

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Annual Fundraiser for A Mother's Hope Continues to Grow

BY NICOLE HAHN

The 6th Annual Diamond Gala for A Mother's Hope in Fort Wayne, held on Thursday, September 21, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Conference Center, was packed with people excited to support the amazing work being done at the unique shelter.

A Mother's Hope is the only shelter in Fort Wayne for pregnant homeless mothers, where not only do they have a safe place to stay, but the mothers are offered training and opportunities to improve their lives. They are provided with housing and supportive services to strengthen their opportunities for stability, including intensive daily and weekly services that include structured therapeutic sessions, case management, educational opportunities, employment coaching, community connections, and individualized action plans. The women are also able to stay at A Mother's Hope until their baby is a year old, ensuring support through that difficult first year of life.

This year's Diamond Gala fundraiser had the highest attendance and brought in the most money of any other year it has been held.

Founder and Executive Director Stasia Roth was elated by the generosity of those in attendance. "We are so incredibly grateful to our A Mother's Hope family for the outpouring of love and support for every mom and baby we serve!"

Total donations from the night were \$206,000. The evening included a cocktail hour, silent auction, opportunities for gift cards, wine, and whiskey, and of course, raffles for a beautiful diamond necklace and diamond watch. Following dinner, there was a live auction and a call for monetary donations.

During dinner, a video was shown of one young woman, Alyssa, who gave her powerful testimony about how A Mother's Hope saved her life and that of her unborn baby. An addict her entire life, she said was always sick and jailed repeatedly. Pregnant and in jail in Michigan, she didn't even know she was being released until she heard one of the guards on the monitor calling her to tell her to pack her things to leave. She explained that she was so weak that the guards had to lift her up to get her moving.

When they asked her who to call to come and get her, she told them she had nowhere to

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Shay/Nichols Productions

Founder and Executive Director Stasia Roth speaks to attendees of the 6th Annual Diamond Gala for A Mother's Hope at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne on Thursday, September 21.

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Before Synod Retreat, Pope Prays for Listening instead of Polarization

BY CINDY WOODEN AND
JUSTIN MCCLELLAN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – On the eve of a three-day spiritual retreat for participants in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis prayed that members of the Church may embrace silence to listen to the voice of God and one another.

“Silence, in the ecclesial community, makes fraternal communication possible, where the Holy Spirit draws together points of view,” the pope said to members of the synod, Christian leaders, and young people in St. Peter’s Square on Saturday, September 30. “To be synodal is to welcome one another like this, in the knowledge that we all have something to share and to learn, gathering together to listen to the spirit of truth in order to know what the Lord is saying to the churches.”

Synod participants, including Bishop Rhoades, were scheduled to spend three days together at a spiritual retreat outside Rome before the synod assembly formally opened on Wednesday, October 4.

Seated before the San Damiano cross, in front of which St. Francis of Assisi said he heard Jesus tell him to “rebuild my Church,” Pope Francis prayed that “the synod be a ‘kairos’ (moment) of fraternity, a place where the Holy Spirit will purify the Church from gossip, ideologies, and polarization.”

At a large complex in Sacrofano, Italy, about 20 miles north of Rome, Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe and Benedictine Mother Maria Ignazia Angelini were asked to provide the spiritual foundations for the synod’s work over the course of the retreat, which was held from Sunday, October 1, through Tuesday, October 3. Pope Francis did not attend the retreat.

“The risk for us, men and women of the Church, is to proceed from our inner, objective, pressing navigation systems” with all the potential danger signs marked out, Mother Angelini said during lauds on October 1. But without prayer, she said, “We lose the horizon.”

“We are not synodal Church first and foremost because we face each other and exchange opinions, much less because we talk over each other,” but because “we draw on the same foundation,” that of faith and openness to the Holy Spirit, she said.

Father Radcliffe, former head of the Dominican order, told synod members they were



CNS photo/Vatican Media via YouTube

Members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops recite morning prayer during their retreat outside of Rome in this screen grab from their session on Monday, October 2.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

at the retreat “because we are not united in heart and mind” and yet are called through the synod to find ways to embrace “the Catholic both/and” in responding to the Holy Spirit and to the hopes and fears of Catholics around the world.

“The vast majority of people who have taken part in the synodal process have been surprised by joy,” he said, because, for many of them, “it is the first time that the Church has invited them to speak of their faith and hope.”

But there are conflicting expectations, Father Radcliffe said. “Some hope that the Church will be dramatically changed, that we shall take radical decisions – for example, about the role of women in the Church. Others are afraid of exactly these same changes and fear that they will only lead to division, even schism.”

Synod participants, he said, need to ask the Lord to van-

quish their fears and give them hope – “the hope that this synod will lead to a renewal of the Church and not division; the hope that we shall draw closer to each as brothers and sisters.”

The ultimate source of hope for Catholics is the Eucharist, he said. In that sense, synod participants are gathered “like the disciples at the Last Supper, not as a political debating chamber competing to win,” Father Radcliffe added.

“At the Last Supper, there seemed to be no future. All that lay ahead apparently was failure, suffering, and death,” he said. “And in this darkest moment, Jesus made the most hopeful gesture in the history of the world: ‘This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, poured out for you.’ This is the hope that calls us beyond all division.”

In his second meditation on October 1, Father Radcliffe said

the synod members cannot ignore the clerical sexual abuse crisis, which “has been the last straw” for many Catholics. “They have packed their bags and gone.”

“God remains in our Church, even with all the corruption and abuse. We must therefore remain,” he said. “But God is with us to lead us out into the wider open spaces of the kingdom. We need the Church, our present home for all its weaknesses, but also to breathe the Spirit-filled oxygen of our future home without boundaries,” the promised kingdom of God.

Different understandings of the Church “tear us apart today,” the Dominican said. “For some, it is defined by its ancient traditions and devotions, its inherited structures and language, the Church we have grown up with and love.”

“For others, the present Church does not seem to be a safe home. It is experienced as exclusive, marginalizing many people, women, the divorced and remarried,” he said.

Most Catholics are “nourished by beloved traditions and devotions. If they are lost, we grieve,” he said. “But, also, we must remember all those who do not yet feel at home in the Church: women who feel that they are unrecognized in a patriarchy of old white men like me! People who feel that the Church is too Western, too Latin, too colonial. We must journey toward a Church in which they are no longer at the margin but in the center.”

In his meditations on October 2, Father Radcliffe focused on the Gospel call for Jesus’ disciples to be friends. “This synod,” he said, “will be fruitful if it leads us into a deeper friendship with the Lord and with each other.”

St. Therese Celebrates 75 Years of Following the 'Little Way'

BY ERIC PEAT

On an October day in 1948, Bishop John F. Noll dedicated a new Catholic church in Waynedale, on the southside of Fort Wayne, named after the French Carmelite nun, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Seventy-five years later, the parish is still striving to carry on the "Little Way" of its patroness by doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.

St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne celebrated its 75th anniversary on Saturday, September 30, the eve of St. Thérèse's feast day. The parish milestone also fell on the same year as what would have been the saint's 150th birthday. To commemorate both anniversaries, St. Therese Parish held a celebration, beginning with a Fun Fest that featured food, games, and a tour of the church by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Afterwards, a special anniversary Mass was celebrated, followed by a formal dinner and silent auction at nearby Orchard Ridge Country Club.

Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, celebrated Mass in place of Bishop Rhoades, who was in Rome to participate in the Synod of Bishops. Assuring parishioners of Bishop Rhoades' blessing, Father Gurtner joked that "it's only the Holy Father, the pope, who kept him from being here with you tonight."

"It is my joy to join you tonight in Bishop Rhoades' place," Father Gurtner said to the congregation. "Congratulations to Father [Glenn] Kohrman, to the parish staff, and to all of you in the parish who contributed to the planning of this great event."

