

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 98 No. 3

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

**Bishop Rhoades
Makes Pastoral Visit
to Bishop Dwenger**

Pages 10-11

**Small Groups
Learning More
About 'Jesus and the
Eucharist'**

Page 2

**Notre Dame Folk
Choir Performs at
Fort Wayne Cathedral**

Page 5

**Bristol Pastor Keeps
the Faith as He
Awaits New Kidney**

Page 7

**Thousands Set to
March for Unborn in
Indianapolis**

Page 14

'Love Them Like God Loves Them'

**St. Henry Parish Partners with M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry
to Serve the Homeless in Fort Wayne**



Pastor Donnie Foster of M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry offers an inspirational message of faith to the crowd of homeless gathered underneath a railroad bridge in downtown Fort Wayne on Sunday, January 7.

BY JAMES MOUNT

The sun had just gone down on this particularly cold and blustery first Sunday in January when, underneath the old Nickel Plate Railroad elevation in downtown Fort Wayne, groups of people began to gather, some carrying backpacks and others carrying blankets in their arms – the sum total of their belongings. That's life on the streets.

Soon, cars, vans, and trucks began to arrive, backing underneath the overpass, opening trunks and doors, unloading bags of coats, shoes, blankets, and other necessities as the weather turns colder. Tables were quickly set up, and pots of chili and foil pans of hot dogs and other food offerings were laid out on the tables by volunteers from St. Henry Catholic Church. Another winter night of giving food and warmth to the gathered homeless of Fort Wayne on this cold January night was underway.

Days earlier, Pope Francis urged the faithful to do exactly what the volunteers underneath the railroad bridge were

doing. "Be close to the people we help," he said during an audience on Friday, January 5. "Be close." He said he asks people in confession if they give alms to the poor. When they say they do, he asks, more pointedly, "When you give alms, do you look people in the eye, do you touch their hand, or do you throw the money there?" To touch, to touch poverty, to touch, a heart that touches; look and understand. Do not forget this."

The weekly event near Freimann Square in downtown Fort Wayne is organized by Pastor Donnie Foster of M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry, and to begin the evening, he gathered everyone in a circle against the cold wind gusting through and began with prayer, inviting everyone to join in, to be thankful and to feel God's love.

Foster, once homeless himself, has been working this street ministry for 20 years now. Every Sunday night, regardless of the weather, Foster and other volunteers show up to hand out food and clothing, water bottles,



Photos by Scott Warden

Amanda Carroll, a volunteer with St. Henry Church, serves chili to the homeless on January 7 as part of the parish's outreach program.

HOMELESS, page 12

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Eucharistic Small Groups Successful in Diocese

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

“Jesus and the Eucharist,” a video and small-group study created for the National Eucharistic Revival, has gotten rave reviews from parishioners across the diocese since it was made available last fall.

“Everybody left the videos thinking they were excellent,” said Jamey Fischer, a parishioner at St. John Bosco Church in Churubusco.

The “Jesus and the Eucharist” study consists of seven video presentations with discussion questions put together by the Augustine Institute. For each session, participants in a local group meet to watch a presentation and talk about it. Fischer explained that each video presentation consists of a more instructional part, featuring bishops, priests, and Catholic lay speakers exploring a piece of Eucharistic teaching. Then, in each video, “regular parishioners give a testimony as to how that piece affected their life in some way,” Fischer said. “It’s very relatable to the common parishioner.”

St. John Bosco Church began the study as soon as the videos became available. Fischer led the study for his men’s group, and the small parish of 300 families had several other small groups due to parish-wide interest. Fischer said one of the groups even met on Zoom.

When Marty Filogamo, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn, was first approached by his pastor to be the Eucharistic Revival point person at the parish, he said he was intimidated. “I didn’t know what I was going to do,” Filogamo said. Originally from Arkansas, Filogamo and his wife had moved to Auburn when their kids were already out of school, which Filogamo said made it more difficult to meet people. “I was one of the parishioners who came to church, said hello, and went home,” Filogamo remembered.

