

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 97 No. 40

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Catholic Charities Announces \$2 Million Legacy Gift

BY TODAY'S CATHOLIC

On Wednesday, November 15, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend announced that the agency has received an approximate \$2 million legacy gift, to be received in installments over the next two years.

"We are so thankful for this very generous gift," Matt Smith, Chief Development Officer at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said in a news release. "The family who made this gift possible is bolstering the sustainability of the organization and ensuring that we can serve current and future generations through our mission."

According to the news release, the gift comes as the agency kicks off a new three-year strategic plan with the theme "Building Roads to Hope." With five main goals, the plan's objective is to create new paths toward self-sufficiency for vulnerable families and individuals living in the 14 counties the agency serves, including:

- Living out the Catholic Identity of Catholic Charities.
- Serving the organization's most vulnerable neighbors, including the homeless, the working poor, seniors, refugees, and immigrants on their journey



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

FORT WAYNE + SOUTH BEND

to self-sufficiency by providing faith-based life skills classes, effective case management, community integration through hand-offs to partners of Catholic Charities, and affordable legal pathways to citizenship.

- Protecting life and supporting families by giving every person, from conception through natural death, the best chance at a fulfilling life by equipping families with the support needed to flourish, while enhancing its adoption services.
- Nourishing and healing the heart, mind, and soul by providing compassionate, affordable, accessible, faith-based counseling services.
- Building organizational

capacity to serve more people through operational efficiencies and volunteer engagement, while diversifying and expanding its funding streams.

Catholic Charities plans to use this gift to invest in the future of the 101-year-old agency, as well as seed money for the new strategic plan.

"As part of our plan, we are building new faith-based life-skills classes," said Dan Florin, CEO of Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "For families struggling each month to make ends meet, we will be launching a new series of life-skills classes meant to teach important fundamentals, like financial literacy, emotional resiliency,

and healthy relationship skills. We also plan on investing in the sustainability of our clinical services. This program provides counseling support to 13 Catholic schools and mental health navigation services to parishes through the Clinical Liaison."

Florin continues, "This gift will also aid us in our plans to create a bigger presence in other communities to better serve our whole diocese."

According to the news release, the approximately \$2 million gift comes from an anonymous benefactor who had supported the agency for many years.

For more information on Catholic Charities' strategic plan, visit ccfwsb.org/strategicplan.

Bishop Rhoades Gives Update at USCCB Assembly

Pages 2-3

Prepare for Christmas with the St. Andrew Novena

Page 8

Bishop Celebrates Mass for School Principals

Page 10

St. Mary in Decatur to host 'Nativity Nights'

Page 11

Cemetery Groundskeepers See Mission in Their Work

Page 14

Revival's in the Air

#Congress2024

NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

#TheRevival

Revival

REVIVAL

Happens Here

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

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

Editorial Department

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Scott Warden

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

VIDEO/SOCIAL MEDIA: Joshua Schipper

Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: todayscatholic.org

260-456-2824

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

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

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

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

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

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

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

editor@diocesefwsb.org



Find us on Facebook
facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB

Follow us on Twitter
[@diocesefwsb](https://twitter.com/diocesefwsb)

Follow us on Instagram
[@diocesefwsb](https://www.instagram.com/diocesefwsb)



OSV News photos/Bob Roller

Bishop Rhoades answers a reporter's question during a news conference at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore on Tuesday, November 14. Also pictured are Father Iván Montelongo, left, a priest of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, and Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas. The three were asked about their experiences at the Synod of Bishops on synodality, which took place in Rome in October.

Synod, Eucharist Are Interconnected, Bishops Say During Fall Assembly

BY GINA CHRISTIAN AND
PETER JESSERER SMITH

BALTIMORE (OSV News) – The Eucharist and synodality are interconnected, said prelates attending the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual fall plenary assembly, which was held from Monday, November 13, to Thursday, November 16. Synodality, they said, ensures the faithful's communication so the Church can fulfill its Eucharistic mission.

The October meeting of the synod on synodality at the Vatican was a touchpoint for several bishops speaking on Tuesday, November 13, including Bishop Rhoades, who recently returned from Rome, where he participated in the Synod of Bishops. Also speaking at the U.S. bishops' meeting in Baltimore was the conference's president, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S., and Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, who also shared his experience of the synod with the assembly.

In his welcoming address at the USCCB assembly, Cardinal Pierre said that synodality and the National Eucharistic Revival now underway in the U.S. may "at first glance" seem unrelated, but in reality "belong together by their very



Bishop Rhoades speaks during a conversation about the synod on synodality in Rome at a session of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Tuesday, November 14, in Baltimore. Also pictured are Father Michael J.K. Fuller, USCCB General Secretary; Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, USCCB President; and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, USCCB Vice President.

nature" and "shed light on one another."

Speaking with reporters, Bishop Rhoades said the synod

has been more than a "sharing of experience," but also an exploration of "theological convictions." Referring to

the synod's synthesis report released on Saturday, October 28, he said, "One of the things that's being called for is a

deeper theological reflection on some of these issues.”

Bishop Flores, who chairs the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine and is tasked with shepherding the synodal process in the U.S., told the bishops that the synod's method of “conversation in the Spirit” was an effective way to promote listening.

Speaking to the bishops alongside Bishop Flores, Bishop Rhoades called the synod “an experience of the beautiful universality of the Church and of our communion in faith and love for the Lord and the Church.”

Bishop Flores said conversation “implies more than talking and listening,” and “involves sharing a way of life and a style of life” marked by “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control,” the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

He said that experience happens at a level that is “local and particular,” but at the same time, “the particular life of the community ... can bear the sacramental imprint of the whole” Church.

Archbishop Broglio told the assembled bishops that while the synod stressed “how much we can work together as parts of the Body of Christ,” he simultaneously “reflected on the many synodal realities that already exist in the Church in the United States.”

In his assembly address, Bishop Flores stressed the importance of reading and reflecting upon the synthesis document, through which “we can hear the many issues that the local churches around the world grapple with.”

“The synod offers us a Catholic way to do this grappling faithfully, realistically, prayerfully, thoughtfully, and charitably,” Bishop Flores told the assembly. “We have a lot of work to do, but we, together with our people, can be hopeful that we can do so together, because we all here especially need to be actively involved in this conversation.”

Bishops Support Call for New Doctor of the Church

The U.S. bishops voted almost unanimously (with two “no” votes) November 15 to support a request by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that Pope Francis name St. John Henry Newman, the 19th-century British cardinal, a Doctor of the Church. Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, Chair of the Doctrine Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, presented the question to the body of bishops. Bishop Flores said in June the conference received a letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols

of Westminster, England, requesting “that the USCCB send a letter in support of the proposal.” With the U.S. bishops' support, a letter will be sent to the pope.

Bishops Support Cause for Paulists Founder's Canonization

Father Isaac Hecker (1819-88) was a Catholic convert, a religious community founder, and a pioneering Catholic publisher. He also may one day be recognized as a Catholic saint. The U.S. bishops voted on Tuesday, November 14, to support his cause for canonization, which was initiated by the Paulists Fathers – the order Father Hecker founded – and launched in 2008 by the Archdiocese of New York. As a young man, Hecker began to explore the spiritual life and reflect on the relationship between religion and democracy, living for a time in Transcendentalist utopian communities. That search would eventually lead him to the Catholic Church at age 24. He was ordained for the Redemptorist congregation in 1849 and sent to America to give missions. Nine years later, he left the Redemptorists and founded the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle,

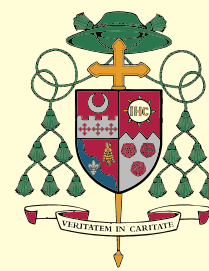
better known as the Paulists, to evangelize in America.

Bishops Vote on New Conference Leaders

On Tuesday, November 14, the U.S. bishops elected Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City as Secretary-Elect of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They also elected Chairmen-Elect for six standing committees: Catholic Education: Bishop David M. O'Connell of Trenton, New Jersey; Communications: Bishop William D. Byrne of Springfield, Massachusetts; Cultural Diversity in the Church: Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Brooklyn, New York; Doctrine: Auxiliary Bishop James Massa of Brooklyn; National Collections: Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg of Reno, Nevada; and Pro-Life Activities: Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio. Archbishop Coakley will serve one year as “elect,” and the chairmen-elect also will each serve for one year as “elect” before they each begin a three-year term in their respective positions at the conclusion of the fall plenary assembly in 2024, when the current committee chairmen complete their three-year term. Conference Grapples with Understanding Human Personhood



OSV News photo/courtesy Angelus Virata, Baltimore Basilica
Bishops attend Mass on Monday, November 13, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore at the start of their 2023 fall plenary assembly.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, November 28: 9:30 a.m. – Theology Class for Masters of Divinity Students, University of Notre Dame
Wednesday, November 29: Noon – Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Best Western Plus, Warsaw
Thursday, November 30: 10:30 a.m. – Presbyteral Council Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
Thursday, November 30: 12:30 p.m. – Priest Personnel Board Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
Saturday, December 2: 10 a.m. – Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka
Sunday, December 3: Noon – Confirmation Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
Sunday, December 3: 7:15 p.m. – Advent Lessons and Carols, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame



Forty Hours Devotion



Parishes are Listed in Order by Date

NOVEMBER

St. Joseph, Bluffton: November 26-28
Christ the King, South Bend: November 26-28

DECEMBER

Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne: December 3-5
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception: December 3-5
St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol: December 3-5
Immaculate Conception, Ege: December 7-8

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
St. Joseph, Garrett: March 3-5
St. Joseph, Fort Wayne: March 10-12
St. Joseph, South Bend: March 17-19
St. Joseph, Mishawaka: March 17-19
St. John the Evangelist, Goshen: March 17-19
Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne: March 17-19

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

From RCIA to OCIA: Explaining the Shift

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Currently, in parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, classes are underway to help form men and women interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith – or, perhaps, interested in coming into full communion with the Church. While much of the substance of these classes is the same as in years past, there have been subtle changes made.

