmes. She and Father Bill Schooler were instrumental in the founding of the school 15 years ago, and they have built something that is truly remarkable. A big goal for me this year is to be really intentional about listening to stakeholders so that I can understand on a deep level what makes the school so special," Milliron said.

The St. Pius X Lions are a strong, close-knit community, Milliron said.

"At St. Pius X, the parish and school are constantly

seeking to 'renew all things in Christ.' I've been struck by the extent to which this community takes renewal to heart – there is a strong culture of problem solving here, and I have no doubt that it is one of the reasons why this school has been so successful," noted Milliron. "I am excited to be a part of the team that will continue this commitment to continuous self-assessment and improvement into the future."

Milliron hopes to be an impactful leader for his team.

"It all starts with supporting teachers," he said. "We are blessed to have a very skilled, dedicated staff at St. Pius X. I plan to listen to them and do what I can to ensure that they have the tools and resources that they need to keep delivering excellent instruction and faith formation."

The heart of every school are the students, and Milliron wants to make all students feel known, loved, and served.

"My main goal is to make sure that our school is a safe, supportive, faith-filled environment for them. I hope that I can be a role model for our students, and a person who helps them to know that they are loved and capable of amazing things," Milliron said.

Milliron said one of the blessings – and challenges – at St. Pius X is the impressive size of the school.

"We have a large student body (675 kids) so it is a big challenge to just get to know all of the students. I think it is really important to connect with every student, and in order to do that in a meaningful way, I need to know their names. I have been working really hard to learn at least 10 new names every day, and I am heading to recess or the lunchroom any chance I get to try to get to know the students on a per-



Provided by St. Pius X School

A St. Pius X School student poses with Principal Chris Milliron. Milliron is in his first year as principal at the school in Granger.

sonal level," Milliron said.

His educational career has had many special moments, and one of his most memorable was a faith-filled experience

that hit home.

"A few years into my career in Catholic education, I felt called to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy

Communion so that I could help out at school Masses," Milliron said. "In the time since, I have come to really love serving in this capacity. One of my favorite memories was when I was able to serve as an Extraordinary Minister during my daughter's first holy Communion."

The 2023-24 academic year is starting out strong, Milliron said, and he is excited about the journey ahead.

"Ever since I started working in Catholic schools, I have kept a prayer card with the Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit in my notebook. It was given to me as a gift, and I love to read it when we need a prayer for a staff meeting, etc.," he said. "A few weeks ago, I noticed for the first time that it was written by St. Pius X. So, my prayer for this school year is for the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen our school and parish community."

KEELEY VATICAN LECTURE

Sister
Raffaella
Petrini

*Secretary General of
the Vatican City State*

*Integral Human Development
through a Leadership of Care*

Wednesday, November 1 at 5:30 p.m.

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Welcome
to Saint Pius X
Catholic School

CHRIS
MILLIRON

.....

We are grateful for your leadership as our new principal and pray for a blessed 2023-2024 school year!

- The students, staff, and parishioners of Saint Pius X Catholic School



Kasia Balsbaugh

Actress Ashley Bratcher, who starred as Abby Johnson in the pro-life film "Unplanned," speaks to the attendees of the Legacy of Life Banquet on Monday, September 18, at Grace College in Winona Lake.

Actress Ashley Bratcher, Others Speak at 27th Annual Legacy of Life Banquet

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

Handmade baby blankets decorated 80 tables in the stadium where pro-life Hoosiers gathered for the 2023 Legacy of Life Banquet. Hosted by Right to Life of North Central Indiana, the 27th annual banquet took place on Monday, September 18, at Grace College in Winona Lake. Organizers mentioned that the attendance of this year's banquet was the highest it has been since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pat Miller, host of the "Pat Miller Program" on Fort Wayne's WOWO radio station, emceed the event. Ashley Bratcher, star of the film "Unplanned," was the keynote speaker. Many others shared

"We've gotten to a point in society where life has become so invaluable, so cheap. Where something like a pawned shotgun is the price tag for a human life."

— Ashley Bratcher

stories or messages throughout the evening.

The banquet's program was full. There was a video presentation from Life Guardians, a group equipping high school and college-age students to debate compassionately about pro-life issues. Deeper Still, a healing ministry for people wounded by abortion, hosted an informational table. Another speaker shared an abortion story from a father's perspective. The Right to Life of North

Central Indiana debuted its new logo, announced personnel changes, and awarded the yearly Mary Louise Lowe Pro-Life Award. And in a room full of pro-life politicians at the local and state levels, the audience heard from Indiana's Lieutenant General Suzanne Crouch, as well as recorded video messages from U.S. Sen. Mike Braun and U.S. Rep. Rudy Yakym.