However, Filogamo began getting phone calls from other parishioners wanting to be involved, and he began to recruit other people he met on Sundays. Soon enough, he had formed a committee of people to help him out, and soon after that, they had a small group for the “Jesus and the Eucharist” study.

“What I felt good about was that many of these people never would have experienced this type of study, the quality these programs had, the message these programs had; this is the only place they would have gotten that,” Filogamo said.

“The small groups were really a good idea,” Filogamo added. “For me personally,

if it had been a large room with 30 to 40 people, I probably wouldn’t say a word. But this whole session has really brought my confidence into speaking in front of people more and more. Small group is definitely the way to go.”

Filogamo added that even a month after the study had ended, people were still coming up to thank him and the committee for offering the study. “It was sad when it ended,” Filogamo said.

Michelle Szajko, parishioner at Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka, also praised the quality of the “Jesus and the Eucharist” study after facilitating it at her parish last fall.

“The nice thing about these videos is that they hit the entire range of someone interested in Catholic faith, someone new to the Church, all the way to people who have been cradle Catholics or have studied Catholicism,” Szajko said.

Queen of Peace offered the small group at different times during the week to make it available for as many parishioners as possible. While Szajko enjoyed watching the videos on her own during training for leading the small group, she said she really benefited from other people’s reflections and insights. “Watching it more than once was very enlightening and fulfilling,” Szajko said.

A particular moment in the study that struck both Szajko and Fischer was the feature of an astronaut who took the Eucharist to space with him.

“It sticks with me that that was something that was so important to him and his faith,” Szajko said.

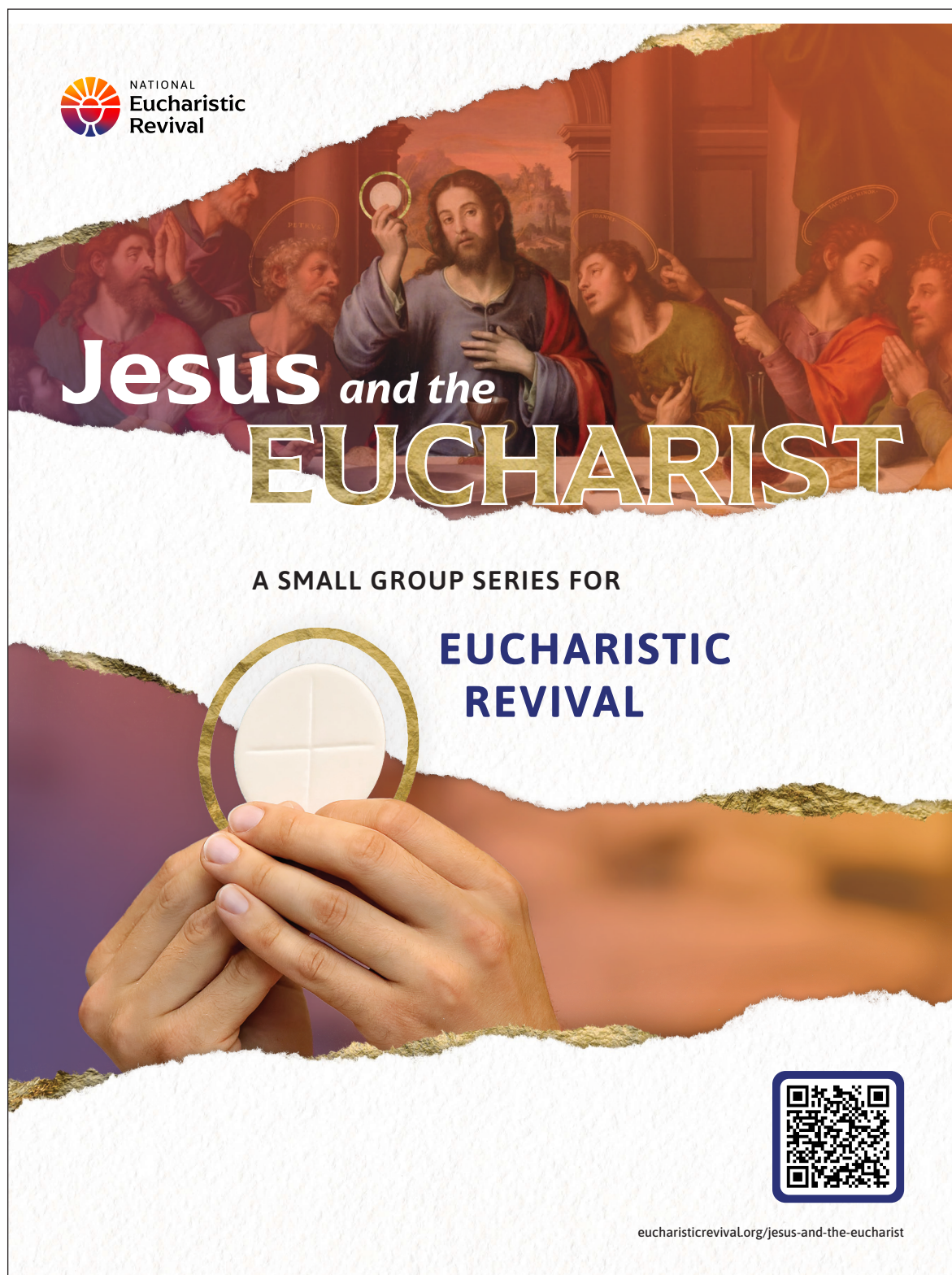
Several parishes across the diocese are offering “Jesus and the Eucharist” small groups this year, many beginning this month. Fischer hopes to lead his second study during Lent this year.