Father Gurtner expressed his gratitude to the Franciscan priests and sisters who served the parish for many years, as well as to the visiting priests who returned to the parish to concelebrate the anniversary Mass. Joining Father Kohrman, the current pastor, and Deacon Max Ortega, were former pastors Father Matthew Coonan, Father Lawrence Teteh, and Father Dave Ruppert. Father Keeton Lockwood, former parochial vicar, and sons of the parish Father Jason Freiburger and Father Stephen Felicichia also attended.

"It is amazing to imagine that this parish has been giving spiritual nourishment to the faithful for 75 years," Father Gurtner said. "It's hard to imagine how many souls that might be – tens and tens of thousands. This is one of the reasons for celebrating anniversaries: to give thanks to God for His work among us. In your case, to give



Eric Peat

St. Therese parishioner Betty Olry's homemade cake commemorates the parish's first 75 years, as displayed at the parish's anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 30.

thanks to God that this parish has been a continual font of the Lord's grace for all these years."

In his homily, Father Gurtner reflected on Pope St. John Paul II's writings on the fundamental importance of time and our duty to sanctify it. Because God entered into time in Jesus Christ, posited John Paul II, time itself can be made holy and set apart to do the will of God. This is precisely what parish patroness St. Thérèse sought through love of the Church. In her autobiography, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus wrote: "O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: My call is love. Certainly I have found my place. ... In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love."

"On this occasion of this anniversary, all of us can continue to ask: How can I sanctify the time that has been given to me?" Father Gurtner said. "Indeed, we can ask the question that St. Thérèse puts before us: How can I be love in the heart of the Church? How can we, as a parish, sanctify the time that has been given to us how? How can we be love in the heart of the Church?" Father Gurtner challenged parishioners to accomplish this by worshiping God, serving those in need, and building each other up.

At the end of Mass, Father Kohrman thanked the anniversary committee for planning the event, the religious sisters for their attendance, and the choir for providing the sacred music.

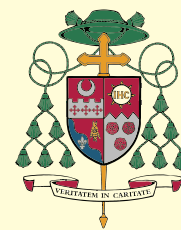
He also announced a new parish mission statement, recently finalized by the parish council: "Pursue the way to do even the little things with great love."

"It's just great to be here," Father Kohrman said. "My heartfelt thanks go to the bishop, Father Mark, and all of you who came this day to celebrate this wonderful feast day of St. Thérèse, as we see our parish just doing our best."

The celebration continued at Orchard Ridge, where the anniversary committee had beautifully decorated the main ballroom tables with homemade rose centerpieces, emblematic of St. Thérèse's promise to "let fall a shower of roses" after her death. Parishioners had submitted memories from the past 75 years, which were arranged on a table near the entrance. A series of six cakes designed and baked by a parishioner honored key individuals and events throughout the parish's history. And silent auction items wound around one end of the ballroom, which seated several hundred current and former parishioners, priests, and religious sisters.

During dinner, Father Kohrman invited these special guests to come forward and share stories or memories from their time at St. Therese. Father Felicichia recalled how parishioners got to participate in the construction of the new church over the old playground.

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Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Wednesday, October 4 to Sunday, October 29 – XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Paul VI Hall, Vatican City



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

OCTOBER

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

DECEMBER

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

2024

JANUARY

St. John Bosco, Churubusco: January 29-31

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne: March 3-5
St. Casimir, South Bend: March 3-5

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

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"We all took a big stone from the family, and we put it in the sanctuary floor," remembered Father Felicichia. "So, where the altar is, if anybody remembers, there are all of these family stones underneath the altar supporting the altar and holding it up. The walls of the parish are one thing, but there is no faith unless the faithful show up to practice the Faith, and that's what we were all called into. ... You guys live it, you incarnate it, and you become the hands and feet of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Father Freiburger spoke of the influence of the Franciscans – who had a presence at the parish for nearly 38 years – and, in particular, Father Simeon Cleves.

"I was blessed several years ago when he was ill and getting near the end of his days, getting a chance to go visit him in Cincinnati and thank him for his witness, for his vocation, and what that meant for his years of service," said Father Freiburger. "We were blessed to have their example."

Father Kohrman told Today's Catholic that, in the few months

he's been at the parish, he has been impressed with what he has seen from the faithful at St. Therese.

"I have encountered many dedicated parishioners who love their parish and are deeply committed to it," Father Kohrman said. "We are gearing up for our 40 Hours devotion in early October, and I am deeply encouraged by the number of our students who have expressed an interest in serving at Mass. We also are working toward helping our people reinvigorate our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and hope to develop some small groups to deepen our relationship with Christ and each other. Our Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul, and our Armor of God men's group have all shown enthusiastic interest in engaging those in our community."

The many and varied blessings of St. Therese Parish were on full display throughout the anniversary celebration. As the parish embarks on the next 75 years of loving and serving others through the "Little Way," may St. Thérèse continue to "let fall a shower of roses" upon all who call St. Therese Parish their home.



Photos by Eric Peat

Father Mark Gurtner, Vicar General for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, celebrates a special anniversary Mass at St. Therese Church in Fort Wayne on Saturday, September 30.



Father Stephen Felicichia converses with parishioners during the dinner celebration.



Parishioners enjoy face painting during St. Therese's Fun Fest on Saturday, September 30.



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– Pope John Paul II

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GALA, from page 1

go and no one to help her. She said they just threw her clothes at her, told her it was cold out since it was winter, and told her to figure it out. She walked out of jail in the snow not knowing what to do.

She didn't go into detail about how she moved from Michigan to Indiana or found her way to A Mother's Hope, but she did. Even then, she said, she still hadn't accepted that she was pregnant, she didn't trust anyone, and she didn't trust herself. She had the mindset that she was going to do something to get herself kicked out. She said it was a very long and slow process to get out of that mindset. She finally began to realize that people did care about her and see worth in her.

After a lot of work and a lot of support at A Mother's Hope, Alyssa has been able to stay clean, get healthy, begin to believe in herself, and now looks forward to being a mom to her unborn baby boy. She has goals of getting her own place, supporting herself and her baby, raising the baby for his entire life, and being an active member of society.

About the organization, Alyssa said: "People should support A Mother's Hope because they have changed people's lives. They have changed my life. They have been so good to me, more than I even probably deserve. They have just loved me, and they love all of the women here, and they love the babies, and they are doing amazing things."

Alyssa concluded her story by saying that if she had not found A Mother's Hope, she



Shay/Nichols Productions

Hundreds of attendees gather in support of the 6th Annual Diamond Gala for A Mother's Hope at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne on Thursday, September 21.

would have just repeated the cycle of life she had been living in Michigan here in Indiana. She said she is now looking forward to life with her baby and to being a good mom.

If everything continues to go well, Alyssa and her baby, due at any time, will be able to live at A Mother's Hope through that first crucial year of life. Support does not end there, though, as mothers continue to receive support after they leave the house.

According to the website, "A Mother's Hope provides a

home with practices and principles grounded in Christian love. We provide opportunities for residents to make positive changes in their spiritual, emotional, and physical lives. We recognize that each woman is unique in her life experiences and in the circumstances that resulted in her being homeless. We support residents as they define and strive for their own individual versions of success."

More information about A Mother's Hope and the opportunity to donate can be found at AMothersHopeFW.org.

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

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It was you who created my inmost self;
and put me together in my mothers's womb;
for all these mysteries I thank you.
For the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works.

Psalm 139:13-14

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Pope's Communications Day Message to Focus on Impact of AI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2024 will look at ways to ensure artificial intelligence is a tool that helps people communicate better and not a technology that drives people further from one another and from what is true. "Artificial intelligence and wisdom of the heart: For a fully human communication" is the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the 2024 commemoration, the Vatican Dicastery for Communication announced on Friday, September 29. Traditionally the pope's message for the day is released on January 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists. Most dioceses will celebrate the world day on May 12, the Sunday before Pentecost. Announcing the theme chosen by the pope, officials with the dicastery said that "the evolution of artificial intelligence systems makes it ever more natural to communicate through and with machines, so that it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish computation from thought and the language produced by a machine from that generated by human beings." And while the technological developments bring many benefits, they also pose "new challenges to ensure that machines do not contribute to a large-scale system of disinformation and do not also increase the loneliness of those who are already alone, depriving us of the warmth that only communication between people can provide."