Right to Life Indiana President Mike Fichter and Right to Life of North Central Indiana's Executive Director Dave Koontz delivered updates on the pro-life movement in Indiana, which is a profoundly pro-life state, and which passed a near-total abortion ban last year. However, Fichter and Koontz stressed that there is still a way to go in building a robust pro-life culture in the state, especially with the expected popularity of mail-order chemical abortions. "We can't stop midway. ... We're

not done by a long shot," Fichter said.

Two main ways in which Right to Life is working to build a pro-life culture are the Love Them Both campaign, which stresses the need to help and value both pregnant women and unborn children, and a campaign promoting adoption and offering Hoosiers resources to help them become more amenable to adoption.

After a dinner catered by Our Father's House, actress Ashley Bratcher told her personal story to the audience. Bratcher played the role of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director turned pro-life activist, in the 2019 film "Unplanned."

Bratcher's early life included a failed acting career and her own unplanned pregnancy, in which she chose life. While always being aware that there was a God, Bratcher said she did not form a relationship with

Him until her child was born.

"I really attribute all of this to the birth of my son," Bratcher said. "When I looked at that little baby for the first time, that was when I understood I have a heavenly Father. That was when I was like, oh my gosh, if I love this tiny little person this much, how much more must our heavenly Father love us? And it all shifted."

Soon after this shift, Bratcher stopped working as a middle-school teacher and returned to acting, beginning with small roles and building up a following on social media. After a stranger persisted in reaching out to Bratcher about trying out for the role of Abby Johnson, Bratcher gave in and read part of the script. She was hooked, and she ended up landing the role. "Unplanned" went on to become a box office hit.

Only recently did Bratcher discover that her own life had narrowly escaped being aborted, as her mother had refused to go through with an abortion at the last minute. The pregnancy had been unplanned, and Bratcher's parents had sold a family heirloom – a used shotgun – to pay for the abortion that never ended up happening.

"We've gotten to a point in society where life has become so invaluable, so cheap," Bratcher said. "Where something like a pawned shotgun is the price tag for a human life."

Bratcher finished her story to the audience by saying that it was "God's story," and reminding them that involvement in the pro-life movement helps save innocent lives, no matter what your role in it. "Every single story matters," Bratcher said.

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Five Reasons Why St. Francis Is a Model of Synodality

Chesterton once wrote, “Newspapers not only deal with news, but they deal with everything as if it were entirely new.” There’s a lot of new talk surrounding synodality. But, insofar as synods have been an ancient model for Church governance, there’s something quite old there.

Which is why I propose an old model for us to emulate: St. Francis of Assisi. The October Synod of Bishops will open on St. Francis’ feast day (Wednesday, October 4), and there’s much from the life of this beloved man of God that can inspire how we approach the synod.

First, consider St. Francis’ humility. At the heart of synodality is the recognition that our traveling together in faith requires putting up with one another as we carry our raggedy faults and dear sins in our slouch toward the Truth we seek. St. Francis epitomized humility, stripping away worldly attachments to embrace a life of poverty. In his “Admonitions,” he writes, “Blessed is the servant who does not regard himself as better when he is esteemed and extolled by men than when he is reputed as mean, simple, and despicable: for what a man is in the sight of God, so much he is, and no more.” In a synodal Church, humility opens the

door to genuine dialogue, with preconceived notions and politics being cast aside.

St. Francis also has a remarkable vision of fraternal charity. He writes, “Blessed the servant who loves and respects his brother as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him, and who would not say anything behind his back that he would not say with charity in his presence.” A synodal Church acknowledges the struggles and joys of our fellow Christians, recognizing their unique perspectives. With respect and charity, we move as brothers pursuing the Lord’s will; if we can remember that none of us are getting it all just right, humility and charity are with us.

St. Francis was humble and charitable because of his vision of Christ. St. Francis taught, “Let all of us, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd Who bore the suffering of the cross to save His sheep.” St. Francis’ life was entirely centered on following Jesus Christ. The synodal way must be the way of Christo-centric discipleship. We should be disciples like St. Francis, striving our best to imitate our master, he who was poor and willing to lay down his life in reparation for our sins. And who loved the people we’d probably dislike. St. Francis’ spirituality was fundamentally Eucharistic. St.



GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE

Francis said, “As He revealed Himself to the holy apostles in true flesh, so He reveals Himself to us now in sacred bread.” By embracing the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Jesus, St. Francis emphasized not symbolic ritual but an encounter with the living Christ. This is what it means to be a synodal Church: to have met the living Christ and fervently long to share that experience with others.

Finally, having met the Risen Christ, St. Francis underwent an extraordinary conversion. Conversion means “to turn.” Francis himself modeled what it meant to continually turn. Conversion is circular in that respect, and never ending. Most people think they’ve turned and that’s that. But it’s more like ascending in concentric circles, because we must keep turning. We turn and turn in the hope that — as with encircling a mountain — each turn brings us closer to

BRISCOE, page 13

Rescued by a Pig: A Turning Point on the Titanic

A mother understands. From the outside, Edith Rosenbaum was bursting with beauty and promise, 32 and a rising star in fashion. Her job was glamorous, working as a Paris correspondent for Women’s Wear Daily, an American fashion publication. She covered couture openings and penned a column that appeared on the front page, offering her impressions of the latest trends and the biggest personalities in the Paris fashion scene.

But her mother knew that Edith felt unsettled, rattled by a car accident she’d been in.

A frivolous gift might be just the ticket — something to induce laughter — so she bought Edith a toy pig made of papier mâché and covered in animal skin. With its black and white fur, it looked lifelike, and when its tail was wound, the pig played a popular song called “The Maxixe.”

Music, her mother said, can chase away your troubles.

Edith embraced the gift, vowing to keep it with her always.

It felt like a good-luck charm when, shortly later, she was packing for her voyage on the Titanic, the largest ship ever built. Edith loaded 19 trunks of expensive apparel along with her toy pig. Her own little mascot.



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

When the Titanic crashed into an iceberg and panic spread, Edith stayed calm. She locked up her trunks but made no attempt to evacuate. She was staying put.

“Don’t worry about me,” she insisted.

A sailor came along and spotted the bundle in her arms. Presuming it to be a baby, he tossed the pig in lifeboat No. 11.

“I’ll save your baby,” he barked.

An instant later, Edith jumped in with her pig.

“I never would have left the ship,” she would later recount, if the sailor hadn’t taken that initiative. “When they threw that pig, I knew it was my mother calling me.”

Boat 11 was overloaded, carrying 70 people — the largest number of occupants on any lifeboat launched that cold, starry night. As it rowed away from the sinking ocean liner,

CAPECCHI, page 13

We All Can Write a Chapter in the Story of God’s Forgiveness



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Book of Ezekiel provides this weekend’s first reading. Pivotal in Jewish history was the time spent by Hebrew captives, and by their descendants, in Babylon, the capital of the then powerful Babylonian Empire. This empire overtook the Promised Land militarily, ending the two Hebrew independent kingdoms. Many survivors were taken to Babylon.

Occurring in the sixth century B.C., it is called the Exile. For the Hebrew people, the Exile was a heartbreaking time. They were so far from their homeland. The Exile seemed as if it would last forever. Indeed,

it lasted for four generations. Quite likely, many Jews fell away from the traditional religion of their ancestors. These people were like people in any other time. Religion seemed for many to have failed. God had failed them.

During this time, Ezekiel wrote. He responded to the fury and despair of the people. The prophet turned the tables by confronting the people with their own sinfulness. He asked where is their devotion to God? How faithful had they been in being God’s people? No one could realistically argue that there had been no sin. Who deserted whom?

The Epistle to the Philippians is the source of the second reading.

Many early Christians were Jews, in practice, or at least by birth. Many Jews, such as Paul himself, had been pious in their religion, determined in Judaism. Many other early Christians were from pagan backgrounds. In many Christian communities, persons of both these traditions lived side by side.

Such was the case in Philippi.

Jewish symbols and references appear in the epistle, but the city in no sense was Jewish. Jews were there, but Philippi was thoroughly pagan, an important military base in the Roman Empire, situated in what now is Greece.

Considering that Christians were a minority, the epistle had to reinforce their commitment to the Lord and challenge them to withstand paganism.

This epistle magnificently proclaims Christ, the Lord, the Savior. This weekend’s reading is an example. Scholars think that this passage was an ancient hymn, sung by early Christians when they met for the Eucharist.