The process by which adults formally join the Catholic Church has traditionally been referred to as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Two years ago, in November of 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a new translation of the process and its corresponding curriculum, now known as the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA).

The decision to change the

name stems from the idea that the Catholic journey is continual. It is a lifelong commitment each catechumen or candidate is making to the Church.

"[The word] 'order' also reflects the progressive nature of this spiritual journey. OCIA is not a one-time event; it is a journey with distinct stages," Fernando Garcia, Director of Faith Formation at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in South Bend, told Today's Catholic.

Another reason for the name change is to more accurately portray the fact that there are multiple rites integrated into the larger process of becoming Catholic. The process itself is not one "rite."

"There are other similar rites that mark the increasing commitment the catechumen is making to the Church, and vice versa," Garcia said. "So, calling it a 'rite' was inaccurate because there are multiple rites."

These rites include a

discovery stage, a learning and consideration stage, a deep reflection period, and continued learning and growing. And while there are rites integrated

into the process of becoming Catholic, not all their timelines vary in length. Hence, OCIA more accurately depicts the varied rites' different timelines.

The OCIA curriculum guides the process, and its text encompasses how it is a lifelong journey.

As described by the Catholic News Agency, "The name change applies both to the process by which one enters the Church and the book that contains the ritual text and prayers for those steps."

One way the text accomplishes this is through tweaking RCIA's traditional terminology. Again, according to CNA, "individuals in RCIA were usually referred to as a 'candidate.' OCIA will be split depending on where the candidate is in the initiation process. Terms used will be 'inquirer,' 'catechumen,' and 'elect.'"

OCIA also changes the categorization of those petitioning for full acceptance into the Church. The new revision includes four

groups: 1) catechumens, those who are unbaptized adults; 2) unbaptized infants or young children who have not received any sacraments; 3) baptized non-Catholic Christians, Christians who have not received the sacraments of Reconciliation, first holy

Communion, or confirmation; and 4) baptized Catholics seeking confirmation, or those baptized Catholic adults past the traditional age in which one is typically confirmed.

Despite these changes, OCIA's content and philosophy is similar to RCIA. While not completely transferred from RCIA, the new OCIA will be easy to understand.

"But, in general, this is not an overhaul of the existing content; it will remain very familiar to those who have worked within RCIA," explained Brian MacMichael, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The OCIA curriculum is still awaiting formal approval from the Vatican.

"A newly translated version of the RCIA book, entitled, 'The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults' (OCIA), was approved in November of 2021 by the U.S. bishops," MacMichael said. "However, final approval from Rome is still being awaited, after which the publishers would need an additional six months or so to be ready for print and distribution."

MacMichael continued: "The new OCIA book should not be expected before Easter of 2024. Any specificity in estimated approval/implementation dates is pure speculation at this point."

Wendy Summers is serving as a sponsor for a young woman who will formally enter the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday in 2024 at St. Pius X in Granger. As a result, Summers has witnessed OCIA first-hand.

"I love walking the faith journey with people," Summers said. "Come to OCIA and discover what God has waiting for you. As a Catholic, the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus Christ truly present on the altar under the appearance of bread and wine, you can't get anywhere else."

As the Church prepares to fully transition to OCIA from RCIA, more information will be forthcoming from the diocese and local parishes.

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

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

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



YOUR GIFT MATTERS

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



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

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



ST. THOMAS MORE

A C A D E M Y

CONTACT

574-222-9195

Lower School

308 S. Scott St.
South Bend, IN

Upper School

312 W. Colfax St.
South Bend, IN

 admissions@stmasb.org

WWW.STMASB.ORG

DAILY MASS AND PRAYER
the light of faith

CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY
friendship, joy, and authentic freedom

CLASSICAL LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION
the Trivium and Quadrivium strengthen the
light of reason to see reality more clearly

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
high ideals for lives of virtue and loving service

OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM
deep roots in the reality of the natural world

INTEGRATED HUMANITIES CURRICULUM
reverence for God's action in human history

MUSIC, ART, DRAMA and SPEECH
the love of beauty

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE OF 16 STUDENTS



USCCB President on Pope Francis, the U.S. Church, and More

BY MICHAEL R. HEINLEIN

BALTIMORE (OSV News) – Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services is just beginning his second year of his three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He sat down with OSV News during a break at the fall general assembly of bishops in Baltimore on Wednesday, November 15, to answer questions about his relationship with Pope Francis, the pope's comments on the American Church, and more. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

OSV News: You said last year that you wanted to continue the good work of Archbishop José H. Gomez to foster unity in the Church. What continue to be the issues that most divide, and how do you see a path forward?

Archbishop Timothy Broglio: I think there are always questions that, just from the difference in the way people approach things, that can be a source of division. Although I noticed certainly in these two days of public session – if you look at the votes, and especially the votes for questions that are “yes” or “no” – they’ve been overwhelmingly one way or another. So, I think that’s indicative of a certain unity of thought. And the other thing that I think is very striking: With few exceptions, all of the

votes for the candidates for the different offices were all very close to one another. So, it’s not as if there’s tremendous lopsided feelings in the conference. I think that’s a positive sign going forward.

I think there’s always going to be a difference in approach between issues like the role of the dignity of the human person and how that’s interpreted – from protection of the infant in the womb to social issues. That’s always going to be, you know, where do you put the emphasis? How do you emphasize both at the same time? And I think that’s always going to be a source of concern, or a possible source of division, or at least a divergence in how people approach questions.

OSV News: Some were claiming in the media last year that you were anti-Pope Francis, which you balked at. Given your last year of working more closely with the Holy Father, could you comment a little bit about what that working relationship has been like?

Archbishop Broglio: Of course, I saw him right after the election because there was a meeting ... on the continental phase of the synod preparations, and so I had an opportunity to be with him. And he was actually very encouraging. He right away said – you know, we spoke to one another in Spanish – that, oh, you know, you have a big job now in addition to the big



OSV News photo/Bob Roller

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks during a news conference at a session of the bishops’ fall general assembly in Baltimore on Tuesday, November 14.

job you already had. He told me not to lose heart, and in that sense he was very encouraging.

Now, when we went in April – you know, the president always has an audience with the pope – he was very attentive to the questions that we raised. Obviously I don’t want to get into specifics, but he spent almost an hour with us, which certainly was extremely generous on his part. And he was very receptive to anything that we wanted to talk to him about. He let us really lead the dialogue, and then he would respond to the different issues about the synod and the North American continental phase, which had been completed by

that time, and it was a very positive exchange. So, I think the myth of us being somehow on opposite sides of the spectrum is ... a myth.

OSV News: There is an underlying critique among some American Catholics that Pope Francis doesn’t understand Catholics in the U.S. Do you think there’s any merit to that, and could you elaborate on what that might really mean, in your experience with dealing with him?

Archbishop Broglio: I think Pope Francis is certainly one who’s always open to listening to others. That’s always amazing. The amount of time that he’ll give to audiences, I think, that’s certainly been a hallmark of his pontificate – and I have plenty of experience on which to base that statement. But let’s remember Pope Francis’ only experience (outside South America) until he became Bishop of Rome was that he lived for three years in Germany. Otherwise, his whole experience is Argentinian. You can’t expect him to have an experience or an experiential view of different places. Argentina, in one sense, is a

country very much like the United States. There are many, many possibilities. They just haven’t been developed in the same way they have been here in the United States. So, I think all of those are factors that would color his vision and also his understanding even of the Church in a different reality.

I believe the first time he ever came to the United States was when he came here on his, thus far, one and only papal visit here. And, you know, even if you went to a few places, the United States is a big country. You’re not going to discover it in five days. So, I think those are all factors that might lead people to say that he doesn’t know the United States or he doesn’t know the Church in the United States. But I think he’s very open to learning about it. And, I think that’s something that has to be perhaps emphasized.

OSV News: You recently returned from a month in Rome with the synod on synodality. ... What do you think that you learned from that experience that you think might be worthy of consideration for applying to the conference?

Archbishop Broglio: We do pray together, but I think the intentional invocation of the Holy Spirit was an important factor in the synod gatherings. And I think that might be something we can, at least in our smaller group meetings, we can certainly do that. I’m also excited about the new strategic planning process, which is based on mission. And I think we’ve just approved something that’s much more flexible than the model we had before that. And so I think it is more synodal, and I think that will be something that will make a difference in how we address issues and concerns of the church in the United States in a different way, in a new way.

Michael R. Heinlein writes for OSV News from Indiana.

Staying Connected to the Faith

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

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

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

Visit: www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe

or enter details and mail:

Subscription duration and amount

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

Name: _____ Parish: _____ Phone: _____

Billing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Payment method:

☐ Credit Card (provide information to the right)

☐ Check (payable to Today’s Catholic)

☐ Cash (please enclose)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

CVV

SIGNATURE

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



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

Mary Green
Owner

574.232.3354
800.994.2687
www.wygants.com

March for Life Announces 2024 Theme

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – The March for Life's theme for its 2024 event will be "Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child," the group's president announced on Tuesday, November 14. Pro-life advocates have gathered in Washington every year since 1974 to protest the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, with a smaller-in-scale event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. After the high court reversed Roe in 2022, marchers still gathered to protest abortion. Each year, the group selects a theme that it says fits the cultural moment. Jeanne Mancini, March for Life President, said that following the court's ruling in Dobbs, she wanted to highlight the work the pro-life movement does to support women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies. At an event in Washington, Mancini said the theme was selected due to what she called "the false narrative around abortion, whether it's through mainstream media or the entertainment industry or academia, is that abortion is empowering and necessary" because women who are facing unexpected pregnancies "are ill-equipped to handle motherhood." But Mancini said this "is just not true." It's not easy, she added, but "it is right to choose life, and we hold that choosing life is empowering, and that love saves lives."