U.S. Bishop Hails New Refugee Allocations

(OSV News) – Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Migration Committee, commended President Joe Biden for increasing the number of refugees eligible to enter the United States. On Friday, September 29, Biden signed a presidential determination authorizing the admission of up to 125,000 refugees during fiscal year 2024, in accordance with the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. In a statement published on Saturday, September 30, Bishop Seitz called the number "an ambitious and meaningful goal as we reflect not only on the global need but also the challenges facing American communities, including labor shortages, a lack of affordable housing, and high inflation." Effective on Sunday, October 1, which marks the start of the new fiscal year, the U.S. will allocate refugee admissions for 30,000-50,000 from Africa; 10,000-20,000 from East Asia; 2,000-3,000 from Europe and

'Ecumenism Begins with Prayer'



CNS photo/Lola Gomez

Pope Francis, Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, and the Reverend Ann Burghardt, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, join other Christian representatives for an ecumenical prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square on Saturday, September 30, ahead of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops. During the event, Pope Francis told the group that just as silence is necessary to listen to the different perspectives that exist within the Catholic Church, "silence is essential for the journey of Christian unity" and is "fundamental to prayer, and ecumenism begins with prayer and is sterile without it."

Central Asia; 35,000-50,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and 30,000-45,000 from the Near East and South Asia. "We welcome the administration's efforts to increase resettlement from the Western Hemisphere, while reiterating that this should not come at the expense of other populations," said Bishop Seitz.

Pope Appoints Ohio Bishop to Serve as Auxiliary in Detroit

DETROIT (OSV News) – Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton of Steubenville, Ohio, a native son of the Archdiocese of Detroit, will return home to serve as Detroit's 32nd auxiliary bishop. Pope Francis appointed Bishop Monforton to his new position on Thursday, September 28, and named retired Bishop Paul J. Bradley of Kalamazoo, Michigan, as the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville. Bishop Monforton, 60, will assist Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron in the pastoral care

of the approximately 907,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit, where he served for 18 years as a priest from 1994 to 2012. "On behalf of the clergy, religious, and faithful of the archdiocese, I offer a heartfelt 'welcome home' to Bishop Monforton," Archbishop Vigneron said in a statement. "This is the local Church in which his priestly vocation was nurtured, and we are blessed to have him be with us once again to help lead our efforts to unleash the Gospel."

Pope Francis Invites Children to November Gathering

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Peering just over the windowsill of Pope Francis' studio above St. Peter's Square, five children aged 7-10 joined the pope to announce a special gathering of children at the Vatican in November. "As you can see, beside me today are five children who represent the five continents," Pope Francis said on Sunday, October 1, after reciting the Angelus. "I would

like to announce along with them that on the afternoon of November 6, in the Paul VI Hall, I will meet with children from all over the world. ... "Let us learn from boys and girls' is the theme for this event, sponsored by the Dicastery for Culture and Education," the pope added. Pope Francis said the November meeting will help grown-ups "retrieve the pure sentiments of children, because the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children. Children teach us how to be transparent in relationships, how to spontaneously welcome those who are strangers, and how to respect all of creation." Also on October 1, the Vatican released a letter from Pope Francis to children, young adults, parents, and clergy involved in the Holy Childhood Association, which was founded in 1843 to promote missionary awareness among Catholic children and to support missionary work with children. The pope issued his letter on the 150th anniversary of the birth of the most famous member of the association, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. Thérèse, he wrote, teaches Christians

that "with our prayer, even if we are small, we can contribute to making Jesus known and loved, silently, helping others to do good."

Baltimore Archdiocese Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

BALTIMORE (OSV News) – The Archdiocese of Baltimore filed for Chapter 11 reorganization on Friday, September 29, to address "a great number of historic" child sex abuse cases it expects to face under a new Maryland law lifting the statute of limitations on such cases that took effect on Sunday, October 1. "After consulting with numerous lay leaders and the clergy of the archdiocese, I have made the decision I believe will best allow the archdiocese both to equitably compensate victim-survivors of child sexual abuse and ensure the local Church can continue its mission and ministries," Archbishop William E. Lori announced. The filing was not unexpected, the archbishop said, referring to his September 5 open letter to the faithful in which he said the decision to file for Chapter 11 was being seriously considered because the new law allows abuse claims "previously barred by Maryland law" to be brought forward.

Study Shows Positive Signs of Catholic Belief in Eucharist

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – Almost two-thirds of Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, but only 17 percent of adult Catholics physically attend Mass at least once per week, according to a newly published survey from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The 2022 survey of self-identified Catholics published on Tuesday, September 26, found 64 percent of respondents provided responses that indicate they believe in the Real Presence, meaning they believe Jesus is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine in the Eucharist. Titled "Eucharist Beliefs: A National Survey of Adult Catholics," the study showed more Catholics believe in the Real Presence than a 2019 Pew Research Center study, but it still underscores the need for the National Eucharistic Revival underway, said Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. Bishop Cozzens said the data shows many people have not had "a real encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist" and need not just catechesis, but an invitation into a living relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist "so that their lives can be changed."

Memorial Service Held for Victims of Abortion

FORT WAYNE – On Sunday, October 1, Right to Life of Northeast Indiana held a memorial service for victims of abortion at the Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

With dozens in attendance, the organization honored 354 children whose lives were taken by abortion. Those gathered at the memorial prayed for an end to abortion, read the names of those who died, placed roses at the memorial in memory of the innocent lives that were lost, and listened to testimony on how abortion has impacted lives in the area.

“Each year, the memorial gives the community of northeast Indiana a chance to grieve the short lives of our youngest citizens,” organizers said in a news release. “The memorial strives to be a healing event as we link arms to work towards ending abortion.”

Every October, the Church calls the faithful to consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and to reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Dozens look on during a memorial service hosted by Right to Life of Northeast Indiana at the Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne on Sunday, October 1. The event honored 354 children whose lives were taken by abortion.

Photos provided by Joe Romie via Northeast Indiana Right to Life



Children place flowers in a vase during the memorial service at the Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne on Sunday, October 1. The event was hosted by Right to Life Northeast Indiana and honored victims of abortion.

A Blessing at Saint Francis



Provided by the University of Saint Francis

Father Brian Isenbarger, Parochial Vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne, led the dedication and blessing for St. Michael Hall at the University of Saint Francis on Friday, September 29. St. Michael Hall, located on the northwest side of campus, houses the recently relocated offices of Security, Business, Mail Services, Registrar, Information Technology, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Facilities and Events, Marketing, and Risk Management.



Knights Help Habitat for Humanity



Provided by Justin Purdy

On Saturday, September 30, members of the St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 451 volunteered their time and talent to help build a new home for a deserving Fort Wayne family through Habitat for Humanity on Smith Street in downtown Fort Wayne. Brother Knights Justin Purdy, Sam Sliger, Britton Burkhart, Dennis Holp, Joe Mikolay, Jack Wehrly, and Gene Delaney spent the day framing the home as they worked to “build on faith, build up families, and build community together” – the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

Crucifix Initiative Brings Crosses from Different Continents

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

The crucifix is a symbol of the immense sacrifice Jesus made for humanity – a sign of atonement for the sins of the world. The event it symbolizes gives meaning and purpose to our lives, and it gives us hope in the midst of the challenges, difficulties, and sufferings that we encounter.

A collaboration effort between the University of Notre Dame and The History Museum in South Bend brings selected works of the Crucifix Initiative to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This unique exhibit, with crosses from different continents, is on display at The History Museum in South Bend from now until January 21, 2024.