St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes the third reading. It recalls an encounter between Jesus and priests and elders. Since religion was everyone’s favorite topic at the time, even priests and persons learned in Judaism were interested in what Jesus said.

God is the father in the parable. The vineyard represents the people of Israel, God’s own, God’s chosen, borrowing a well-

known image from the prophets. Scholars suggest several possibilities regarding the sons, but one suggestion is that the first son represents Israel, the other son represents gentiles and sinners.

The second son, not the heir, is true to God. Gentiles and sinners, represented by the second son, can hope for salvation. No one is beyond God’s love. Every sinner can repent.

Reflection

The readings this weekend very much follow the stream of readings heard during the weekends of late summer and now early fall. The Church is calling us to discipleship — genuine discipleship.

We hear this call realizing that we are sinners. Our sin shames us, cunningly convincing us that we are strangers in God’s kingdom. We feel overwhelmed, trapped by our weakness created by our deliberate estrangement from God.

Anyone can repent. Our voluntary sinfulness has crippled us, but it cannot be allowed to

remove from us hope in the power of God’s mercy.

The answer is simple. Turn to God. Ask forgiveness. God will help us. Christian history is glorious in its stories of repentance and forgiveness.

If we are as contrite as the second son in Matthew’s story, as wholehearted in our love for Jesus as is shown in the hymn in Philippians, we personally can write another chapter in that history.

READINGS

Sunday: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalms 25:4-9; Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Matthew 21:28-32

Monday: Zechariah 8:1-8, Psalms 102:2, 16-23; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zechariah 8:20-23; Psalms 87:1-7; Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Psalms 137:1-6; Luke 9:57-62

Thursday: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Psalms 19:8-11; Luke 10:1-2

Friday: Baruch 1:15-22; Psalms 79:1-5, 8-9; Luke 10:13-16

Saturday: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Psalms 69:33-37; Luke 10:17-24

Synod Sojourn: Listening for Simple Whispers of the Spirit

For many Catholics, Pope Francis' decision to call for a synod on synodality is akin to the boss calling a meeting to discuss meetings – more likely to earn a yawn or an eye roll than enthusiasm. And while the term “synod” is not new to the Church, it is safe to say most Catholics also give very little effort to understanding what a synod is, much less synodality – the process of such consultation and discernment.

Yet for two years, the Church has been preparing for exactly this: a bishops' synod on synodality. It has involved input from hundreds of thousands of individual Catholics, Catholic organizations, parishes, dioceses, nations, and continents. It is assembling several hundred participants in Rome not only in October of 2023, but also October of 2024. And if precedent matters, there will be a final papal document perhaps sometime in 2025.

If you have not been paying attention so far, you are likely to be inundated soon with media coverage – both religious and, occasionally, secular. There have been scads written on the synod already, with sometimes hysterical warnings that it will bring down the Church, as well as wish lists for its agenda by nearly every interest group with pet causes – LGBT rights, women priests, divorced and remarried, Traditional Latin Mass.

This build-up has given the impression that the pope is assembling a parliament of sorts – an impression he and synod leaders have gone to great pains to deny. The

Church is not a democracy with doctrines up for votes, but some advocates for the synod, as well as its detractors, could easily leave you with the impression that this is, in fact, what will happen.

Synods have an ancient history and have traditionally been gatherings of bishops to discuss a specific topic. In our Western Church, there have been a series of noteworthy synods since the Second Vatican Council. These synods consisted of certain bishops elected by their peers in each national conference, as well as additional bishops and various observers chosen by the pope. This synod will be different in that some laypeople will also be voting members.

In my experience, synods are often criticized before, during, and after their occurrence. Some critics don't like the preparatory documents, some don't like the amount of information allowed to be made public during the synod, and some don't like the final document written by the pope after the synod is over.

Pope Francis, from early in his papacy, made it clear that he was not a fan of how previous synods had been run. This synod may be his clearest effort to implement his vision of “a gathering of the faithful in order to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and asking her to be and to do.”

It reflects the pope's oft-expressed concern for how the Church is to engage the modern world and pursue its mission. The synod itself could perhaps resemble a spiritual



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

strategic planning session: bringing God's people together in prayer to listen and to pray much more than to speak, as they discern possible paths forward.

As described, this is a leap of faith, and suspicious minds worry that there are hidden agendas at work. Recent synods, in fact, have seen competing factions machinating behind the scenes for various goals. I suspect this is nothing new in Church history.