Leaders at Queen of Peace aren’t planning to lead another small group this spring, but Szajko is organizing family Holy Hours at the parish, remembering the days she would drop her kids off at school early so she could spend 10 minutes with the Eucharist before heading off to work.

“Sitting there with Jesus in the Eucharist was so enriching for my life,” Szajko said. “I was getting strength from that I didn’t know I needed.”

Based on her own experience, Szajko encouraged people to watch the “Jesus and the Eucharist” videos and find other small ways to participate in the Revival, even if they can’t make it to an official session. “Faith is so important we have to make time for it,” she said.

To learn more about “Jesus and the Eucharist,” including resources for forming a small group, visit eucharisticrevival.org/jesus-and-the-eucharist.



eucharisticrevival.org/jesus-and-the-eucharist

ICC Brings Voice of Church to Legislature, Calls on Catholics to Engage on Issues

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is once again adding its voice to important issues under consideration at the state legislature while calling on the Catholic faithful to join its efforts.

The 2024 Indiana General Assembly opened for business on Monday, January 8, for a short, non-budget-year session that is expected to conclude by mid-March. As state lawmakers introduce and debate a flurry of bills on a wide range of topics, the ICC is discerning which issues and legislation are the most significant through the lens of 2,000 years of Catholic social teaching.

"While this is a short session that does not include big budget items, it is still important to stay engaged," said Angela Espada, Executive Director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "We hope that the faithful will continue to make themselves aware of important legislative issues and act as faithful citizens."

Promoting the common good and protecting the most vulnerable members of society form the basis for the Church's engagement in the public arena, Espada said. As it has for more than half a century, the ICC advocates either for or against proposed legislation in line with Catholic social doctrine.

In all its efforts, the ICC encourages the Catholic faithful to stay informed and involved on key issues and legislation and offers numerous resources to do so. The ICC website, indianacc.org, provides a wealth of information as well as access to ICAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network. Those who sign up for ICAN receive action alerts on important legislation and ways to contact their elected representatives.

The website also links to a weekly podcast during the legislative session, which is hosted by Espada and Alexander Mingus, Associate Director of the ICC. In keeping with priorities outlined by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the ICC leaders have often spoken on the concept of Faithful Citizenship – the duty and responsibility that Catholics have to bring their faith to the public forum.