After Baby's Death, U.K. Bishops Call on Society to Protect Its 'Most Vulnerable'

NOTTINGHAM, England (OSV News) – British bishops expressed their condolences to Dean and Claire Gregory, parents of 8-month-old Indi, who died on Monday, November 13, after neither a court battle nor Italian citizenship granted to the infant prevented the British courts from halting her life-support. Following the death of Indi, Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham and Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues and Auxiliary of Westminster, wrote in a statement that they learned about the death of the child with "deep sadness," assuring the parents "of our prayers and those of all the Catholic Community, including Pope Francis, at this sad time." The continued: "As a baptized child of God, we believe that she will now share in the joy of heaven after her short life which brought deep joy to her parents who loved and protected her as a precious gift of God," the bishops said. The father of the girl said earlier that he was not religious, but he had chosen to have his child

NEWS BRIEFS

Pope Marks World Day of the Poor



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis eats lunch with his guests in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican on Sunday, November 19, to mark the annual World Day of the Poor. After celebrating Mass and praying the Angelus, the pope ate with some 1,250 people, continuing a tradition he began on the first World Day of the Poor in 2017. Seated at a central table, the pope prayed that God would bless the food and "this moment of friendship, all together." On the three-course menu were ricotta cheese-filled pasta tubes, meatballs, and tiramisu for dessert. At the Mass marking the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said that "the message of the Gospel is clear: Let us not bury the wealth of the Lord. Let us spread charity, share our bread, multiply love," he said. "Poverty is a scandal."

baptized on September 23 after feeling the "pull of hell" in their court battle to extend her life.

Vatican: Catholics Must Not Join Masonic Groups

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholics are still forbidden from joining Masonic organizations and, with an increasing number of Catholics joining Masonic lodges in the Philippines, the Vatican has urged the nation's bishops to find a way to make clear the Church's continued opposition to Freemasonry. "Membership in Freemasonry is very significant in the Philippines," said a note from Cardinal Víctor Fernández, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and approved by Pope

Francis. "It involves not only those who are formally enrolled in Masonic Lodges but, more generally, a large number of sympathizers and associates who are personally convinced that there is no opposition between membership in the Catholic Church and in Masonic Lodges." The dicastery's note, dated Monday, November 13, and made public on Wednesday, November 15, was a response to a request from Bishop Julito Cortes of Dumaguete, Philippines, "regarding the best pastoral approach to membership in Freemasonry by the Catholic faithful." The dicastery wrote "that active membership in Freemasonry by a member of the faithful is forbidden because of the irreconcilability between Catholic doctrine and Freemasonry."

Church Leaders Urge Holy Land's Christians to 'Stand Strong'

JERUSALEM (OSV News) – In a message for Christmas and Advent released on Friday, November 10, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem said Christmas in Bethlehem and the Holy Land this year will be one of solemnity, prayer, and fasting as the region continues to feel the effects of the Hamas-Israel war. In their statement, the Church leaders said that though the sacred Advent season is normally one of joy and anticipation in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, but that "these are not normal times." The leaders "encourage our priests and the faithful to focus

more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas in their pastoral activities and liturgical celebrations during this period, with all the focus directed at holding in our thoughts our brothers and sisters affected by this war and its consequences, and with fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy Land."

Vatican Aims for Net-Zero-Emissions Fleet by 2030

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – As part of a plan to reduce its CO2 footprint, Vatican City State has launched a program to replace its existing vehicle fleet with electric vehicles. The city state's "Ecological Conversion 2030" program includes making all its vehicles CO2-neutral by 2030, according to a November 15 news release from officials within the Vatican City State governor's office. "Vatican City State has been dedicated for many years to promoting sustainable development through environmental policies that safeguard the environment and provide strategies for saving energy," it said. In an effort to have a net-zero-emissions fleet of vehicles by 2030, the Vatican has signed an agreement with Volkswagen to supply "just under 40 fully electric models" starting at the beginning of 2024.

As Floods Strike Africa, Church Leaders Hope for Climate Actions

NAIROBI, Kenya (OSV News) – Ahead of COP28, the U.N. climate change conference, Catholic leaders in Africa called for decisive action against climate change as churches and agencies moved quickly to aid people affected by floods. The flooding – linked to the El Niño phenomenon caused by warming of the ocean surface – has killed dozens of people and displaced thousands in eastern Africa. Months ago, these zones were the scenes of a severe drought, which the United Nations described as the worst in 40 years. "Things are not good. Many areas are now flooded, and families are trying to move to higher grounds. The roads have either been swept away or were impassable," Father Fredrick Wafula, a priest in the Diocese of Garissa in Kenya's northeastern region, told OSV News. Jesuit Father Charles Chilufya, Director of the Justice and Ecology Office at the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar, said the continent's plea was a collaboration to make financial and debt justice the cornerstones for climate justice. "As we look towards COP28, let this be more than a rallying cry ... [but] a catalyst for transformative action," the priest told OSV News.

Hannah's House 'Holiday Happenings' Celebrates 30 Years

SOUTH BEND – Devoted to empowering disadvantaged pregnant women on their path toward life transformation, Hannah's House in South Bend will host its annual Holiday Happenings fundraiser on Friday, December 8. This year's charitable auction dinner, celebrating 30 years of Hannah's House Holiday Happenings, will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour and silent auction inside the Gillespie Conference Center at Hilton Garden Inn, 53995 S.R. 933. Dinner will follow, along with a program, recognition of two award recipients by the local nonprofit, and a live auction. Formal gala attire is encouraged for this elegant evening.

Recognizing the organization's three decades of supporting residents and their personal growth, a program will present successes and insights of Hannah's House alumnae, in addition to words from the nonprofit's late founder, William "Bill" B. Killilea. Hannah's House is a faith-based agency offering a continuum of stable housing, home life, staff support, and programming. The Hannah's House

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Night Out with the Guys at the Mount



Provided by Father Jonathan Norton

Father Jonathan Norton, Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, shared this photo on Facebook on Friday, November 17, and posted, "Night out with the guys at Mount St Mary's seminary. To the Mount!" Clockwise from the front are Noah Isch, Andrew Barnes, Samuel Martinez, Deacon Caleb Kruse, Johnathon Hickey, Deacon Oscar Duarte, Greenan Sullivan, and Father Norton.

mission is to empower disadvantaged pregnant women to begin a process of life transformation. All are aligned for the development and growth of the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of participants.

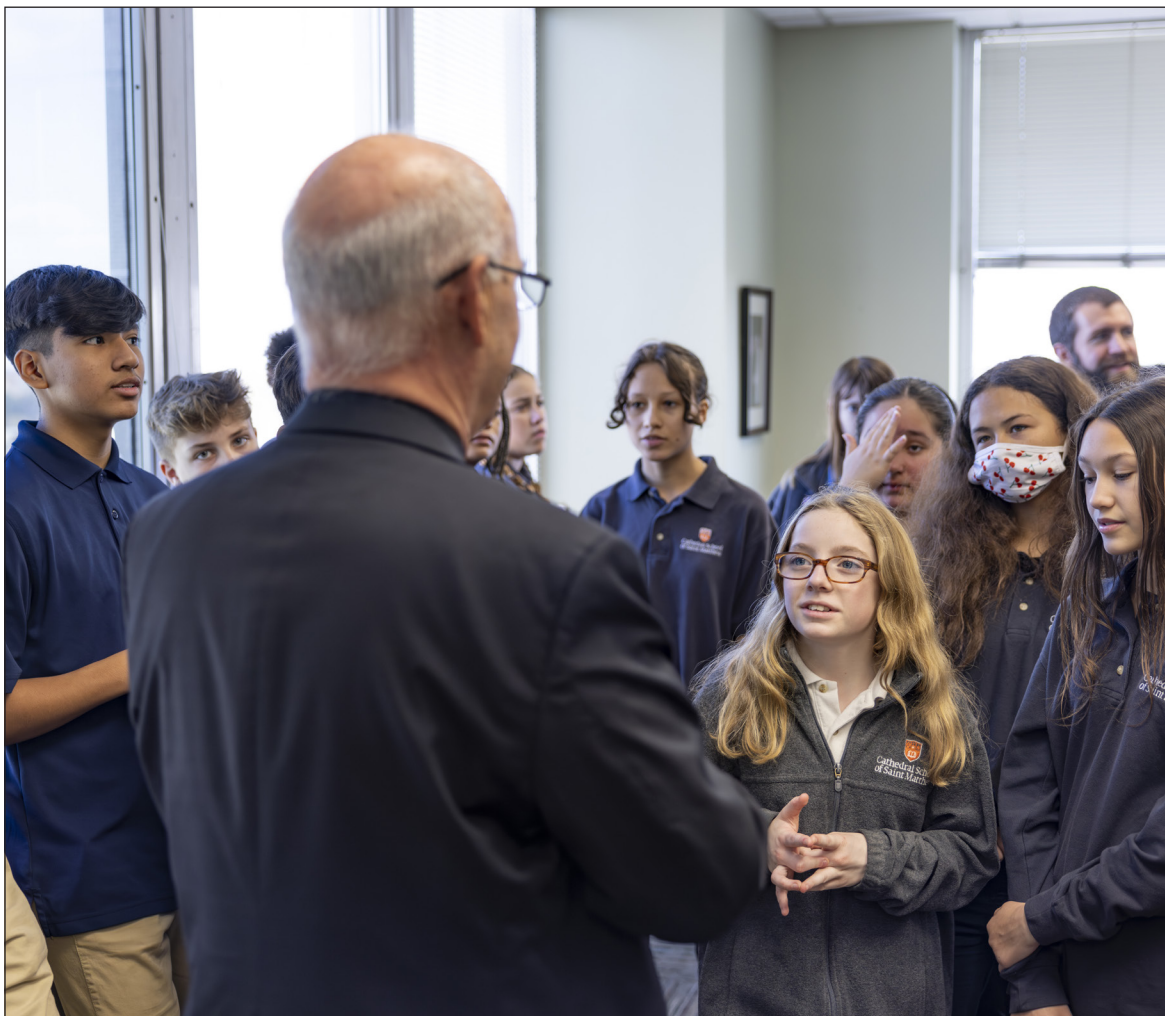
To learn more, visit hannahshousemichiana.org or call 574-254-7271.