My advice for Catholics in these coming weeks and months is two-fold: Take a deep breath, and pray.

There will be a lot of people promising too much or fearing too much, and there will be media coverage that will exaggerate even more. So, take a deep breath and avoid getting caught up in every “what if” scenario and every leak.

And second, pray for all the participants. At this troubled time in human history, facing all the challenges temporal and spiritual before us, pray that they (and we) are listening for the whispers of the Spirit.

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

BRISCOE, from page 12

the goal. St. Francis' radical transformation of life reminds us that synodality calls us to ongoing conversion (ongoing “turning,” ongoing surrender) and growth in faith.

“But as St. Francis did not love humanity but men, so he did not love Christianity but Christ,” writes Chesterton. In the end, the most important consideration for synodality is that it would help us become saints: men and women who love not their own ideas but the Lord Jesus.

Father Patrick Briscoe is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

CAPECCHI, from page 12

Edith surveyed her fellow travelers: crying babies, restless toddlers, frightened children.

The inky sky enveloped them – not a trace of moon, not a single cloud. It would be seven hours before the Carpathia would rescue them.

Edith knew what to do: She wound the pig's tail.

The crying instantly halted. She passed the pig around, letting each child pet it and wind its tail.

What a contrast to the mournful wailing that rang out on the Titanic – a rollicking carnival song that called to mind balloons, magicians, and acrobats. The sound of hope on a lonely night.

Edith would live to be 95 and share her survival story. Her pig remains at the National Maritime Museum in London.

That improbable turning point on the Titanic – the pig that saved Edith's life – reminds

us that God works in and through other people. We are one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone.

We can count on that as the cold settles in and new challenges arise. Look for the little gifts that come from above and pass through other hands along the way. “We know that all things work for good for those who love God” (Rom 8:28).

And given the chance to help another – a neighbor, friend, or stranger – we, too, can be the hands and feet of Christ. An act of service, a stuffed animal. A handwritten note, a loaf of pumpkin bread, a sincere compliment. It may seem small, but it could just be the nudge needed to get on the lifeboat.

Christina Capecci is a Freelance Writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

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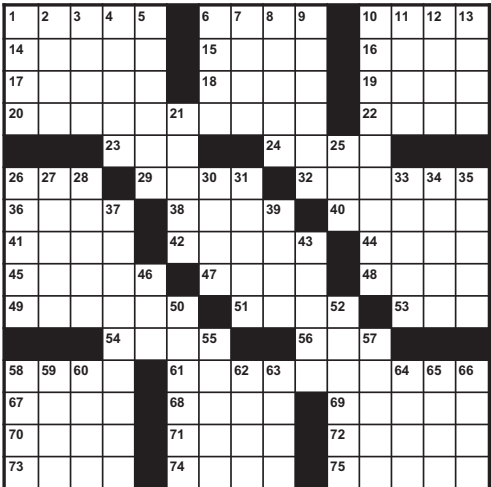
Gospel for October 1, 2023
Ezekiel 18: 25-28 / Matthew 21:28-32

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: Lessons in God's compassion. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

YOU SAY	HEAR NOW	MY WAY
AWAY	COMMIT	INIQUITY
WICKEDNESS	A MAN	TWO SONS
FIRST	SON GO	WORK
VINEYARD	I WILL NOT	CHANGED
HIS MIND	THE WAY	IN CHRIST
SPIRIT	COMPASSION	MY JOY

GOD'S WAYS

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



- DOWN**
- 1 Angel's hat?
 - 2 Esau's descendants' land
 - 3 Mr. Greenspan
 - 4 Electromagnetic telecommunication
 - 5 Kleenex or Puffs
 - 6 "____et Orbi"
 - 7 Flat-fish
 - 8 "It is not good for the man to be ____" (Gen 2:18)
 - 9 Shackle
 - 10 Prevalent policy
 - 11 NT epistle
 - 12 "____to us a child is born"
 - 13 Chair
 - 21 "____in Deum Patrem omnipotentem..."
 - 25 Bk. of the Pentateuch
 - 26 Archdiocese in Morocco
 - 27 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 28 Sporty 80's Pontiac
 - 30 "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a ____" (1 Jn 4:20)
 - 31 Caravansary
 - 33 Where Vatican City is
 - 34 Escapade
 - 35 Joins
 - 37 Joseph was from here
 - 39 Type of art
 - 43 Compact
 - 46 Resinous deposit
 - 50 Breaks the seventh commandment
 - 52 Meetings of bishops
 - 55 Fragment
 - 57 ____obstat
 - 58 Gennesaret, for one (Lk 5:1)
 - 59 Polly, to Tom Sawyer
 - 60 "Let it stand"
 - 62 Bone that parallels the radius
 - 63 Method
 - 64 Actor, Nicholas ____
 - 65 Parched
 - 66 Permits