"We invite everyone to participate, to reach out to their legislators, so that it's the entire Indiana Catholic Action Network responding to the bills that have great moral consequence," Mingus said.

While noting that many

lawmakers have indicated they want to get through the session with "as little controversy as possible," Mingus said that the ICC will be interested in many key legislative priorities this year. Among them are major agenda items Governor Eric Holcomb outlined in his January 9 State of the State address, including increasing disaster relief funding, improving childhood literacy, and expanding Indiana's child care workforce to help more working parents statewide.

The ICC leaders also expect to track legislation aimed at affordable housing, legal rights for tenants, and protecting children online. One issue likely to arise again is providing driving cards for undocumented Indiana residents who cannot prove their lawful status.

Indiana is home to an estimated 100,000 undocumented residents, many of whom have begun the process to become citizens, and the cards would allow them to drive legally and to purchase car insurance. The ICC has joined other advocates

Assisted suicide is now legal

in 10 states, and legislation

has been introduced at the

Statehouse numerous times

throughout the years to allow

the practice in Indiana.

ICC leaders say they

will continue monitoring

developments

on this issue.

in supporting this legislation in the past, maintaining that it would help address basic human needs while offering larger economic and public safety benefits. Last year, driving card legislation gained more traction than it ever had before at the Statehouse after passing out of committee in the Senate, but stalling in the Appropriations Committee.

Pro-life initiatives have

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

always been at the forefront of the ICC's priorities, and the last couple of years have seen significant strides in protecting the unborn in Indiana following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 2022. But Espada and Mingus emphasize that pro-life efforts involve numerous other issues, including the death penalty and assisted suicide – both of which the Catholic Church strongly opposes.

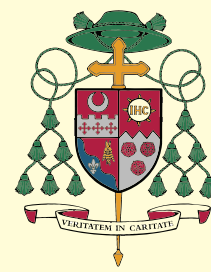
Assisted suicide is now legal in 10 states, and legislation has been introduced at the Statehouse numerous times throughout the years to allow the practice in Indiana. ICC leaders say they will continue monitoring developments on this issue.

"There are always bad bills that we oppose," Mingus said. "Some of those will die quietly, and others make their way along the process and we have to be more active in our opposition. There are nearly 1,000 bills that will be filed in this session, so that's a lot of review that we have to do, and a lot of discernment to prioritize what's most important for the Church to speak on during a given session. We ask for everyone's prayers as we discern these important matters."

The ICC now has parish liaisons throughout Indiana to assist with communication and advocacy efforts but can always use more, Espada said. Information about the liaison role may be found on the ICC's website. In addition, Espada and Mingus welcome the opportunity to visit parishes and schools to discuss their work and Catholic social teaching, which guides everything the ICC does.

"To amplify the voice of the Church, we need the interest and engagement of all Catholics in our state – particularly now, at the start of a new legislative session," Espada said. "We thank all of those who have been active with our ICAN network in the past, and we look forward to welcoming many more to our efforts."

For more information and ways to get involved with the ICC and its mission, visit indianacc.org.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, January 22: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Right to Life Events: Youth Rally and Mass, Indiana Convention Center, followed by March for Life and Rally at Statehouse, Indianapolis

Thursday, January 25: 10 a.m. – Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Saturday, January 27: 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Seven Sisters Retreat, St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington



Priest Assignment

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

Reverend Lee Allen Fortin, from Parochial Vicar at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, to Parochial Vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, and Chaplain at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, effective January 23, 2024.



Forty Hours Devotion

NATIONAL
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Revival

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. Joseph, Garrett: March 2-4

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

St. Casimir, South Bend: 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 up-to-date information about Eucharistic Revival events and resources, visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist or diocesefwsb.org/eucaristia.

After 100 Days of War, Christians' Testimony 'True Miracle'

BY MICHAEL KELLY

(OSV News) – In the shadow of darkness, eight children in Gaza City beamed with joy as they received their first Communion.