University of Saint Francis Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity

FORT WAYNE – The University of Saint Francis will offer the Lighting of the Lake Luminaries and Living Nativity on Sunday, December 3, on the campus near Saint Francis Chapel, 2701 Spring St.

Experience the petting zoo at 5:30 p.m., followed by the blessing of luminaries at 6 p.m. Members of the Saint Francis community will portray the Living Nativity. This event honors the Christmas creche tradition begun by St. Francis in 1223, which reenacts the birth of Christ. The evening will conclude with complimentary cookies and hot cocoa at Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center. Purchase a luminary at saintfrancis.givingfuel.com/lights.

Seventh-Graders Tour Noll Center in Fort Wayne



Joshua Schipper

Seventh-grade students from St. Matthew Cathedral School in South Bend visit the Fort Wayne chancery office on Wednesday, November 8, and Bishop Rhoades gave them a tour of his office. The students also took a tour of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne.

St. Louis Pastor Serves Up Treats



Provided by St. Louis Besancon

Father Tyrell Alles, Pastor of St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church in New Haven, joins parishioners to serve food at the parish's Ham and Turkey Dinner on Sunday, November 19. The annual event, which includes a meal, games, and raffles, takes place every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The St. Andrew Novena: Prayerful Preparation for Christmas

BY ANNA WILGENBUSCH

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (OSV News) – Ten years ago, Erika Kidd sat at the edge of a family member's hospital bed. It was almost Christmas; wind buffeted the window. Quietly, she recited the St. Andrew Novena over and over again.

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of his Blessed Mother. Amen."

It is a curious novena. Unlike a traditional novena, which spans nine days, it lasts from the feast of St. Andrew on November 30 to Christmas Eve. On each of these days, this prayer is repeated 15 times, either all at once or throughout

the day. The novena has a reputation for answered prayers.

The prayer recalls the "hour and the moment" of Christ's birth "at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold." It evokes, with precision, the moment the Incarnation is revealed to the world. For Kidd, the darkness at the moment of Christ's birth was reminiscent of the darkness of the cold hospital room.

"Waiting in the hospital, I felt myself to be in those dark moments, just before the arrival of Christ," Kidd said. "And I prayed that He would come and set all things right. I prayed that He would come and save us."

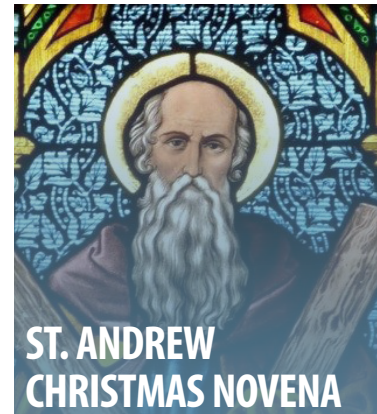
Her request – that her family member return home in time for Christmas – was answered. Prayers of thanksgiving trod on the heels of her novena.

"The prayer invites us to take seriously the darkness of our current situation: The fact that Christ has not yet come again in glory, the fact that we

are often living with difficult and troubling situations, and it invites us to welcome Christ and rejoice in Christ's coming," said Kidd, an associate professor of Catholic studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, who teaches a class on Mary.

For Father Edward Looney, President of the Mariological Society of America, the St. Andrew Novena is "prayerful preparation" for Christmas.

"We can be caught up in the busyness in preparing for Christmas – going to concerts, shopping, all of these things – but at least this prayer allows us to stay rooted and grounded, and to think about what it is and why it is that we are celebrating Christmas," said Father Looney, author of the 2022 book "How They Love Mary: 28 Life-Changing Stories of Devotion to Our Lady." The priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, also hosts the "How They Love Mary" podcast. In December of 2022, he posted



ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

To be prayed 15 times a day from the November 30 feast of St. Andrew until Christmas Eve.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires (mention your intentions here), through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of his Blessed Mother. Amen.

a video on YouTube of the 15 repetitions of the novena, hoping to popularize the novena and facilitate the process of praying it.

It can be difficult to keep track of the prayer's 15 daily repetitions; however, some Etsy sellers aim to remedy this with bracelets for tracking the devotion. Even if a person misses a day or prays less than 15 repetitions, Father Looney said the novena is still efficacious.

"There can be a specific grace that you request, but then I think there are just the different graces of the Christmas season joy, hope, peace," he said. "The joy of the Incarnation – that is what we are praying for."

Father Looney said that what we pray the novena for might be answered in a different way than we expect.

"There is always going to be a grace given by God," he said. "We believe, in our finite knowledge, that we know what God should do. But God, Who is greater than us and knows all things, knows what is for our good or their good. God is still at work, and God is aiding that situation."

The prayer has an obscure history. Rachel Fulton Brown, an associate professor of medieval history at the University of Chicago and an expert in medieval Marian

devotions, said the repetition of 15 has a long tradition in the Church.

While monks of the Middle Ages ascended into the chapel, they recited the 15 psalms traditionally associated with Mary – Psalms 119-133 in the Vulgate, the Latin translation of the Bible prepared by St. Jerome. Over time, these 15 psalms became associated with the stairs that the 3-year-old Mary ascended into the Temple as recorded in the "Protoevangelium of James," an apocryphal (non-Scriptural) Gospel account from the second century that describes the infancy of Mary. Although the text does not specify the number of steps, the monastic tradition associated each psalm with a step into the Temple.

Brown said the St. Andrew Novena's 15 repetitions likely stem from this tradition. She also noted many evocations of traditional Marian devotion in the words and phrases of the text. The word "piercing," for example, has roots in the medieval understanding of the Incarnation, she said.

"One of the things that the medieval imagery likes to do is to show Christ as the light-beam. There is a lot of meditation, at the Incarnation, on how He can enter into Mary like a ray of sunlight through glass," said Brown. "They make all of these beautiful windows in cathedrals to show that He passes through her like a crystal, taking light on without breaking her, so she is still virginal."

Brown said there is evidence that the novena sprung from a movement to revive Church tradition in the 19th century. This movement attempted to repopularize texts such as the "Protoevangelium" and monastic traditions like a Marian version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Sister Joseph Maria of the Holy Family, Prioress of the cloistered Dominicans of Our Lady of the Rosary in New Jersey, had not heard of the St. Andrew Novena before she entered religious life.

Her novice mistress encouraged her to pray the novena. She now prays it every Advent in the silence of the convent.

"Just the act of praying it for so long, it does really help prepare you for the birth of Our Lord," she said.

She prays the novena so much during Advent that she said she does not bother to count to 15.

"I probably pray more than is needed each day," she said. Before praying the Divine Office, when working around the convent, and while brushing her teeth, she silently repeats the St. Andrew Novena over and over again.

NATIVITY NIGHTS

THURSDAYS OF ADVENT IN CHURCH

DECEMBER 7, 14, 21 – 6-8 p.m.

MASS – ADORATION – REFLECTION – CONFESSION

ST. MARY CHURCH, 414 MADISON ST, DECATUR, IN



Bob Kloska - Thursday, December 7

Bob speaks for Eucharistic Revival "Good News! Nights" and has degrees from the University of Notre Dame and Franciscan University, Steubenville.



Jason Shanks - Thursday, December 14

Jason has vast experience serving the Church from OSV Institute in our diocese to Catholic Charities in the Detroit Archdiocese to Evangelization in the Toledo Diocese.



Shema Culture - Thursday, December 21

Members bring praise and worship music to renew hearts and bring unity to Catholic and Protestant Christians.

Day, Weekend Passes Available for Eucharistic Congress

BY MARIA WIERING



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

BALTIMORE (OSV News) – Attendees of the National Eucharistic Congress, which will be held July 17-21 in Indianapolis, now have the option of purchasing single-day and weekend passes in order to make attendance more affordable and flexible, the bishop overseeing the congress announced Wednesday, November 15.

Speaking at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall plenary assembly in Baltimore, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, also said scholarship funds may help ease the costs for some attendees, via the bishops' Solidarity Fund.

"We have heard well the concerns of some, that they find the length or the cost (of the congress) difficult, and we've worked hard over the last year to find ways to make it affordable and accessible, so that it can be a gathering of the whole Church, so that we can literally open wide the doors to Christ for people to come," Bishop Cozzens, Chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, told the assembly of bishops.

Standard passes for the five-day congress are \$299-\$375 for adults and \$99 for children ages 2-18 traveling with their family. The cost

covers admission for congress events at Lucas Oil Stadium, which include general sessions, breakout sessions, liturgies, the vendor hall, and unique congress tracks. The cost does not include housing, transportation, or meals related to the congress.

Registration is open for standard passes, which also include access to premium seating and digital access to congress content.