“Since I am a German professor, I have long been familiar with distinctive, hand-carved southern German crucifixes, and in my travels and research, [I have] learned over time what a rich array of crucifixes exists in the world,” Mark Roche, Founder of the University of Notre Dame’s Crucifix Initiative and the Reverend Edmund P. Joyce, CSC, Professor of German Language and Literature, told Today’s Catholic. He added: “I then developed the idea of the Crucifix Initiative, which seeks to bring three priorities into contact with our core Catholic identity and mission: above all, the elevation of the arts and the increasing internationalism and diversity of the university, but also over time the emphasis on student research and creative work.” This year, a competition for student-created crucifixes is underway.

Roche said he wrote the rationale for the project and then brought together a team of colleagues who had obtained and worked with others to gather crucifixes from around the world along with materials to accompany the collection for public viewing.

Representations of the crucifix on display at the History Museum include:

- A brightly colored “Road Cross” from Huancayo, Peru, which is designed to protect travelers on their journeys and is adorned with symbols that include a rooster, a ladder, the sun and the moon, along with the face of Christ.
- A simple and slender wooden crucifix, crafted by local artists in the port city of Luanda, Angola, which brings together Central African and European artistic genres.
- A contemporary Chinese painting, “Crucifixion on the Red Cross,” which was donated by renowned artist Dao Zi and features bold colors, sweeping lines, and exaggerated proportions of the holy nails.



Photos provided by the University of Notre Dame
“Road Cross (Cruz del camino)” by Pedro González Paucar.



“Life-Giving Cross I” by Ukraine.

- A detailed pearwood carving titled “Life-Giving Cross,” which includes images of Mary and John alongside Jesus that follows the Ukrainian Greek Catholic tradition of Father Yuvenaly Mokrytsky, a hieromonk whose religious order was brutally suppressed by the Soviet Union.

• A cross designed by Theresa Ardler, who is a Gweagal Aboriginal woman of the Eora region in Australia. According to Brian

Harding, the History Museum’s Executive Director: “It is indeed a privilege to partner with the University of Notre Dame and Notre Dame International on an exhibit of this stature. The university’s global connections are highly respected and extraordinarily diverse. These reflect our museum’s mission to tell the stories of not only our community but the ways in which we welcome and reach out to the world.”



“Aboriginal Cross II” by Theresa Ardler.



“Angolan Crucifix” by an unknown artist.

How to visit:

Tickets to the History Museum are \$11 for adults, \$9.50 for seniors (60 and older), \$7 for children between the ages of 6 and 17, and free for members.

For more information, including hours of operation, visit historymuseumsb.org or call 574-235-9664.

To learn more about the Crucifix Initiative, visit campuscrucifixes.nd.edu.

Second Act Leads to New Role as Principal at St. John the Baptist

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

A love of math brought Maggie Javins to the profession of mechanical engineering after college. For years, she worked in this industry before taking some time off to start her family and be home with her children.

When it came time to go back to work, she decided not to return to engineering but to look at other areas of interest.

During her time as a stay-at-home mom, she participated in faith formation, and when one of her children needed extra help in school, she became a home-school teacher.

Education became a big part of her focus, and that passion helped her switch gears, leading her to become a teacher for more than 12 years and, now, the new principal at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne.

"It's been a long journey of many little things that came together," Javins said of her road to administration. "I remember thinking I could do this teaching thing, and I think God's calling me here."

Javins entered the teaching world at Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne, where she taught mathematics for four years. More recently, she spent eight years at Bishop Luers High School as a math teacher until an invitation from Father Andrew Budzinski, then Pastor at St. John the Baptist, led her to apply and be named the new principal for the school.



MAGGIE JAVINS

"We have a great staff here. They are excellent teachers," said Javins, who hopes to continue to build on the work of her predecessor's academic excellence.

"I want to focus on the best instructional practices," said Javins, who has done extensive research on how schools in Europe use a more traditional style of learning to great success. "Our instruction has to be excellent," Javins said.

Javins understands that many families have two parents working outside the home, leaving little time for instruction in the evenings and on weekends. Javins said a strong focus on instruction time in the classroom will help to eliminate the need for extended instruction time at home.

When it comes to the stu-

dents, Javins hopes to walk with each one of them not only academically but on their spiritual journey, as well.

"We've been trying to make the focus on the Eucharist and help students see the importance of a faith life in their daily life," Javins said. "It all starts with building good habits – working hard and achieving success."

All jobs come with challenges, and leading a school has both good and bad problems.

"We have a good challenge in that we're growing," Javins said. "Growth is a good problem to have." With an increase in the student population comes the challenge of staffing, and one area of concern is resources needed for English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

St. John the Baptist School, along with other schools across the state, is riddled with constant testing changes in Indiana. It is important to Javins that academic standards are met without reducing time spent on sacrament and religious instruction.

Being an educator comes with many memorable and impactful moments, and Javins'

career has been no different.

"I've always had a niche in teaching accelerated algebra ... and having kids buy into our culture," Javins said about

her time at Bishop Luers. With students coming from various grade schools, they all had different levels of expertise in algebra, different ways of learning, and different understanding of necessary study habits, Javins said.

She found that some students didn't always appreciate her strict rules or style of teaching, but once they got through the first few weeks, they learned to embrace and often love what she was

doing in the classroom.

"I would ask them to take a minute to look at their white boards and tell them to look at all the work they've done, how they've come so far," Javins said. "I loved seeing that moment of pride for them."

Being nestled within a neighborhood south of downtown Fort Wayne has created a community feel within the school, Javins said.

"We have a solid intergenerational school here," Javins said. The St. John the Baptist Eagles have a good mix of new families and families with multiple generations of students and alumni.

The academic year is off to a strong start, said Javins, who is excited and honored to be part of such a strong community of families and educators.

"My wish," Javins said, "is that the students and families fall in love with Jesus and the Eucharist this year."

"I remember thinking I could do

this teaching thing, and I think

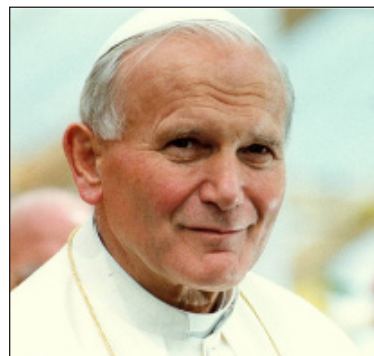
God's calling me here."

MAGGIE JAVINS

Welcome Principal Maggie Javins!



Thank you for saying "yes" to being our principal!
- St. John the Baptist Fort Wayne



The St. John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education

Did you know that the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana manages the St. John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education? This special fund was established for the purpose of providing ongoing funding for our seminarians. Investing in this fund supports our shepherds for years to come. To learn more about how to donate to this important fund, please call the foundation at 260-399-1436 or visit our website at ccfnei.org. Thank you!

St. John Paul II, pray for us.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

RESPECT LIFE

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in His own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

-Pope Francis

St. Patrick Church
ARCOLA



Photos by Eric Peat

Bishop Luers Head Coach Kyle Lindsay addresses his team before kickoff against Bishop Dwenger on Friday, September 29, at Luersfield in Fort Wayne. The Knights beat the Saints 29-28 in overtime to win the Bishop's Trophy.

Knights Edge Saints in Overtime Win

BY ERIC PEAT

Once in a blue moon, a highly anticipated sporting event lives up to its billing by delivering unforgettable moments, gritty performances, and a dramatic finish.

This year's football chapter of the "Battle of the Bishops" was one such contest.

In a game that featured four lead changes, three ties, two tradition-rich programs, and one overtime period, it was Bishop Luers emerging victorious over Bishop Dwenger on Friday, September 29, at Luersfield. The Knights' 29-28 win over the Saints was the latest in a series of hard-fought battles between the two squads, as six of their last eight meetings have been decided by a single score.

"It's special – something that everybody who's a part of this game will never forget," said Bishop Luers Head Coach Kyle Lindsay immediately following the game. "I think everybody who supported the red and black tonight won't forget this for the rest of their lives."

The evening began with both teams gathered at midfield for a prayer led by Father Paolo Degasperi, Pastor of St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne and Co-Chaplain at Bishop Luers.

"Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for giving us this day, for our faith, for our common heritage," Father Degasperi prayed over the loudspeaker. "We come to this field to give up to you our talents, our strengths. Keep us safe from injuries and help us give you glory with our bodies. And since you've prepared eternal rewards to the saints, grant victory to the Knights." This final line was greeted by



The Bishop Luers Knights and Bishop Dwenger Saints meet at midfield for a pregame prayer before the "Battle of the Bishops" on Friday, September 29, at Luersfield in Fort Wayne.

much laughter and applause from the home crowd before Father Degasperi led the stadium in the Lord's Prayer.

All eyes then turned to the gridiron, where Bishop Luers was looking to avenge last year's 17-12 defeat to its parochial partner and remain atop the Summit Athletic Conference standings. The Knights struck first in the final seconds of the opening quarter when senior quarterback Kohen McKenzie found classmate Isaac Zay in the endzone from 20 yards out. It didn't take long for the Saints to answer with their own senior-to-senior connection, as Ethan Springer aired it out to Carter Minix for a 67-yard score and a 7-7 tie early in the second quarter.

Bishop Dwenger grabbed the lead heading into halftime with a perfectly executed two-minute drill, capped off by a touchdown pass from Springer to senior Xavier Garrett with 2.8 seconds left on the clock. The Saints appeared to have all the momentum when they began the third quarter with

another promising drive, but an interception by Zay gave the ball back to the Knights. One play later, McKenzie hit senior Gio Jimenez on a screen pass, and Jimenez took it 40 yards to the endzone.

"That was huge," Lindsay said. "You tell the kids, 'Hey, we're going to get a stop on defense, get a turnover, and we're going to go down and score and even this ballgame up, put the pressure back on them.' For it to just happen 'boom-boom' like that, we got that energy back that we had at the beginning of the game."

The Knights kept that energy coming later in the third quarter, when McKenzie found junior Jaylen White streaking down the sideline for an 83-yard touchdown and a 21-14 lead. Bishop Dwenger countered with a Trent Tippmann touchdown run early in the fourth quarter, and the Saints had a golden opportunity to win the game in the final seconds of regulation. However, a big hit from Bishop Luers senior Finn Saxe – who played for Bishop Dwenger a

year ago – caused the Saints' second red-zone turnover of the game, and the Knights recovered the fumble to force overtime.

Bishop Dwenger opened the overtime with a 5-yard scoring run from Tippmann, who finished with 130 yards on 29 carries. With the Saints leading 28-21, it was up to the Knights to respond, and they turned to senior running back Mickey Daring, who had battled cramping throughout the night, plunged into the endzone from 2 yards out to pull his team within a point.

That's when Lindsay – despite not having his team practice two-point conversion plays all week long – decided to eschew the extra-point attempt and go for the win. After a pass interference penalty on the initial conversion attempt moved the ball inside the 2-yard line, Lindsay knew just who he wanted with the ball in his hands.

"When we had a yard and a half, I said, 'We've got to let Mickey Daring win this game,'" Lindsay said. "There's no way

Mickey was going to be denied there."

"We called a Dive Right Blast," said Daring, recounting the play call. "I trusted my o-line and knew they were going to get a push. I just had to hold onto the ball and get it in there."

Daring did just that, causing the home crowd to erupt in jubilation after more than a few minutes of heart-pounding suspense. Lindsay credited his team's physicality at the line of scrimmage for giving him the confidence to gamble and go for the win. His players answered with the same resiliency that has helped steer Bishop Luers to five straight wins after an 0-2 start.

"We just battled through adversity; we've done it all year," Zay said. "After the first two games, a lot of people doubted us. And you know what? We came back, battled through the SAC, and now we're 5-0, and we're looking for that conference [title]."

The Knights will have an opportunity to claim at least a share of the SAC's Victory Bell with a win in either of its final two regular season games against South Side and Homestead. In the meantime, they'll celebrate claiming the Bishop's Trophy for just the second time in their last eight tries. It's a victory made even sweeter by the familial nature of the rivalry between two schools with a shared mission and Catholic identity.

"Anytime that you put on that Luers uniform, it's special," said Lindsay. "And playing in a game like this, against your rival that has that same tradition, that same family bond that we both share as programs, it's a special night any time we get together."

After Sale of Stations, Redeemer Radio Opens New Chapter

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Redeemer Radio commemorated their recent sale and transition to a new format with Mass and an open house on Monday, September 25. Relevant Radio purchased the station on August 1, allowing the staff to focus on Spoke Street, a national, podcast-oriented Catholic media company that developed from demographic changes in the local station's listenership.

In his homily to those gathered at the station on Monday, Father Thomas Shoemaker compared the Gospel reading to this new chapter in Redeemer Radio's story.

"Jesus tells us that you don't light a lamp and then put it under your bed," he said. "If you get a fire, you want people to light the room, you want people to see this, you want to share that light with others."

Father Shoemaker said Redeemer Radio has shared that light and the Gospel for the last 17 years.

"This has been a radio station that's brought people to the Church; it's been a radio station that has inspired people to live a deeper faith. It's been

a station that's brought people to the sacraments."

He then talked about how this transition in mission is a positive change.

"Young people, they're not so much listening to the radio; they're on their computers and on their iPhones or whatever they've got in their ears," Father Shoemaker said. "They're the people who love podcasts and not programming. So now, we're providing both for the right generation."

There is something very positive coming from this transition, Father Shoemaker said, even though people are going to miss local programming on the station.

"But there's a beautiful, beautiful thing happening, as we still do have Catholic radio very much available and drawing us closer to Christ. And we also have the podcasts going for those who enjoy the podcasts more."

Father Shoemaker continued to say that the transition is a way of letting the light of Christ shine out in the world, and that it is a way of not only sharing the Catholic faith, but letting other people see the beauty of the Faith.

"This radio station has brought people to Christ. Our



Joshua Schipper

Father Thomas Shoemaker offers a blessing to a young boy during a Mass at Redeemer Radio on Monday, September 25.

prayer today is that that will continue, that more people will come to find Christ, find their way to the Church and to the sacraments, through Relevant Radio, through the Spoke Street podcasts, and through all the works that we've done. This has been a fruitful ministry; we pray that it will continue for many, many years to come."

After Mass, Mariam Schmitz, Chief Operating Officer

for Spoke Street, said: "We appreciate your prayers as we navigate this transition from the Redeemer Radio to Spoke Street. Definitely a bittersweet chapter, so we're glad you all are here to help us remember and celebrate the next chapter."

In a statement emailed to listeners, representatives for Redeemer Radio wrote about how the mission of station has been to "fill the gap" between

listeners and the Church. Now that podcast listenership has surpassed radio listenership in their target audience, shifting resources to fill that new gap will best serve the community.

Although Spoke Street is focusing on podcasts, Relevant Radio will continue to broadcast Catholic content throughout the diocese on the frequencies formerly owned by Redeemer Radio (106.3 FM in the Fort Wayne area and 95.7 FM in the South Bend area).

The letter to listeners continued: "Thank you for listening. Thank you for donating. Thank you for underwriting. Thank you for creating content. Thank you for working for us. Thank you for volunteering. Thank you for helping make Redeemer happen. What began as a prayer and a dream in our diocese has turned into something that's still living its original calling but now on a national level. You helped make that happen."

For more information on Spoke Street, and to explore its lineup of podcasts, including "Truth in Charity" with Bishop Rhoades, the locally produced "Doctor, Doctor" show, and dozens of other faith-filled Catholic podcasts, visit spokestreet.com.

**"The
ultimate
test of your greatness
IS THE WAY YOU TREAT
every
human being."**

— Pope John Paul II

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne

Anticipating Pope Francis' Follow-up to Laudato Si'

Eight years have passed since the release of Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The document has undeniably contributed to raising awareness of environmental issues within the Catholic community and beyond. *Laudato Si'* resonated with many, as it put forward a contemporary message and emphasized the moral imperative to care for our common home. However, reflecting on the state of our world today, it's evident that despite increased awareness, we find ourselves in an even more precarious situation than we did in 2015.