As the world marked 100 days since the Hamas militants' attacks that unleashed hell in the Holy Land, images of the children from Holy Family Parish – the only Catholic parish in the Gaza Strip – dressed in white albs to receive the sacrament were a stark and welcome contrast in a land that has had very little reason to smile since the most recent war began on October 7.

Across the border in Israel, the families of those hostages still held by Hamas and other groups marked the poignant milestone of 100 days without their loved ones with a vigil in Tel Aviv.

As he has done from the beginning of the current con-

flict, the pope used an appearance on Italian television on Sunday, January 14, to plead for an end to violence. "It's true that making peace is risky, but war is riskier," he said.

The pope's solidarity and interventions are reassuring for the Christian community, but as war continues to rage with Israel vowing not to stop until Hamas is eradicated, Church leaders in the region feel increasingly helpless.

Speaking to OSV News from Jerusalem, Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, the Custos, or guardian, of the holy places, was downbeat.

"I feel very sad and frustrated, because at this moment, it seems impossible to do something for the civilian population of Gaza – particularly for the children. But it is impossible also to obtain that the Israeli hostages will be freed," he said.

On Monday, January 15, the 101st day of Israel-Hamas war,



OSV News photo/courtesy Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

On Sunday, January 7, the feast of Epiphany, Father Youssef Asaad, center, an assistant priest at Holy Family Parish in Gaza City, is joined by altar servers in standing with eight children of the parish who received their first Communion after completing their preparation program and education, despite the Israel-Hamas war.

a woman in her 70s was killed and 17 others were injured in twin attacks in the central Israeli city of Raanana, according to statements released by the hospitals treating the victims of the attack.

Israeli police said two suspects – who ran over a number of people in several locations – were residents of Hebron, a city in the occupied West Bank. The police said they entered Israel illegally and are now in police custody.

"We are praying every day for peace, for reconciliation, for a diplomatic and political solution of this terrible situation," Father Patton told OSV News from St. Saviour's Monastery in Jerusalem's Old City, just a few minutes' walk from the

site of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection – the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Before the war, there were an estimated 1,200 Christians in Gaza; most observers say the number has dropped now to around 800 with those holding dual nationalities able to flee via Egypt. Most of the Christians are Greek Orthodox, but there is also the Catholic community gathered around Holy Family Parish.

Father Patton described their witness amid the war as "a true miracle."

"All of them know each other and are waiting for the end of the war. They cannot leave the Gaza Strip, and they need food, water, medicines, fuel – everything," he said.

While almost 62 miles from Gaza, heightened security measures have made life difficult for the Palestinian residents – many of whom used to cross the border to Israel every day for work.

Father Patton described the situation in the West Bank as "frozen."

"You cannot go in and out like before on October 7," he said. This means that for almost all those who were working in Israel, it is now impossible to continue.

"For the Christian community of Bethlehem, the situation is tragic, because our Christians usually worked in the tourism industry and (with) pilgrimages, but now all the hotels are closed, the shops are closed, and the pilgrims are not coming anymore," he lamented.

"So, the situation in the West Bank is explosive because of restrictions on freedom, poverty, violence, and desperation" Father Patton told OSV News.

When the war ends, as all wars do, Father Patton insists that "the real challenge will not be to rebuild houses, but to rebuild relations."

"The long-term consequences will be many and very difficult to solve, but I think that this is the last opportunity to solve, politically, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and give a political international recognition to the State of Palestine," he said.

Michael Kelly writes for OSV News from Dublin.



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Notre Dame Choir Takes Center Stage at Fort Wayne Cathedral

BY KATIE MURRAY

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne welcomed special guests on Sunday, January 14, as the University of Notre Dame's distinguished folk choir performed during Mass on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time as part of its 2024 winter tour.

Founded in the 1970s, the folk choir, consisting of 65 students from various academic backgrounds, brings a rich tapestry of musical offerings derived from diverse cultural traditions, with a distinct focus on contemporary music. Their commitment to artistic excellence and spiritual expression is evident in their performances.