The single-day passes will range \$49-\$95 depending on the day, and weekend passes will be \$125. Registration for day and weekend passes will open in January. A limited number of discounted single-day passes will be available for early registrants.

The congress' Solidarity Fund was created by the bishops this summer to provide scholarships covering the congress' full registration cost for attendees who express financial need, and it now includes more than \$750,000, contributed by dioceses, private donors, and foundations. The National Eucharistic Congress' executive team also is working to identify affordable housing

in and around Indianapolis for attendees.

"The biggest challenge that we've had has been the availability of housing in Indianapolis," Bishop Cozzens told the bishops. "A higher-than-anticipated early demand on hotels for the congress, coupled with a lower-than-expected inventory from the early estimates of the hotel community in Indianapolis have created a crunch on available housing for us."

However, the challenge also is an opportunity, he said, because "one of the things we want to do is to allow the

Church to welcome the Church, and to make the congress a true pilgrimage."

The congress' team members are working to identify accommodations at local college dormitories, parishes, schools, and retreat centers, he said.

The National Eucharistic Congress is the pinnacle of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative the USCCB launched in 2022 to renew and strengthen Catholics' understanding of and love for Jesus in the Eucharist. The revival's first year focused on diocesan leadership. Its second year, now underway, focuses on parish life, with its final year focused on missionary discipleship.

The revival includes a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which will include pilgrims walking across the country along four designated pilgrimage routes with the Eucharist, converging in Indianapolis for the congress. The pilgrimage begins in Brownsville, Texas;

New Haven, Connecticut; northern Minnesota; and San Francisco. All will begin their journeys May 17-19, the weekend of Pentecost. Catholics are invited to join the routes' "perpetual pilgrims" – young adult Catholics walking the entire route – for daily Mass and processions, or join the "Eucharistic caravans" for hours or days.

The congress will be the first national Eucharistic gathering in the United States in 83 years, with the last being the Ninth National Eucharistic Congress held in St. Paul and Minneapolis in 1941.

To learn more about how the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is participating in the National Eucharistic Congress, or to purchase discounted passes, visit diocesefwsb.org/congress.


Maria Wiering is Senior Writer for OSV News.



TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe

Or Call 260-456-2824

\$25 per year



Forty Hours Devotion

Join us in prayer and worship of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament


Sunday, December 3, 1-5 p.m.
Monday, December 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, December 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*Evening Prayer
with a reflection by
Father Paolo Degasperi*

Sunday, December 3
6:30 p.m.
*Prayer and confession
after until 9 p.m.*

Monday, December 4
6:30 p.m.
*Prayer and confession
after until 9 p.m.*

Tuesday, December 5
6:30 p.m.
*Prayer and benediction
followed by reception at
Cathedral Center*



**Cathedral OF THE
Immaculate
Conception**

1105 S. CALHOUN ST., FORT WAYNE

Visit cathedralfw.org to sign up for adoration times



Photos by Denise Fedorow

Bishop Rhoades Celebrates Mass for School Principals

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Bishop Rhoades joined Catholic school principals from across the diocese to celebrate Mass with them at St. Martin de Porres Church in Syracuse on Wednesday, November 8.

"I'm so glad to be with you; I'm especially glad to be back from a month in Rome at the synod," he said as he greeted them.

Bishop Rhoades said when he came into the church and saw all the principals in silent prayer, it reminded him of being at the Synod of Bishops, saying that when he and the other participants were in meetings, they often stopped to pray.

"It reminded me when we have meetings we need more prayer," Bishop Rhoades said, adding when the principals gather together to share ideas or with teachers in their buildings, "also pray together – it's the heart of our mission."

During his homily, which focused on the Gospel reading from Luke (14: 25-33), Bishop Rhoades said: "Imagine that great crowd traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem. They were attracted to Him and interested in His teachings. They had witnessed His miracles. Some had shared meals with Him. But now was the time for a decision."

"Most were simply travelling with Jesus, but now Jesus tells them what is required to follow Him as a disciple. There are three conditions: 1.) One must love Him more than anyone or anything else, even more than one's family, and even more

"It reminded me when we have meetings we need more prayer. Also pray together – it's the heart of our mission."

– Bishop Rhoades

than one's life; 2.) One must be willing to carry one's cross and walk after Him; 3.) One must renounce all one's possessions."

"In sum, Jesus calls us to follow Him wholeheartedly," Bishop Rhoades added. "When we think about the cost of discipleship, it's pretty scary. We have a natural tendency to cling to ourselves and our life. To renounce ourselves and give our total allegiance to Christ – that's a huge decision. In the eyes of the world, renouncing ourselves seems crazy and stupid. Actually, that's what Jesus Himself did. Though He was God, He emptied Himself and became a man. Out of love, the Son of God embraced the cross and died for us. He's calling those who would be His disciples to join Him along this way of the cross, the path of self-renunciation."

"Pope Benedict XVI once said that 'every form of holiness, while following diverse paths, always passes along the way of the cross, the path of self-renunciation,'" Bishop Rhoades shared.

He continued, telling the principals: "Like the crowd in the Gospel, we are called to make a decision about becoming disciples of Jesus, not just traveling with Him as part of our life, but as the center of our life. Jesus tells the crowd to consider carefully the call to discipleship. He gives the example of a person wishing to



Bishop Rhoades speaks to the principals of Catholic Schools from across the diocese at St. Martin de Porres Church in Syracuse on Wednesday, November 8.

construct a tower. The person needs to calculate the cost first and shouldn't proceed unless he knows he has the resources to finish the work."

"Jesus gives a second example: A king before he marches into battle needs to calculate if he has enough troops to win the battle. Otherwise, he shouldn't go, but should send a delegation to ask for peace

terms. The lesson for us is that we need to carefully consider what it means to become a disciple of Jesus. Are we ready and willing, for example, to carry the cross? We should ask ourselves, 'Who is Jesus for me?' Is He truly the Lord of my life? Does He occupy first place in my life?' St. John Paul II taught that 'faith is a decision involving one's whole existence.'"

Bishop Rhoades said Jesus isn't calling everyone to leave their family or sell all their possessions, but He calls some to do that. However, "He calls all of us to renounce whatever gets in the way of following Him, to get rid of whatever prevents us from wholeheartedly becoming His disciples."

He gave the example of St. Thomas More, who was a loyal servant and had a wife and daughters he loved deeply, but he put God first. "Like so many other martyrs, he renounced even his family's pleas and his own life for the sake of Christ. By losing his life, Thomas More found it. In the radical letting go of ourselves, we become free and find life. We fall into the hands of the One who is love eternal."

"The Church's mission, received from Jesus, is to go and make disciples. You and I have a special responsibility in this regard. I am called to teach the Gospel and make disciples here in our diocese through my ministry as bishop," he

said. "You, as Catholic school principals, are called to lead your teachers and help your students to grow as disciples of Jesus. But in trying to accomplish this mission, we need to think about our own lives of discipleship and our witness as Jesus' disciples and our commitment to Him. We can ask ourselves, 'What cross am I carrying in order to come after Jesus? What impedes me from following the Lord wholeheartedly? Am I too attached to my possessions? What do I need to renounce so that Jesus is truly the center of my life?'"

In conclusion, Bishop Rhoades told the principals: "When I speak to young adults, I will often talk to them about the Christian life, the life of discipleship, as a great spiritual adventure. It truly is. Jesus compels a choice like no other figure does. He invites us to be His disciples, which is to enter into the mystery of God's holiness, the mystery of the divine life, the mystery of love. There's no greater wisdom than this – a wisdom that the world sees as foolishness. It's the wisdom of saints. The cost of discipleship is high, but it's of the greatest worth because in Jesus, we find life, lasting joy, and eternal peace. In Him is our salvation."

At the end of Mass, Bishop Rhoades thanked the principals for their ministries and Superintendent of Schools David Maguel for organizing the Mass.

"I am grateful for all of you," Bishop Rhoades said. "I love hearing about your schools and having the opportunity to visit your schools."

Prepare for Christ's Birth with 'Nativity Nights' in Decatur

BY BETHANY BEEBE

As the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend prepare their hearts for the gift delivered on a silent night in a stable, visitors and parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Decatur will be ushered into the season of Advent with three nights of formation and inspiration. Coined "Nativity Nights" by organizers, St. Mary in Decatur will host three special nights on three consecutive Thursdays: December 7 (with the vigil Mass for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception), December 14, and December 21.

Each week throughout the year, the parish has a regularly scheduled 6 p.m. Mass that is followed by Eucharistic adoration until 8 p.m. During Advent's Nativity Nights, though, special additions will be made, including speakers, music, and reflections.

Father Dave Ruppert, Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption, said Nativity Nights have been going on since 2020, describing them as a hybrid between a parish mission, a penance service, and the regularly scheduled celebration of Mass. "The hope is that everyone can find an evening or two over the course of three or four weeks to attend, whereas one night or several consecutive nights may not be open for some people," he said.

Whenever an attendee gets there, Father Ruppert and his crew have created the opportunity for a multifaceted, meaningful experience. "The format (Mass, adoration, confessions, prayer groups, speakers, etc.) has remained essentially the same with the idea of a series of meditations to prepare gradually for the coming of Christ and Christmas, which is the theme of [the] Advent season."

The theme of preparation is evident in the Advent service. "We prepare for Christmas in many ways," Father Ruppert said, "on the outside by decorating our houses and lighting our trees and wrapping our presents, but Advent Nativity Nights ask ... us to focus inside, to decorate our hearts in repentance and light our souls with Christ, ... wrapping our lives in loving, giving, and forgiving to help us celebrate Jesus' first coming and prepare for His Second Coming."