- ACROSS**
- 1 "For where your treasure is, there also will your ____ be." (Mt 6:21)
 - 6 American Mil. branch
 - 10 There were 3 popes with this name in the 20th century
 - 14 Two-time loser to Ike
 - 15 Part
 - 16 Teen scourge
 - 17 Packs up
 - 18 Ink spot
 - 19 Sacred Roman ____
 - 20 Adjective for God
 - 22 After fox or turkey
 - 23 ____Father
 - 24 Fishy
 - 26 Brit. version of 6A
 - 29 Flotsam and Jetsam, in "The Little Mermaid"
 - 32 Articles of clothing or bones of saints
 - 36 Inter ____
 - 38 "...he suffered, ____ and was buried"
 - 40 Humanae ____
 - 41 Alcoholic beverage
 - 42 Paddled
 - 44 Soft lambskin leather
 - 45 Possible Easter month
 - 47 "I have finished the ____" (2 Tim 4:7)
 - 48 Type of sch.
 - 49 Doubting apostle
 - 51 Charged partides
 - 53 Jr. and sr.
 - 54 NT book that follows John
 - 56 Thesaurus wd.
 - 58 "...the ____ will be first..." (Mt 20:16)
 - 61 Type of council
 - 67 True (abbr.)
 - 68 Woody's son, a convert to Catholicism
 - 69 Chicago airport
 - 70 Genuflection joint
 - 71 Holy ____
 - 72 Toe
 - 73 Miss Kett
 - 74 Foretell
 - 75 Snow conveyances

Answer key can be found on page 15

Memorial Masses in Spanish and English to Be Held for Those Who Have Lost a Child

During a general audience in 2015, Pope Francis remarked on the pain suffered because of the death of a family member. Specifically, he spoke about tragedy of parents losing a child.

"Death is an experience which touches all families, without exception," Pope Francis said. "For parents, surviving their own children is particularly heartbreaking; it contradicts the fundamental nature of the very relationships that give meaning to the family. The loss of a son or daughter is like time stopping altogether: it opens a chasm that swallows both past and future. Death, which takes away a little child or young person, is a blow to the promises, to the gifts and the sacrifices of love joyfully brought to the life we gave birth to. ... Death touches us, and when it is a child's, it touches us profoundly."

To honor and walk with those who have suffered the death of a child, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is holding four Memorial Masses across the area in October, the month during which the Church celebrates Respect Life Month and our nation marks Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Two of the Masses will be in English, and two will be in Spanish.

• Tuesday, October 10, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart (English).

• Friday, October 13, at 5:45 p.m. at St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne (English).

• Thursday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph in Fort Wayne (Spanish).

• Friday, October 27, at 6 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart (Spanish).

The Memorial Masses, which have been held in the diocese since 2018, are sponsored by Ava's Grace, a new ministry from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that offers spiritual, emotional, and practical support to families who suffer miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss.

"Memorial Masses are for anyone who has lost a child at any age, including adult children, and we also invite anyone to attend who has lost a child (or grandchild) through abortion," said Lisa Everett, Director of Marriage and Family Ministry for the diocese. "Losing a child under any circumstances is heart-breaking, and it is important for the Church to be present with her love and compassion and solicitude to anyone who is suffering in this way. These annual Memorial Masses let parents and other family members know that they are not alone in their grief, and that God wants to come alongside them through His body, the Church."

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

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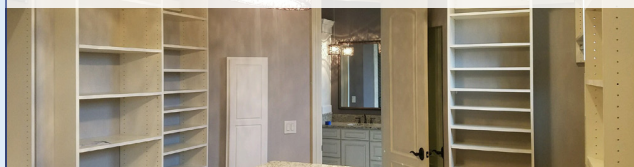
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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to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

First Saturday Devotions Talk by Father Glenn Kohrman

FORT WAYNE – Father Glenn Kohrman will present a talk on the holy Rosary, with a special focus on First Saturday devotions, on Tuesday, October 3, at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Contact Karen Glotzbach at 260-744-4393 or parishsecretary@stjohnsfw.org.