So, it should come as no surprise that Pope Francis has been writing a follow-up to *Laudato Si'*, expected to be released this month. Pope Francis told attendees of a recent general audience, "It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injus-

tice, striving to put an end to the senseless war on our common home, which is a terrible world war." We hope the coming document, planned as an apostolic exhortation, will emphasize the interconnectedness of creation, Christian anthropology, the limits of new technologies, and subsidiarity.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis introduces the concept of "integral ecology," which emphasizes the interconnectedness of environmental, social, economic, and cultural dimensions. He advocates for an integrated approach to addressing environmental challenges, recognizing that solutions to environmental problems must consider the well-being of both humanity and the planet.

Integral Catholic ecology stands as the cornerstone of our faith's response to the ecological crisis. It encompasses the recognition that all living beings are interconnected, forming a complex web of life

"But one cannot prescind from humanity. There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology."

POPE FRANCIS

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

that we are called to preserve and nurture. We hope the follow-up document will underscore this interconnectedness, emphasizing the theological categories ignored by the secular environmentalist movement. Catholics must understand and articulate that the interconnectedness of creation points and leads back to God.

Another central theme we hope the forthcoming apostolic exhortation will address is Christian anthropology. Our responsibility as stewards of creation is fundamentally rooted in our understanding of what it means to be human. As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*: "But one cannot prescind from humanity. There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology." It is, as the Holy Father writes, impossible to get care for creation right if we misunderstand who we are as creatures.

As Catholics, we know we

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If You Call Angels, They Will Come

Parents are all too familiar with the sort of anxiety that can subconsciously nag at you all day long, before really kicking in at night.

While we're up and about and keeping busy, it's possible to shush the parental panic that ever resides just below our breastbones and is implanted within us at our children's births. It begins as a seed that we water and overwater with our worst fears and deepest imaginings of all the ways they are vulnerable, all the ways kids can be hurt either physically, emotionally, or in the psyche. Hurt by the world in all its vagaries. Hurt by us, too, no matter how perfect we try to be.

These anxieties burst fully into flower once you've crawled into bed, when every distant siren pulls at the gut, and every unanswered text indicates catastrophe, until you finally hear your new driver pull into the driveway, or your nearly 40-year-old one texts you that he is safely home.

I wish I could tell you that the worries and the angst go away once your kids have made it into adulthood and proved themselves to be responsible, mostly sane people. I once knew a woman – a very smart, balanced college professor and social worker – who, after a family gathering, instructed her five grown children to call her when they'd



GUEST COMMENTARY

ELIZABETH SCALIA

arrived safely home. "Not just home," she admitted to me, once. "I made them promise to call me when they were in their pajamas and tucked into their beds. And that's exactly what they did. Five phone calls, one after the other, all making fun of me, but I slept well that night!"

When I wondered if bad weather had caused her to make such an explicit demand of her middle-aged children, she said: "No. I just always need to know they're safe."

That's all any of us ever really want to know: that our kids are safe. And happy. But mostly safe, because if they're not safe, they're not happy.

There was one night when my quite-responsible eldest was at college and too busy to text reassurances to his over-anxious mother; the younger one, also quite responsible, was driving. It was only lightly raining out. But a light rain in autumn means there's just

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By Disobeying God, We Are Rejecting His Offer of Salvation



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first section of the Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend's first reading. The prophet speaks directly to the people. He speaks as God, in the first person.

The prophet employs an image with which his contemporaries would have been very familiar – the image of the vineyard, describing the land of God's people as a vineyard in which grapes were grown. The people do not own the vineyard. It belongs to God. Lavish with care, God fills the vineyard with the choicest vines, and God tends the vineyard.

The author of this section of Isaiah was very disappointed with his people. He saw them moving along a path that would lead to their destruction.

Why the concern? What was happening? The people were polluting God's vineyard. They themselves became wild grapes – sour, wrinkled, and bitter, unworthy of being in the beautiful vineyard. The people were disloyal to God, disobedient to God's law, and lax in religious observance. Especially troubling the prophet were the leaders of the Chosen People who were flirting with neighboring pagan states, allowing the paganism of these neighbors to influence policy.

The Epistle to the Philippians provides the second reading this weekend.

Philippi was an important military post in the Roman Empire, located in modern Greece. It was a thoroughly pagan community, probably with a scattering of Christians. Pagans looked upon Christians with disdain at best, as threats at most, because of the

Christians' worship of the God of Israel, of Jesus as the Son of God, and because of their devotion to the Gospel values of love, sacrifice, and life with God.

Before long, this disdain for Christians in the empire erupted into outright persecution.

Understandably, this epistle sought to encourage and to reassure Philippi's Christians, admonishing them always to be faithful to God, always to be holy, and indeed never to fear opposition or even persecution.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the third reading.

As has been the case on other weekends, the selection for this weekend is a parable. Again, the story is about a discussion between Jesus and priests and elders. Voicing the parable, Jesus refers to a "landowner" of a vineyard, who of course is God.

(Remember the first reading? Vineyards often were used in the Old Testament to describe the nation of Israel.)

The landowner, or God, planted a vineyard. It belongs

to God. The people occupying the vineyard merely were tenants. God protected this vineyard by surrounding it with a hedge. Then God went on a journey, leaving tenants to tend the vineyard.

In due course, the landowner sent his servants to the tenants to collect the yield, but the tenants turned against God. The tenants killed these servants. God sent more servants. They, too, were killed. Finally, the Son of God was sent, also to be killed. Finally, God drove the tenants from the vineyard.

Reflection

The Church repeatedly has called us to discipleship during these weeks. It restates this call in these readings.

Ultimately, today's lesson is not about doom and destruction, although both Isaiah and Matthew focus on unhappiness and death. Rather, the message is of salvation and hope.

By disobeying or ignoring God, we create our own bad situations, and often nothing

good for others.

This is a fact. We may choose to sin, or we may choose to be with God. The choice belongs to us. These readings urge us to resist temptation, to be faithful to God.

God does not hurl thunderbolts of anger and revenge upon us. He offers the sunlight of divine mercy for us to grow in the vineyard, developing into something sweet and beautiful.

READINGS

Sunday: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalms 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

Monday: Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11; (Psalm) Jonah 2:3-5, 8; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalms 130:1-4, 7-8; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jonah 4:1-11; Psalms 86:3-6, 9-10; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday: Malachi 3:13-20b; Psalms 1:1-4, 6; Luke 11:5-13

Friday: Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Psalms 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday: Joel 4:12-21; Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Luke 11:27-28

Dropping to Our Knees Instead of Dropping Out

The Lord must love you very much," a wise friend recently encouraged me.

I'd just shared with her that a close relative of mine was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. My confidante has been paying close enough attention to my life to know that I was now adding "care-giver" back into my daily job description. This situation, on top of a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes earlier in the month and my cancer recuperation, struck her as a lot for one person to bear.

"The Lord must love you very much to trust you to carry all of this without falling or failing or dropping away from the weight," she wrote to me. "Instead, you'll just drop to your knees."

To be honest, her words gave me pause.

Just a few days earlier, I'd had a fairly severe conversation with God at daily Mass. "What the heck, Heavenly Father?" I whined mentally in that fragment of silence during the intercessory prayers. "Wouldn't one of these situations be sufficient? I don't know if I can deal with all three of them right now."

That day after Mass, I lingered in my pew to chase down a portion of Scripture that had popped into my head. Into my phone I typed, "sufficient grace." A flurry of clicks led me to Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, where the saint begged God three times for release from a challeng-

ing situation. St. Paul's epistle offers the divine words he heard in response from God: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

Confronting my physical and emotional weakness and being open and honest about it with myself and others has turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I've long prided myself on being a glass-is-99-percent-full person. Until this year, if I had a problem, I was unlikely to say much about it to anyone else. I recognize now that a good deal of what I thought was simply positivity and coping might also be pride and mistrust in the fullness of God's mercy.