Being open to change led to the success of the programming. "The idea grew," Father Ruppert said, "during COVID changes that prevented large Advent penance services, as well as practical aspects of scheduling a penance service or parish mission ... due to fewer priests available on the



Institute for Catholic Innovation and is currently helping to organize the National Eucharistic Congress.

Finally, on December 21, Shema Culture will visit the Decatur church. The group seeks to glorify God in its music and bring unity to Protestant and Catholic Christians.

Unity in prayer is a key aim of the Nativity Nights. Prayer groups will attend to pray with individuals in a new ministry in Decatur, each with two or three on a team, said Kris Dohrman, a parishioner at St. Mary who is spearheading the prayer group.

"We are in the beginning stages of forming [a] prayer ministry," Dohrman said, "and are grateful for the experience of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish." The additional teams will come from St. Elizabeth to pray at the church during the Nativity Night on December 21.

"It is an overwhelming joy," Dohrman said. "Jesus didn't [just heal] 2,000 years ago. He still heals today. It is humbling to help bring Jesus to brothers and sisters carrying so many burdens. There is so much pain, hurt, and sin in the world, and Jesus wants to heal. Prayer ministry is a blessing that enables us to communi-

cate His healing power to someone in need of His presence."

"It is humbling to help bring Jesus to brothers and sisters carrying so many burdens. There is so much pain, hurt, and sin in the world, and Jesus wants to heal."

KRIS DOHRMAN

same night for confessions, as well as people having schedule conflicts that may prevent attendance on certain dates."

The St. Mary community invites anyone to attend one or all of the evenings. "This year," Father Ruppert said, "we will have two different speakers followed by a praise and worship event such that all will be independent events unified by Eucharistic Revival and Advent themes."

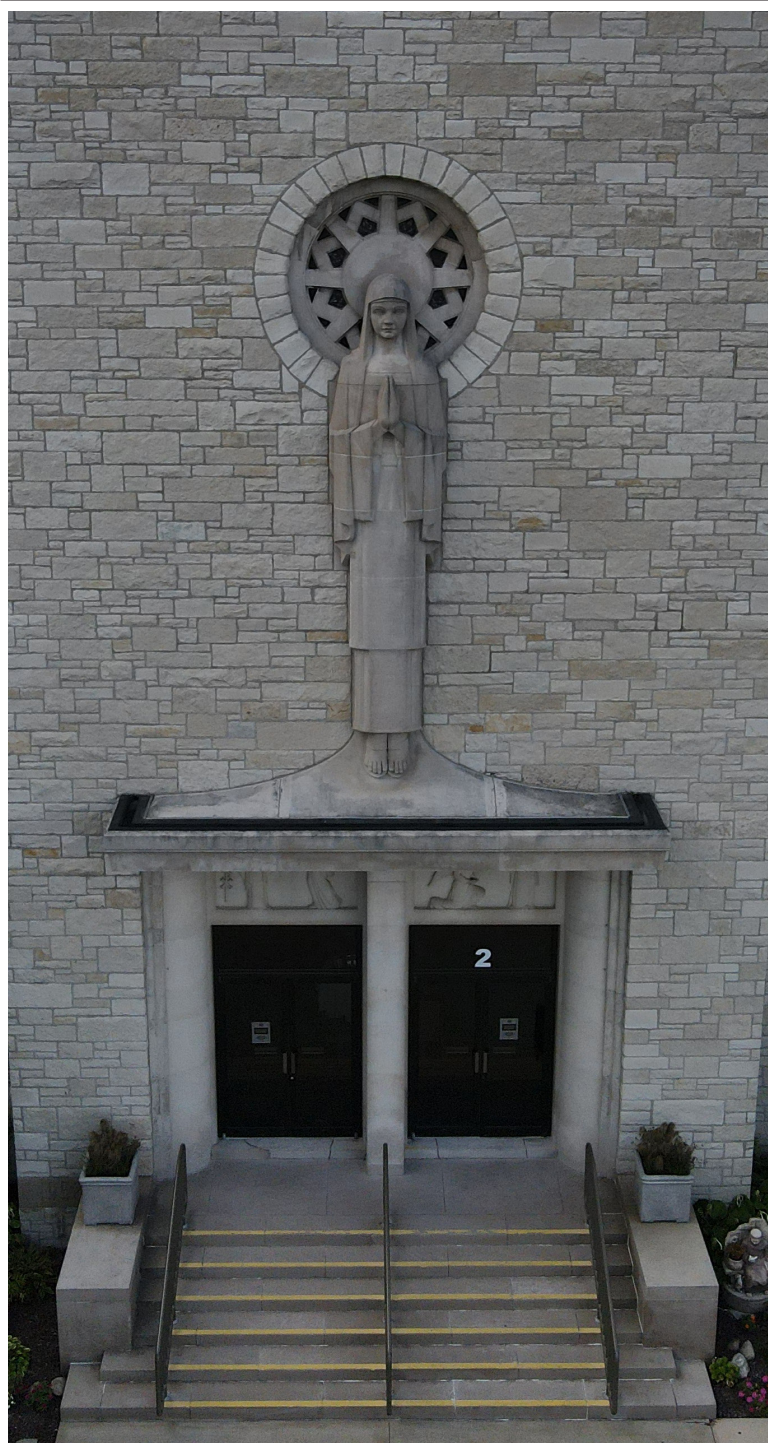
More specifically, this year, three special nights have been planned as part of the Nativity Nights series. On December 7, Bob Kloska, Chief Partnership Officer for Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, will join attendees. As the speaker for the Eucharistic Revival's "Good News! Nights," Kloska will talk about evangelization, being a Eucharistic missionary, and bringing those we know and love to Jesus.

Jason Shanks will bring his voice of servant leadership to Decatur on December 14. Shanks is President of the OSV

the birth of Christ, rather than His death, as the focus.

Focusing on the real meaning of the season, these evenings of prayer can be a gift to those who attend.

"We all sin," Dohrman said. "We are all in need of Jesus' healing touch. He wants to heal ... physically, emotionally, spiritually. We invite all to come and see what the Holy Spirit is waiting to do!"



File photo

St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Decatur will host a series of Nativity Nights during Advent.



diocesefwsb.org/eucharist
or
diocesefwsb.org/eucaristia

If There Is No Patron Saint for Your Cause, Become One

Recently, my friend David retired after a long career in radio. I had many great conversations with him through the years during the morning show on Portland's Catholic radio station, chatting on-air every few weeks about saints and feast days, and occasionally a little bit about Notre Dame football. So naturally, on the occasion of his retirement, David asked me to talk about the patron saint of retirees.

This proved to be a short conversation because, as it turns out, there is not an official patron saint devoted to the process of retirement. The Church calls upon many saints who are associated with particular conditions and challenges faced by the elderly, but there isn't a heavenly patron universally called upon at the end of one's career.

Why, one wonders, is there a dearth of patrons for retired people? In one sense, it has to do with how patron saints become associated with the task, career, or place of which they have become the patron. St. Nicholas provided bags of gold to serve as dowries for three poor young ladies, thus becoming the patron saint of gift giving and of children. St. Thomas More was a judge and statesman, and is therefore invoked by lawyers. Bishop Luers placed our diocese under the patronage of the

Immaculate Conception, in honor of the dogma that had been proclaimed just five years before the cornerstone of the new cathedral in Fort Wayne was laid.

One notable patron of the elderly, St. Jeanne Jugan (d. 1879), the French founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor, devoted her life and ministry to caring for the "poorest of the poor," the elderly who had no one to care for them. And St. Anthony of Padua (d. 1231) is also lauded as a patron of the elderly, in honor of the charity that he showed toward those on the margins of society. Of course, St. Anthony also has many other patronage responsibilities, not the least of which is finding lost items, so his heavenly workload is pretty busy.

Another name that came up in my patron saint research is St. Gummarus, a Belgian nobleman in the court of King Pepin the Younger, the father of Charlemagne. Gummarus, who was praised by his peers as a holy and temperate man, entered into a disastrous marriage to a noblewoman named Guinmarie, whose haughty personality proved to be irreconcilable with that of her meek husband. After years of domestic difficulties, Gummarus determined that for the sake of his own soul, he had to separate from his wife, and so he retired from his courtly responsibilities to



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

become a hermit, dying peacefully in 774. History doesn't relate how Guinmarie spent the rest of her life, but one can safely imagine that the hermit Gummarus devoted many hours of intercessory prayer for his estranged wife.

It's understandable if a newly retired person, perhaps, doesn't want to immediately begin to dwell upon the health challenges that come with old age, nor look to a hermit who left his wife for particular intercession, saintly though Gummarus may have been.

Accordingly, many retirees continue to call upon the patron saints that they knew during their careers. Firefighters who've put on their gear for the last time continue to invoke St. Florian, while retired doctors look to St. Luke, the beloved physician, for intercession. I suggested in my final radio chat with my retiring friend David that he could continue to call upon St.

HALLENIUS, page 13

Four Ways to Jump-Start Your Eucharistic Revival

It's been almost a year and a half since Corpus Christi Sunday in 2022 – June 19 – the launch date of the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival.

At the time the revival began, Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, who is leading the efforts, said the following: "It's our mission to renew the Church by enkindling in God's people a living relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We want everyone to encounter the love of Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist and to experience the life-changing effects of that love. We want to see a movement of Catholics across the United States that are healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and sent out on mission for the life of the world."

I'm not sure there's a better mission than that. I'm also not sure there's a bigger one. Following the timeline of the revival, we are currently in its second year – what is called a time for "fostering Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through the faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit."



NO GREATER JOY

GRETCHEN CROWE

At my parish, we are having a 40 Hours Devotion at the start of Advent, where parishioners can come and spend time intimately with the Lord. I'd imagine most parishes around the country are doing something similar to foster devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Then, of course, in just eight short months, there will be the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. "Every movement needs a moment," the website says. "This is ours." A lot of time and money and planning are going into this national event, and it's exciting. We're going, and I hope you go, too.