Agape Meal

ANGOLA – As part of the Eucharistic Revival, the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua, 700 W. Maumee St., have begun three monthly Agape

meals beginning Thursday, October 5, from 6-8 p.m., that are designed to bring guests together, much as Christ gathered his disciples, for a simple meal and to learn about His True Presence in the Eucharist. Contact Marilyn at 260-667-8829 for information.

America Needs Fatima, Holy Hour of Prayer

SOUTH BEND – America Needs Fatima, Holy Hour of Prayer will take place on Saturday, October 14, at noon in the Christ the King parking lot, 52473 State Road 933. This is an outdoor event, so please bring a chair and your rosary.

Contact Dorothy at 574-855-3915 for more information.

'Acclaim' Praise Night

FORT WAYNE – Join the "Acclaim" praise band Saturday, October 14, at St. Vincent's Parish Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., from 7-9 p.m. for an evening of praise and spiritual refreshment for all ages.

St. Hedwig Chicken Dinner

SOUTH BEND – A drive-through or carry-out Polish-style chicken dinner will be held on Sunday, October 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

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T.J. Smith, 97, St. Jude

Rogelio Martinez Sr., 39, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Frances Mamula, 92, St. Pius X

Huntington

Roger Dale Mandrell, 73, SS. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Antoinette DeLong, 87, St. Bavo

South Bend

Gloria Chelminiak, 92, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Radene Tidey, 72, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Betty Urbanski, 96, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Ralph Dabrowiak, 87, Christ the King

Judith Neeser, 88, Christ the King

Daniel Joseph Strycker, 71, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Hedwig Memorial Center. Tickets are by advanced sales only. RSVP by Sunday, October 8. Tickets are \$16. For \$4 more, (\$20 total), buy a "Help Our Neighbors Eat" (HONEY) ticket, and we will provide free meals to the needy in our inner city neighborhood with the extra money. Contact Rick Sobczak at 574-381-0970 or stpatricksthedwig@gmail.com for information.

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		A	C	T	S			S	Y	N		
L	A	S	T		E	C	U	M	E	N	I	C
A	U	T	H		A	R	L	O		O	H	A
K	N	E	E		L	A	N	D		D	I	G
E	T	T	A		S	P	A	E		S	L	E

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

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



World Apostolate of Fatima | Blue Army
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
at the Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception

Join us after the Holy Mass
on a Marian procession
to the Grand Wayne

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

Adult Tickets \$20.00 ~ 3-14 y/o \$14.00
2 and under Free.

Deadline September 23, 2023
After deadline tickets are \$25.00 and \$19.00
Visit: fatimafwsb.org

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
at 574-291-0570 by October 9.

Holy Cross Art Exhibition Honors National Eucharistic Revival

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

The Eucharist is a moment of thanksgiving to God, making the sacrifice of Christ the Savior present at Mass. Sacred art depicting Christ in the Eucharist – whether hung inside or outside of a church – allows viewers the opportunity to reflect on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

In participation with the National Eucharistic Revival, Holy Cross College at Notre Dame is hosting the St. Joseph Gallery exhibition “Body & Blood: Contemplations on the Eucharist.” The show began Monday, August 21, and will run through Friday, December 15, on the college campus with a gallery reception scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 26, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

“This exhibition, ‘Body & Blood: Contemplations on the Eucharist,’ features a variety of creative works reflecting on the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Christian practice of consuming consecrated bread and wine during Mass in commemoration of the Last Supper, and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This collection of art includes imagery created by Holy Cross College students, alumni, faculty, and staff, along with local community members,” said Angelo Ray Martínez, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, Program Director of the Visual Arts & Music program, and Director of the St. Joseph Gallery. “There is also a small selection of infographics from Blessed Carlo Acutis’ ‘Eucharistic Miracles of the World’ exhibition, documenting the supernatural occurrences of bleeding hosts and other Eucharistic miracles. Some of the artworks are more representational and literal, while others are more abstract and open-ended. However, all of the images explore the truth,



Provided by Angelo Ray Martínez

In honor of the National Eucharistic Revival, Holy Cross College at Notre Dame is hosting the St. Joseph Gallery exhibition “Body & Blood: Contemplations on the Eucharist.” The show is on display through December 15 on the college campus with a gallery reception scheduled for Thursday, October 26, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

beauty, and goodness associated with the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.”