"These young people love their faith and are seeking a profound connection with it in their own lives," J.J. Wright, a Notre Dame alum and Director of the folk choir, told Today's Catholic. "It's been such a treat



Katie Murray

to get to see them when they're given the agency to explore the Scripture and what it means to them. They find a way to connect [with it] and find new ideas that are better than what I can come up with."

Louisa Nagy, a second-year undergraduate student in the psychology and theology programs at Notre Dame, expressed her passion for being a member of the choir. "I enjoy singing for Mass on Sundays," Nagy said. "I find it a beautiful and peaceful way to participate in the liturgy. I feel blessed to be able

to sing in the Basilica [of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus] every week."

Beginning in early January, members of the choir took their talents beyond the confines of the university, as they performed several concerts across Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, concluding the tour at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

In his homily during the Mass, Bishop Rhoades focused on the liturgical calendar and

the gift the Church gives to the faithful in Ordinary Time. He said: "The idea of Ordinary Time doesn't sound very exciting, but I invite you to think about the beauty of this season of Ordinary Time. Pope Benedict XVI once said that 'its beauty lies in the fact that it invites us to live our ordinary life as a journey of holiness, that is, of faith and friendship with Jesus.' I think that's a great way to think of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time."

Bishop Rhoades discussed the two of the day's readings – from First Samuel and the first chapter of John's Gospel – in the context of the liturgical season, urging those at the cathedral to be like Samuel and the disciples, who recognized the calling of the Lord and were committed to doing His will.

"My brothers and sisters, this is how we should live this season of Ordinary Time, by following Jesus' invitation to 'come and see,' to grow in our

friendship with Him," Bishop Rhoades said. "The two disciples saw where Jesus was staying and stayed with Him that day. The restlessness of our hearts is only calmed when we come and see. The purest joy lies in our relationship with Jesus whom we encounter, follow, and stay with. This is the life of Christian discipleship. Friendship with our Teacher and Lord guarantees peace and serenity to our souls even in the dark moments and in the most arduous trials. 'Come and see,' Jesus says to us. When we do, we find truth and peace and life. Ordinary Time teaches us to live each day as a journey to the Lord and with the Lord, discovering anew His love for us, and penetrating deeper and deeper into His mystery. This life in Christ which we can think of as ordinary is really extraordinary when we think about the boredom and mediocrity, indeed restlessness, of life apart from Him."



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Mind & Heart

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DAY OF SERVICE



Building a Civilization of Love: A Catholic Response to Racism

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

Monday, January 22 | 7:30 PM
Driscoll Auditorium, Holy Cross College

In lieu of registration cost, please bring nonperishable items
for the Saint Augustine Catholic Church Soup Kitchen.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is an internationally renowned speaker, author, and preacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Theological Studies Degree from the University of Dallas. He has appeared as a guest on numerous international Catholic radio and television programs, and is the host or co-host of several popular series on the Eternal Word Television Network. He is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy. Deacon Harold is the award-winning author of five books, including *Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality and Building a Civilization of Love: A Catholic Response to Racism*.

HOLY CROSS
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COMMUNITY-ENGAGED
ALLIANCE

Nicaraguan Bishop Rolando Álvarez Released, Exiled

MEXICO CITY (OSV News) – Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa has been released from prison and sent into exile along with 18 imprisoned churchmen as the Nicaraguan government expelled its most prominent critic, whose presence behind bars bore witness to the Sandinista regime's descent into totalitarianism, along with its unrelenting persecution of the Catholic Church. Vatican News confirmed on Sunday, January 14, that with the exception of one priest who remained in Venezuela, all released priests, including Bishop Álvarez and Bishop Isidoro Mora of Siuna, have arrived in Rome “in the last few hours” and are “guests of the Holy See.” A Nicaraguan independent media outlet posted a photograph on X, formerly Twitter, of the two freed bishops concelebrating Mass in Rome. The media outlet reported that the churchmen had departed Nicaragua on a flight for Rome after the government reached an agreement with the Vatican for their release and exile. Auxiliary Bishop Silvio José Báez of Managua, who left the country in 2019, also confirmed the news at a Mass in Miami. “Get up quickly.” The chains fell from his wrists,” Bishop Báez said on X, formerly Twitter, quoting Acts 12:7. “With great joy, I thank God that my brother bishops, priests, and seminarians are out of prison. Justice has triumphed. The power of the prayer of God's people has been displayed.”