But it's also one event. What about the in-between times? What about the times when our parishes are not bringing in a speaker, or facilitating small-group discussions, or coordinating special devotions? What about the times when we will

CROWE, page 13

We Belong to Christ the King, and He Belongs to Us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This weekend, the Church concludes its liturgical year of 2023. Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. The Church closes the year with an excited and fervent proclamation of Christ as the king of all.

The first reading comes from the ancient Book of Ezekiel. In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the flock – in other words the People of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, carting for the injured, rescuing the imperiled. Also, God will distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other

identities because of their voluntary unfaithfulness.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This selection is a proclamation of the Resurrection and of the role of the Lord as Redeemer of humankind. He is the Risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life. Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are "those who belong" to Christ – in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through Jesus, into their lives, and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life, and strength.

The reading frankly admits that in the world are forces hostile to God. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant or timid; however, they are by no means omnipotent. In and through Jesus, the power and life of God will endure. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although all must resist these powers.

For its final reading on this

great feast, the Church offers a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel. It is a glance forward to the day when Jesus will return in majesty and glory.

The reading repeats the description given in Ezekiel. God, the shepherd, separates the sheep from the goats, the good from the unfaithful. In this reading from Matthew, Jesus promises a final judgment to separate the faithful from the sinful.

In this reading, the Lord defines who will be judged as faithful: those who love God completely, without question. The faithful will not be those who only give lip-service to their belief in God, but those who, in the model of Jesus, give themselves totally to the will of God.

Reflection

Americans cannot understand modern monarchies, and they are obsessed with stories of British royalty, some edifying, some not, but Britain is not the only monarchy in the world today. The Netherlands

is happy to be a monarchy.

A monarch holds a country together, is its defender, and is its example.

Germany ruthlessly overran Holland in the Second World War. For the Dutch, the great heroine of that fearful time was Queen Wilhelmina, great-grandmother of the present king. Defying Hitler, she risked everything to champion her people.

Wilhelmina came to the throne as a young girl, succeeding her father. Under Dutch law, her mother, the widowed Queen Emma, was regent until Wilhelmina was an adult.

Emma wanted to rear Wilhelmina in conditions as ordinary and with as little fanfare as possible, but when thousands of cheering Dutch citizens appeared before the palace on a national holiday, demanding to see Wilhelmina, her mother had to oblige. The regent led the little queen onto the balcony, and the crowd was ecstatic.

Thrilled by the sight, knowing that she was queen of the

Netherlands, Wilhelmina said, "Mommy, do all these people belong to me?"

Queen Emma replied, "No, dear. You belong to them."

Christ the King, forever young in the Resurrection, belongs to us. He died for us, our brother, our Redeemer, the Son of God, the Lord of life, who gives us strength, mercy, and guidance. He never forsakes us.

READINGS

Sunday: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Psalms 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46

Monday: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20;

(Psalm) Daniel 3:52-56; Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday: Daniel 2:31-45; (Psalm)

Daniel 3:57-61; Luke 21:5=11

Wednesday: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14,

16-17, 23-28; (Psalm) Daniel 3:62-

67; Luke 21:12-19

Thursday: Romans 10:9-18;

Psalms 19:8-11; Matthew 4:18-22

Friday: Daniel 7:2-14; (Psalm)

Daniel 3:75-81; Luke 21:29-33

Saturday: Daniel 7:15-27; (Psalm)

Daniel 3:82-87; Luke 21:34-36

CROWE, from page 12

not be gathered together by the thousands, being affirmed in our faith and encountering the Lord together? It's in these in-between times that the habits of daily life are formed – and where virtue is born. This time of year offers us a prime opportunity for getting serious about our own personal revival in the Eucharist. With the start of Advent coming, we will begin preparations to welcome the Prince of Peace into our homes. Here are a few things we could do to draw closer to Him in the Eucharist:

1. Make time for some spiritual reading on the Eucharist. In particular, sit and pray with the treasure that is St. John Paul II's encyclical on the Eucharist, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, available on the

Vatican's website. If you've never read it, or have read it 100 times, there's always more to glean from it.

2. Speaking of making time, any personal Eucharistic revival has to start with our own commitment of time spent in the presence of the Eucharist. Maybe we're being called to attend daily Mass for Advent, or perhaps make a weekly Holy Hour. Or maybe you do both of those things and the Lord is asking you to up the ante and make a daily Holy Hour! Pick something and commit to it.

3. Try really paying attention to the words of the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. I'll be the first to admit, it can be easy or tempting to lose focus during this part of the liturgy. But try to really focus. Read along if it helps. Ask Jesus to quiet your mind and center your heart on

Him.

4) Once we learn more about Christ, spend more time with him, and seek to better understand his saving love for us in the Mass, the natural next step is to resolve to bring Christ to others. Perhaps there's an opportunity to bring your kids to adoration – or your parents, a friend, or a sibling. Maybe, once you've read and enjoyed a book on the Eucharist, you could share it with others. Most importantly, we bring our Eucharistic Lord to the world through our love of and sacrifice for others.

We're just about halfway through with the revival, which wraps up on Pentecost in 2025. Let's embrace the opportunity for renewal this Advent.

Gretchen R. Crowe is Editor-In-Chief of OSV News.

HALLENIUS, from page 12

Gabriel, the angel who visited Mary at the Annunciation and, thus, is honored as patron of broadcasters. And some day long in the future, after I've sent my last column to my editor, I'll forever raise a toast to St. Frances de Sales, patron of Catholic journalists.

But when you have a difficult time finding an official patron saint to call upon for a particular career, place, or interest, I'd like you to consider another possibility: become a saint yourself.

In the words of French Catholic novelist Léon Bloy,

"The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint." As St. Paul reminds us in nearly every one of his letters, we who are baptized into Jesus Christ are already part of the Communion of Saints. The challenge is to *keep on being saints*.

Remaining a saint is not a question of willpower but an issue of cooperation, of saying "yes" to God's invitation to everyday holiness. Through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation, He offers us the grace that we need to reach that lofty goal, to bring to completion the good work that

He has begun in us. The more we rely on God's grace, the more we see it active in our lives, and this encourages us to go even deeper. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "reflection on God's blessings in our life and in the lives of the saints offers us a guarantee that grace is at work in us and spurs us on to an ever greater faith" (No. 2005).

So I ask you, fellow saint, what will future Catholics invite you to intercede for?

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

CHARLES BORRROMEO
1538-1584
FEAST NOVEMBER 4



Though Charles suffered all his life from a speech impediment, his intelligence and zeal made him an outstanding figure of the Catholic Reformation. In 1560, he was named a cardinal and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan by his uncle, Pope Pius IV, but was kept in Rome to assist with the reconvened Council of Trent. He helped draft the council's catechism and liturgical books, and in 1563 was ordained a priest and bishop. Finally, in 1566, he was allowed to go to Milan, where he worked tirelessly to reform priestly training and lay catechesis. He also exhausted his own funds to provide relief during periods of famine and plague. He is the patron of seminarians and catechists.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

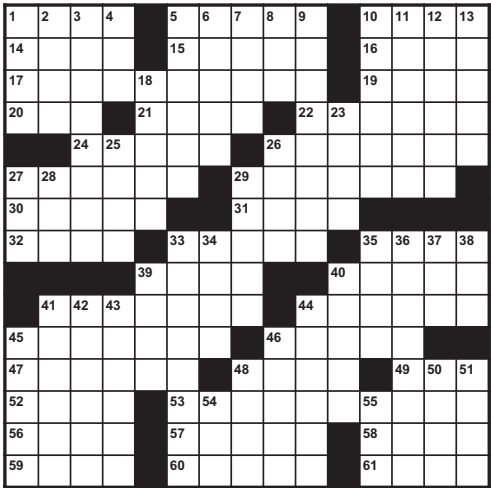
Gospel for November 26, 2023
Matthew 25:31-46

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of Christ the King, Cycle A: Sheep and goats. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| GLORY | ANGELS | THRONE |
| NATIONS | SHEEP | GOATS |
| HIS RIGHT | HIS LEFT | BLESSED |
| INHERIT | FOOD | THIRSTY |
| DRINK | STRANGER | NAKED |
| PRISON | VISITED ME | THE LEAST |
| ETERNAL FIRE | DEVIL | PUNISHMENT |

A WOOLY LESSON

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



- DOWN**
- 1 Sub ____ (secret appointment)
2 "Turn Back, ____" ("Godspell" song)
3 Declares unfit for use
4 Hawaiian acacia
5 Thespians
6 Pillage
7 Bone that parallels the radius
8 Reagan security program
9 Recondite
10 Wholly
11 Set in layers
12 Pass by
13 Fix the clock
18 Dinah, to Esau
23 Presley co-star who became a nun
25 Bad habit
26 Site of Xavier University, briefly
27 First aid tech.
28 US government agency
29 Phones
33 Near sea level
34 Charged particles
35 Holy ____ Society
36 Makes clear
37 ____ Aviv
38 Vane reading
39 It could be aluminum
40 All (mus.)
41 Stephen, for one
42 Foray
43 Perfumes
44 Awakens
45 Catholic horror actor
46 Controversial filmmaker and practicing Catholic
48 Rentals (abbr.)
50 Grandmother of Timothy
51 Opener (abbr.)
54 Flightless bird
55 Inst. of higher learning in Nashville

- ACROSS**
- 1 "... on this ____ I will build my church..." (Mt 16:18)
5 Treat badly
10 Road to the Colosseum
14 Melville work
15 Catarrhs
16 River Moses turned to blood
17 Texas diocese where the Alamo is found
19 Green and Pekoe
20 Besides
21 Very small quantity
22 Catholic Olympian
24 All
26 Most tidy
27 Funnies
29 Deteriorate
30 Peter's ____
31 Landed
32 "On the third day he ____ again"
33 Pale reddish purple
35 James was mending these when Jesus called him
39 He says there is no God, according to Psalms
40 One of only two certain things
41 Repudiates
44 Touse
45 Writing implements
46 Roadside lodge
47 Seldom
48 Summer month in Paris
49 Boxing champ Muhammad
52 Sacred image
53 The ____ of hands in a sacrament
56 ____ of many colors
57 "Cheer, cheer for old ____"
58 Hissy fit
59 "... to the ____ of the earth" (Acts 1:8)
60 Tenuous substances
61 Former "evil empire"

Maintaining Cemetery Grounds Gives Hope to Those in Grief

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

The grief that comes with death is inevitable – particularly for the families and loved ones of the deceased. Across the diocese, groundskeepers and their crews at Catholic cemeteries work hard year round to ensure that those who come to honor and mourn those they've lost can do so in a clean, respectful and serene environment.