Dropping to our knees, whether it's because of a burden of our own or one borne by a loved one, places us in a position of weakness. I don't like feeling weak.

But if we are paying attention when we hit our knees, we might also realize that in our smallness, we enter into greater solidarity with all of the souls around our world who are already there.

In his apostolic letter *Salvifici Doloris*, Pope St. John Paul II encourages each of us to ponder the Christian meaning of human suffering. "In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ has also raised human suffering to the level of the Redemption," he wrote. "Thus each man, in his suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ."



LISA M. HENDEY

SENIOR STANDING

Whether I am literally or figuratively driven to my knees in my moments when I feel overwhelmed, I am now trying to intentionally make note of this posture of humility and weakness. I am more purposefully inviting God into these moments.

But I am also, more than ever before, sharing honestly and openly with faithful friends about my true emotions. Doing this is partially about asking them to lift our family in prayer in the moments when I feel too overwhelmed to pray for myself.

But it's also my attempt to be more truthful about where I actually am in my relationship with God.

Intellectually, I trust God implicitly. Spiritually, I have some work to do on becoming a sharer in Christ's redemptive suffering and that of my brothers and sisters around the world.

On my knees, content in my weakness, and begging for God's grace, I am realizing how very much God loves me.

Lisa M. Hendey is the founder of CatholicMom.com, a bestselling author, and international speaker.

SCALIA, from page 12

enough water to loosen the oils on the road and make them slippery. There are just enough wet leaves on the road to create sliding conditions on corners taken too fast.

And so, as I settled into bed and looked at my phone – with no eye-rolling emoticon coming via a campus text, and the lone peal of a siren sounding from about three miles away – my concern went through the roof, and so did my prayers. I went to the top – the head guy, Michael the Archangel – asking him to send angels out to wherever my sons were, and whomever they were with, to keep them safe, to protect them from evil or injury.

Then I talked to Raphael for a while, asking his prayers in case either of my kids happened to be injured or ill, and also directing that famously healing angel toward a few people I knew who needed help. Finally, I nagged Gabriel – God's messenger, no less, but yes, I am that presumptuous –

to nag my sons into texting me or otherwise letting me know they were all right.

Then of course, I started in on my own guardian angel, nudging her (I am convinced my guardian angel manifests in my life as a Black woman of varying ages, always giving me the best advice and then disappearing before I can say thank you) to bother the guardian angels of my sons – to make sure they were on duty.

Since it was raining, after all, I also harangued Michael about sending angels of protection to our house, to guard all of our exits and entrances, chimneys and cracks, against damage, flooding, and so forth.

I bothered many tiers of angels until, suddenly, my bedroom seemed alive with weird lights dancing upon my ceiling. They seemed to come out of nowhere. My husband, who had been fast asleep, was suddenly awake, his eyes wide as he looked straight up. "What's going on," he wondered.

"I think it's angels," I told him.

He was silent for a moment, just watching, and then asked, "Why are they here?"

"I sort of called them," I admitted. "I asked a lot of favors, including that they come and protect us and the house."

"I wish you'd cut that out," he said, turning over and pulling the blankets. "I'm trying to sleep, and that's weird!"

Feeling a little like the rich lady in "My Man Godfrey" who shooed away the pixies each morning, I thanked the angels for their attention to all my prayers, and for the new consolation I felt in that tender spot under the breast.

Instantly, I heard the teenager pull into the driveway. A second later, the phone pinged, and the college student texted, "I was in the library. I'm FINE!"

And like my friend the professor, I slept well that night. It is good to call on angels.

Elizabeth Scalia is the Culture Editor for OSV News.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 8, 2023

Matthew 21:33-43

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: The vineyard owner and his son. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LANDOWNER	PLANTED	WINEPRESS
BUILT	A TOWER	LEASED
TENANTS	SEIZED	BEAT
STONED	TREATED	RESPECT
THE HEIR	KILL HIM	DEATH
READ	STONE	REJECTED
OWN EYES	KINGDOM	TAKEN

BAD TENANTS

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

OSV BOARD, from page 12

are created in the image and likeness of God, and this intrinsic resemblance to the Creator calls us to exercise dominion over the Earth in a manner that mirrors God's loving care for His creation. To love and accept our nature as embodied creatures, embracing what it means to be male and female, is today a pressing need. The document should inspire us in our efforts to teach the truth about who human beings are, the eternal destiny with God for which we were made, and the consequences of our moral failures on this side of heaven.

Advancements in technology have presented both opportunities and challenges in our quest for environmental sustainability. While innovation can aid in conservation efforts, it can also exacerbate environmental degradation.

Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*: "Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay, and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational program, a lifestyle, and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm." The follow-up document would benefit from an exploration of the ethical dimensions that accompany the

rise of new technology, guiding us in discerning how to harness its potential for the common good while mitigating any harmful effects. We hope Pope Francis will encourage responsible technological development that aligns with the principles of stewardship and respect for the Earth.

Global economic interests often give priority to profit and growth over environmental sustainability and social justice. This can lead to exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and the marginalization of vulnerable communities. As Pope Francis warned in *Laudato Si'*, "A consumerist vision of human beings, encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy, has a leveling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety which is the heritage of all humanity."

One size doesn't fit all. Universal norms threaten to damage local communities by animating responses not tailored to the common good of a particular place. We hope the new document will further elaborate on Pope Francis' vision of subsidiarity, showing how local communities can and will make a difference in ways suited to their needs and resources.

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Father Patrick Briscoe, Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, and York Young.

Blessing of Pets Celebrates Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Throughout history, man's best friend has been an important part of many families – along with cats, guinea pigs, fish, snakes, and much more. St. Francis of Assisi was a beloved friar from Italy who loved all creatures, and to celebrate the feast of the patron saint of animals, St. Pius X in Granger held a Blessing of Pets on Saturday, September 30. It was a chance for members of the community to come together to celebrate the feast day of a holy saint, devotion to their Catholic faith, and a love for their pet.

Ashley and Thomas Strasser brought their dog, Clayton, to the event for the first time. According to Thomas, they adopted Clayton in 2020, and in previous years, he was a little too immature to attend.

Ashley Strasser said animals are a big part of people's lives and she appreciates the opportunity to involve her loving pet in

her faith life.

St. Pius X parishioner Rebecca Ellenson brought her four-legged companion Bruce to the blessing. She saw the announcement in the bulletin and was surprised by such a strong turnout of people and pets. She was especially impressed with the sole cat who attended and didn't seem concerned about being surrounded by a sea of dogs.

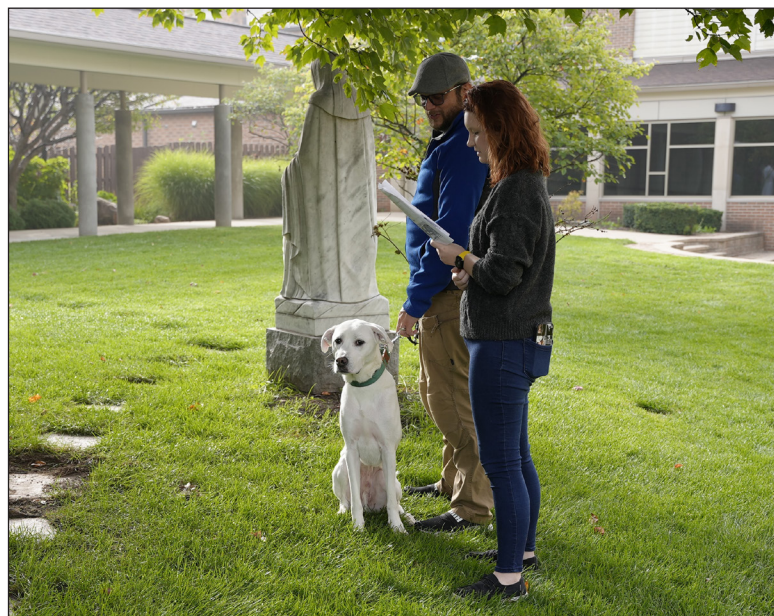
"I wanted him to be incorporated in our faith," Ellenson said. She said a focus of our Catholic faith is family and appreciates that the Church recognizes that pets are a part of people's families.