Ohio House Votes to Override Veto of Gender Bill

COLUMBUS, Ohio (OSV News) – The Ohio House voted on Wednesday, January 10, to override Republican Governor Mike DeWine's recent veto of legislation that bans certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender and also prohibits athletes from competing on sports teams corresponding with their self-perceived gender identity opposite their biological sex. The Ohio Senate is expected to vote on overriding DeWine's veto on Wednesday, January 24. Ohio law requires a legislative supermajority, three-fifths of both the House and Senate, to override a governor's veto. Supporters of prohibitions on surgical or hormonal treatments for minors who identify as transgender say the legislation would prevent minors from making irreversible decisions as children they may later come to regret as adults. Officials with the Ohio Catholic Conference supported the passage of the

Ukrainians Keep Faith Amid Ongoing War



OSV News photo/courtesy Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Faithful walk in procession toward the Dnipro River for the blessing of water on Saturday, January 6, after Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, celebrated a Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv amid ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine.

bill, saying in written testimony in November that the organization “recognizes the significant distress, pain, and complications caused by gender dysphoria,” but argued that “concerns about human ecology with a humility about the empirical claims regarding medical best practices for minors experiencing gender dysphoria,” should restrict transitions for minors.

Michigan AG Issues Gaylord Diocese Report

GAYLORD, Michigan (OSV News) – Officials with the Michigan Attorney General's Office on Monday, January 8, released its second of seven expected reports related to clergy sexual abuse in Michigan's seven dioceses and outlined its findings related to abuse allegations in the Diocese of Gaylord. The report found that more than 85 percent of allegations against 28 clergy took place before 2000, with the majority in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. Since 1950, it said, allegations of sexual misconduct have been made against 26 priests and two deacons in the Diocese of Gaylord; of those, 18 were

ordained or incardinated by the Gaylord diocese, which was established in 1971. The report details both substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations of abuse, including cases in which Michigan's statute of limitations or the death of the priest in question have precluded charges. “It is important to note, a criminal charge is merely an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty,” the statement said. The Attorney General's Office praised the Diocese of Gaylord's cooperation in the investigation, adding the diocese's help “was instrumental in the compilation of the report.”

Argentine President Invites Pope to Visit ‘Beloved Homeland’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Argentine President Javier Milei has invited Pope Francis to visit their “beloved homeland” and said he will come to the Vatican in February. “I believe that your trip will bring fruits of pacification and the fraternity of all Argentines, eager to overcome our divisions and conflicts,” he

said in a letter sent to the pope. “Your presence and your message will contribute to the long-desired unity of all our compatriots and will provide us with the collective strength necessary to preserve our peace and work for the prosperity and enhancement of our beloved Argentine Republic,” he wrote. The letter, addressed to “Holy Father,” was dated Monday, January 8. The next day, the Argentine daily newspaper La Nación reported that Milei would be coming to the Vatican to attend the canonization ceremony of Blessed María Antonia de San José on Sunday, February 11. She will be the first female of Argentina to be canonized.

Wisconsin Judge Suspends Criminal Case Against McCarrick

MADISON, Wisconsin (OSV News) – A Wisconsin judge suspended a criminal case against former cardinal Theodore McCarrick on Wednesday, January 10, citing incompetency. McCarrick had been charged with fourth-degree sexual assault for abuse that

allegedly took place in 1977. The ruling follows a dismissal of all criminal charges against McCarrick in Massachusetts in August, when the former cleric also was deemed no longer mentally competent. In that case, Dedham District Court Judge Michael Pomarole ruled McCarrick, a once-powerful and influential Catholic cardinal, is unable to stand trial after receiving a medical report from prosecutors that agreed with the earlier defense report that McCarrick, 93, is suffering from dementia. McCarrick's lawyers claimed McCarrick suffers from advancing and irreversible dementia. No other criminal cases regarding McCarrick are pending.