"Bottom line is cleanliness and a well-kept cemetery is very important to all of our parishioners," said Matthew Pletcher, Business Manager at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart. St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery is the only catholic cemetery in Elkhart County. While directly connected to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, it is available to all Elkhart County parishes and parishioners.

The approximately 5,000-plot cemetery spends more than \$30,000 a year to maintain its tidy appearance. St. Vincent de Paul Parish believes this is vital to offering some solace to the families and loved ones of those buried there.

"It is an important part of our ministry to perform the corporal work of mercy of burying the dead and maintaining a space where friends and families can come to pray for their deceased loved ones," Pletcher said.



Joshua Schipper

The staff at the Catholic Cemetery and Divine Mercy Funeral Home in Fort Wayne share a similar sentiment.

"I feel by making the grounds look its best that at least the family knows we take care of the grounds," said Catholic Cemetery Grounds Manager Scott Guerrero. "We also would take care of their loved ones just as much."

Guerrero manages the grounds alongside Lead

Groundskeeper Brandon Payton. The groundskeeping team totals five full-time members with several additional seasonal members.

"We are really, genuinely living out what we believe in with whole hearts with each and every family we have a service for," Payton said.

Guerrero and Payton both told Today's Catholic that positive feedback about the grounds from the families of

those who have been buried in the cemetery is one of the most rewarding parts of their jobs.

Groundskeeping and care for the property has also helped the staff at Catholic Cemetery form relationships.

"I meet new people and create relationships with friends and family members," Guerrero said. "I have long-lasting relationships with family members that come in quite regularly."

Guerrero focuses on offering

patience, kindness, and compassion in his interactions with the grieving families and loved ones of the deceased.

As one might imagine, in their many years at the Catholic Cemetery, by maintaining the grounds, Guerrero and Payton have walked alongside many families. Their care and concern for their work is evident.

"I have worked with several cemetery grounds professionals in my 40-year career, and Scott Guerrero and Brandon Payton are the best of the best," said Casey Miller, Executive Director of Divine Mercy Funeral Home. "Collectively, they have been with Catholic Cemetery for over 25 years, and they will be here to assist our families for many more years to come."

In Lagro, Janet Poole is the President of the Friends of St. Patrick's Oratory, which is a committee that cleans the church. She said much time is spent by others cleaning and caring for the grounds at nearby St. Patrick's Cemetery, which is located about 10 miles from the church. Poole says she's spoken with people who lean on the beauty of the cemetery to cope with their grief.

"I know it does bring comfort to the families," said Poole, who said that even she finds the aesthetics of the grounds to be soothing.

"It's a beautiful cemetery. It's peaceful. Very peaceful."

MARCH FOR LIFE INDIANAPOLIS

A day pilgrimage for high school and college students on January 22, 2024

Information and Register
diocesefwsb.org/march

HOME for the HOLIDAYS

STEPS TO AWAKEN FAITH IN OUR ADULT CHILDREN

Monday, December 4 | 7-8:30 p.m. | St. Pius X Parish, Granger

Presentation | Discussion | Refreshments

Full information and RSVP: ablazemission.org/return



armingmen.com/podcast

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.

Annulments: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know

FORT WAYNE – What exactly does the Catholic Church teach about marriage and divorce? What is a “declaration of nullity,” and do I need one? How long do annulments take? Learn about the marriage nullity process. Father David Violi and Anne Therese Stephens of the Diocesan Tribunal will be at St. John the Baptist, 4500 Fairfield Ave., in the church basement on Thursday, November 30, at 7 p.m. to answer all of your questions about annulments.

University of Saint Francis Holiday Art Bazaar

FORT WAYNE – On Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the University of Saint Francis will sponsor a holiday bazaar throughout the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, 2701 Spring St., featuring artists and artisan booths, live music, and for the first 200 patrons, free tote bags designed by USF Graphic Design student Reese Rosario. Contact Tony Didier at 260-399-7700 or adidier@sf.edu for information.

'Emmanuel' A Musical Journey Through the Story of Christmas

FORT WAYNE – St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will host a unique Advent experience, “Emmanuel” A Musical Journey Through the Story of Christmas by an award-winning musician Tatiana ‘Tajci’ Cameron. She travels from Nashville, Tennessee, to offer an afternoon of music on Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m. that will turn your holiday stress into a deeply spiritual and sacred season. Contact Julie Schleitwiler at 260-484-6609 or j Schleitwiler@stjudefw.org for information.

Home for the Holidays

GRANGER – Learn steps to awaken faith in your adult children while they are home for the holidays on Monday, December 4, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the St. Pius X multi-purpose room, 52553 Fir Rd. (enter through Door 6, across from the south playground). Sean Allen, Founder of Ablaze Mission, and Lisa Everett, Diocesan Director of Marriage and Family Ministry, will present practical steps to rekindle faith in young adults based on Brandon Vogt's book, “Return: How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church.” Refreshments will be provided. The evening is free of charge, but please register so organizers know how many people to expect at ablazemission.org/return.

St. Paul Chapel's Men's Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and Fellowship

FREMONT – All men of the diocese are welcome to attend a night from 6:30-8 p.m., at St. Paul Catholic Chapel, 8780 E. 700 N., that will include

praying the Rosary, adoration, benediction, and fellowship. There will be a short talk on the importance of men in the Church. Contact Jim Shiffler at 260-665-2259 or office@stpaulcatholicchapel.org for information.

Evening of Hope and Healing for Those in a Season of Infertility

NOTRE DAME – If you are in a season of infertility, An Evening of Hope and Healing will be held on Thursday, December 7, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 100 Sacred Heart Parish Center. Mass in the chapel at 7 p.m. will be followed by time to pray silently, to be prayed over by members of the prayer ministry team, or to speak with someone and be prayed over in private. The evening will end with fellowship and refreshments in the parish center dining room. Sponsored by Marriage and Family Ministry. Contact Lisa Everett for more information at leverett@diocesefwsb.org.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

John E. Schaefer, 84, St. Joseph

Paul Douglas Staight, 90, St. Joseph

Janet Ditton, 77, St. Jude

James Kurtz, 79, St. Vincent de Paul

Timothy Leffers, 70, St. Vincent de Paul

Teddy Swihart, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Mildred Greenwell, 91, St. Pius X

Ellen Rogers, 74, St. Pius X

Fran Ruhe, 96, St. Pius X

Dale Strzelecki, 68, St. Pius X

Monroeville

Mary Beauchot, 90, St. Rose of Lima

New Carlisle

Cyntha Lou Sult, 74, St. Stanislaus Kostka

South Bend

Betty Cierznia, 91, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Maureen Suth, 81, St. Jude

Wabash

Walter Benjamin, 35, St. Bernard

SUBMIT EVENTS at TodaysCatholic.org/event



TRAHIN

Insurance Services, LLC

Parishioners:
St. Patrick Parish, Arcola
St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City

Free Consultation

Medicare Supplements Plans

Medicare Advantage Plans

Prescription Drug Plans

Life Insurance

Long-Term Care Insurance

Dental, Vision & Hearing Plans

Cindy K. Trahin
trahininsurancelc@gmail.com

Lisa Petrovas
agentlpetrovas@gmail.com

Carly Mannes
cmmannes260@gmail.com

Office
260-459-9004

www.TrahinInsuranceServices.com

7127 Homestead Rd., Ste. B., Fort Wayne, IN 46814

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

www.wordgamesforcatholic.com



sing with the NOTRE DAME COMMUNITY CHOIR for Christmas Eve Mass

WEEKLY REHEARSALS • DEC. 4, 11, 18 7-8:45 P.M.

Dec. 4 & 11 - 329 Coleman-Morse Center

Dec. 18 - Basilica of the Sacred Heart

CHRISTMAS MASS IN THE NIGHT • DEC. 24

8:30 p.m. Rehearsal - 329 Coleman-Morse Center

10 p.m. Lessons and Carols - Basilica

11 p.m. Mass - Basilica

All are welcome. No audition or fees required.

For more information, please contact
Dr. Patrick Kronner at pkronner@nd.edu
or communitychoir.nd.edu



RaclinMurphyMuseumofArt

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME



Celebrate Opening Weekend

December 1-3

Free and Open to All

raclinmurphymuseum.nd.edu/



Mexican, *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, 1729, Oil on canvas, 50 7/8 x 37 5/8 in (129.22 x 95.57 cm). Gift of Mr. Ignacio Aranguren, ND '52, his wife Pirri, and their sons Luis, Ignacio, ND '85 and Santiago, ND '92, 2002.018