Artists found inspiration in nature, through prayer, and from family.

“My piece is of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest,” artist Mary Kloska told Today’s Catholic. “I originally painted this icon while writing a book about the spirituality of praying for priests. I was meditating on Jesus as our Eternal High Priest and particularly His relationship with His Mother. My inspiration for this work was Jesus as the Priest, altar, and victim – His Sacred Heart being His Eucharistic heart.”

“My hope is that viewers of this artwork are drawn more deeply into an understanding of Jesus’ Sacred Heart being His Eucharistic heart set on fire with divine love,” Kloska continued. “Jesus is the priest offering the sacrifice of His own life on Calvary. Jesus is the victim being offered to the Father in reparation for sin. And Jesus Himself is the altar

where the fires of divine love consume His gift – body, blood, soul, and divinity – offered in the Eucharist not only for us to the Father, but also to us as we receive Him. He desires that we receive His love and offer Him ourselves, thus also being consumed and transformed by divine love.”

Artist Brandie Flores hopes viewers of her piece find a renewed closeness to their faith.

“It was an honor for me to be a part of this exhibition. As a practicing Catholic, the Eucharist [means] so much. It represents the power of the Holy Spirit, the Real Presence of Christ, holy Communion, and the holy sacrifice of the Mass,” Flores said. “For me, art has always been an outlet, a synthesis of form and feeling. I wanted to convey my appreciation for Catholicism. Sacred art is true and beautiful; it evokes and glorifies faith and adoration, which is what drew me to become involved in this exhibit. ... My goal is invoking

people to feel a little closer to their faith with my artwork.”

Marcella Cloud, an art major at Holy Cross, became involved with the project upon the request of Martínez.

“In this piece, I wanted to focus on the Eucharist in adoration; more specifically, this moment in adoration when the priest lifts the monstrance, which holds the Eucharist, to bless the congregation,” Cloud said. “My goal and hope for this piece is that the viewer never forgets the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and that the viewer remembers Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and the hope that it brings for our salvation.”

According to artist Stephen Barany, he attended two print-making workshops hosted by Martínez during the summer. During one of the sessions, he decided to make a print of the Lamb of God, which is now part of the exhibit.

“I love that Holy Cross College provides students, faculty, and staff the opportunity

to share their faith-based artwork with the college and local community,” Barany said. “It reminds us that our faith is not a private, individual experience, but has roots in the Church, the Body of Christ, of which we are all a part. My inspiration for this piece was the Mass, specifically the words, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God.’ In the print, I blend Eucharistic imagery with the depiction of the Lamb of God in Revelation.”

Artist Megan Gettinger said she appreciated that the exhibit allowed her a unique opportunity to participate in the Eucharistic Revival.

“The inspiration for my piece, ‘Co-mingling,’ was the Eucharist and the Incarnation. It is an abstract reflection on the Eucharist as an entry point of the Divine into humanity, and on Jesus, present in the Eucharist, as the One in Whom Heaven and Earth co-mingle,” Gettinger said. “I also reflected on the Eucharist as a daily, tangible, consumable proof of the reality of the Incarnation.”

Gettinger hopes exhibition visitors are drawn into the beauty of the Eucharist and the great mystery of the sacrament. “I hope that encountering the artwork at the exhibition will stir up a longing in the viewers’ hearts to go encounter Jesus in the Eucharist.”

The exhibit is open to the general public from now until December 15 on the Holy Cross College campus.

“I hope that our visitors leave the exhibition with either a desire to learn more about the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, or a deeper sense of wonder and amazement about the great mystery of this blessed sacrament,” Martínez said. “Either way, I hope that the exhibition inspires some of our visitors to go to Mass and celebrate the magnificence of Christ’s True Presence as they are nourished by God’s infinite love as it is offered in the Eucharist.”



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

Pictured is “Agnes Dei (Lamb Of God)” by Teresa Phipps, a local artist and parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mishawaka.



Pictured is “The True Presence” by Marcella Cloud, a student at Holy Cross College majoring in visual arts, and a parishioner at St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka.



Pictured is “Adore Te Sponsus Meum” by Alexandra Buchlmayer, a student at Holy Cross College who is in religious formation with the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery.



Pictured is “Self-Sacrifice” by Spencer Forslund, a student at Holy Cross College majoring in theology and minoring in visual arts, who is a parishioner at St. Monica Catholic Church in Mishawaka.