The blessing was celebrated by Monsignor William Schooler, Pastor of St. Pius X, and Deacon Harry Verhiley. The celebration included songs, prayers, and a blessing with holy water upon each pet and family member who attended. Afterwards, guests were invited to share treats and fellowship with one another.



Lisa Kochanowski

Monsignor William Schooler, Pastor of St. Pius X in Granger, and Deacon Harry Verhiley participate in the Blessing of Pets celebration with the parish community on Saturday, September 30.



Photos by Lisa Kochanowski

Ashley and Thomas Strasser, with their dog, Clayton, participate in the Blessing of Pets celebration at St. Pius X.



Dozens of dogs, a cat, a guinea pig, and their owners attended the Blessing of Pets at St. Pius X Church in Granger. Celebrated by Monsignor William Schooler, Pastor, and Deacon Harry Verhiley, guests sang songs, recited prayers, and were part of a personal blessing with holy water upon each pet and family member.

Info & registration at ethicscenter.nd.edu/fc23

Dust OF THE Earth: On Persons

NOVEMBER 2–4, 2023 • UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME



DE NICOLA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND CULTURE

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Third Annual Mary's Way Dinner

MISHAWAKA – Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4508 Vistula Rd., will host the third Annual Mary's Way Dinner on Sunday, October 8 from 1-4 p.m. Learn more about Mary while you deepen your faith with guest speaker Sister Stephen Culhane, a Franciscan Laity Missionary. The cost is \$25 and includes casual dinner buffet, drinks, materials, and fellowship. Contact Patti Grenert at 574-255-9674 or Parishoffice@queenofpeace.cc.

School of Worship

SOUTH BEND – The School of Worship will be offered at St. Thérèse, Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd., on Friday, October 20, from 7-9 p.m., where you will learn about how your heart is wired for worship of the Most High

God for all people who possess a heart and long to learn how to worship Him more deeply. Contact Abby Kyle at 574-243-3441 or abby@littleflowerchurch.org.

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.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Discernment Retreat

MISHAWAKA – The Sisters of St. Francis will offer a discernment retreat the weekend of November 10-12 at the

St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail. A Discernment Retreat is a beautiful opportunity to spend time away with the Lord and allow Him to speak to your heart. The retreat consists of three conferences preached by a visiting priest on the topics of how to discern and grow in prayer. If you are a single Catholic woman between the ages of 17 and 30 and are interested in attending a discernment retreat, register at ssfpa.org/retreat.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Ann Penland, 89, Immaculate Conception

Fort Wayne

Marie Tippmann, 82, St. Charles Borromeo

Mercedes Pacheco, 73, St. Joseph

John Reid, 87, St. Joseph

Granger

Karen Steinbauer, 79, St. Pius X

Attila Valentiny, 92, St. Pius X

Huntington

Douglas E. Riggers, 58, SS. Peter & Paul

New Haven

Trace Tutwiler, 59, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

Betty Gapinski, 95, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Alberta Falk, 98, Christ the King

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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

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.*



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Creating Cardinals from 16 Nations, Pope Asks Them to Join Church 'Symphony'

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Coming from different parts of the world and having different experiences and talents, members of the College of Cardinals are called to create a “symphony,” listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis said.

Creating 21 new cardinals from 16 nations on Saturday, September 30, the pope used the biblical story of Pentecost to remind the prelates of the roots of their faith, and he invoked the image of a symphony to emphasize their call to be both faithful and creative.

On a warm autumn morning, with shrubs and flowers decorating the steps of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis held his ninth consistory to create new cardinals. The Vatican said 12,000 people attended the ceremony.

Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the 68-year-old Chicago-born Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, was the only U.S. prelate to receive his red hat at the consistory. He was joined by French Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the 77-year-old Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Cardinal Luis Pascual Dri, a 96-year-old Capuchin friar from Argentina, was made a cardinal when the pope proclaimed his name at the consistory, but he did not travel to Rome to receive his red hat because of his health.

With the consistory, the College of Cardinals has 242 members from 91 nations, according to Vatican statistics; 137 of the cardinals are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. The so-called “cardinal electors” come from 71 countries.

Italy – with 49 cardinals, of whom 14 are electors – continues to dominate the cardinal counts. The United States is second, as according to the Vatican there are 17 U.S. cardinals, including 11 electors. The total would be 18 when counting Italian-born Cardinal Silvano Tomasi, a former Vatican official, who is a U.S. citizen.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Cardinal Prevost thanked Pope Francis on behalf of the new cardinals, noting how the consistory was taking place just before the opening of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.



New cardinals line up to receive their red biretta and scroll from Pope Francis during a consistory for the creation of 21 new cardinals in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Saturday, September 30.

CNS photo/Lola Gomez



ROBERT F. PREVOST

“The Church is fully such only when it truly listens, when it walks as the new People of God in its wonderful diversity, rediscovering continually her own baptismal call to contribute to the spread of the Gospel and the kingdom of God,” he said. “The beauty of the universality of the Church that will be manifested in the unfolding of the synod will be a very important sign, which will be able to speak of the mission that all of us baptized have received, in communion with the successor of Peter and in the profession of the same faith.”

Before receiving their red hats, their cardinal's rings, and the names of their titular churches in Rome – an assignment that makes them formally members of the clergy of the Diocese of Rome – the new cardinals made a profession of faith, reciting the Creed in Latin, and made an oath of fidelity to Pope Francis and his successors.

Cardinal Prevost, a former Superior General of the Augustinian religious order, was given the Church of St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine.

In his homily at the consistory, a prayer service that lasted a little more than an hour, Pope Francis drew the prelates' attention to the Pentecost story in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles and particularly to its listing of those who heard the apostles, each in their own language although they were “Parthians, Medes,

and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia.”

“Normally we pastors, when we read the account of Pentecost, identify ourselves with the apostles,” the pope said. But if the cardinals recognize themselves as members of the crowd, he added, they would “rediscover with amazement the gift of having received the Gospel” in their own languages and would give thanks for having been evangelized among their own people, often by their mothers or grandmothers.

“Indeed, we are evangelizers to the extent we cherish in our hearts the wonder and gratitude of having been evangelized, even of (still) being evangelized, because this is really a gift always present, that must be continually renewed in our memories and in faith,” the pope told them.

In humility, and with that diversity, he said, “the College of Cardinals is called to resemble a symphony orchestra, representing the harmony and synodality of the Church.”

Pope Francis said he referred to “synodality” not only because the synod assembly was set to open on Wednesday, October 4, “but also because it seems to me that the metaphor of the orchestra can well illuminate the synodal character of the Church,” which relies on each member making a contribution, occasionally as a soloist, but usually in harmony with others.

“Mutual listening is essential,” he said. “Each musician must listen to the others. If one listens only to himself, however sublime his sound may be, it will not benefit the symphony; and the same would be the case if one section of the orchestra did not listen to the others but played as if it were alone, as if it were the whole.”

“In addition,” the pope said, “the conductor of the orchestra is at the service of this kind of miracle that is each performance of a symphony. He has to listen more than anyone else, and at the same time, his job is to help each person and the whole orchestra develop the greatest creative fidelity: fidelity to the work being performed, but also creative, able to give a soul to the score, to make it resonate in the here and now in a unique way.”

“We have the Holy Spirit as our master: the interior master of each one of us and the master of walking together,” Pope Francis said. “He creates variety and unity; he is harmony itself.”

**“Each of us is the result of
a thought of God.
Each of us is willed,
each of us is loved,
each of us is necessary.”**

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, all unborn children;
give them constant protection
and grant them a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.

Adapted from the Rite of Blessing of a Child in the Womb

**Christ the King Catholic Church
52473 State Road 933
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