Pope Fields Questions About Blessings

ROME (CNS) – Responding to questions from priests and deacons ministering in the Diocese of Rome, Pope Francis said the possibility of blessing gay couples regards “people, not organizations” or their agendas. The pope spent about three hours on Saturday, January 13, with some 800 priests and deacons at Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran, the diocesan cathedral. He prayed with the clergy and answered about 30 questions from them, according to diocesan officials. The meeting was held behind closed doors, but Vatican News reported on what the pope said, although it did not quote him directly. Avvenire, the daily Catholic newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference, reported quotes from the pope attributed to priests who were present. In Africa, the provision allowing for non-liturgical, informal blessings of gay couples and couples in irregular marriage situations will not be adopted, the pope said, because “the culture will not accept it,” Avvenire reported. But the pope added, “We are blessing people, not (their) sin.”

Pope Francis Says He's Not Thinking of Resigning

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – While a pope can resign, Pope Francis said it is not something he is thinking about or worrying about now. “It is neither a thought, nor a worry, nor even a desire; it is a possibility, open to all popes. But for the moment, it is not at the center of my thoughts, my worries, my feelings,” he said in an interview on Italian television on Sunday, January 14. “As long as I feel I still have the capacity to serve, I will go on,” the 87-year-old pope said. “When I can no longer do it, it will be time to think about it.” Pope Francis made the comments in an interview, lasting more than 50 minutes, on the program “*Che Tempo Che Fa*” on Italy's Nove channel.

Father Bob Keeps Praying as He Waits for a Kidney

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Father Robert Van Kempen (known to all as “Father Bob”), Pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol, has been waiting for a kidney for a couple of years now, but he told Today’s Catholic he is doing well and appreciates everyone’s prayers on his behalf.

Father Bob was diagnosed with kidney disease in 2016 and received the news in 2020 that he needed a kidney transplant and had to begin dialysis. Last summer, parishioners organized a 24-hour Rosary and prayer vigil for Father Bob. At that time, he had to increase the number of hours per day he is hooked up to dialysis – from nine to eleven hours, which continues to be the case. He said he is usually hooked up to his in-home dialysis machine from around 8 p.m. until about 7 a.m. the following morning. He said he usually wakes up a couple of times a night and checks the machine to make sure everything is working.

“The machine will tell me if there’s something wrong,” he said. “It’ll beep, and I’ll know I have to check it.”

He shared some difficulty he had on vacation this past October. He was cleared to go on a 14-day, trans-Atlantic cruise that left from Rome. He went with a group of about 11 people, and they would have three days in Rome before boarding the cruise ship. When they arrived in Rome, he had the maintenance man at the hotel help him set up the dialysis machine. But when he went back to use it, the machine had blown a fuse.

“They have 220 [electrical supply] over there, and we have 110,” he said. So, the receptionist and the maintenance man tried to find a fuse and couldn’t find one. They called his doctor in the United States and Baxter, the company that makes the dialysis machine, to arrange getting a new machine to him. His doctor told him that because he’d been off the machine for so long, he needed to go to the hospital.

Father Bob took a taxi to the hospital and waited on a doctor and nurse to show up, only to find out the hospital didn’t do dialysis. “So, he helped me remember how to do dialysis manually; I’d learned how to do it, but I relied on the machine. He gave me the different fluids I needed and all the supplies,” Father Bob said.

His friend, Becky Monnin, is also a nurse and she, along with another traveler, walked to the hospital and got all his supplies and brought them back to the hotel. Father Bob



Denise Fedorow

Father Bob Van Kempen, Pastor at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol, has been living with kidney disease since 2016. He spends 11 hours a day on home dialysis as he awaits a match for a kidney transplant.

said most of the time he stayed around the hotel waiting to hear from doctors and the dialysis machine company, so he didn’t go on any tours.

“But the good thing was we stayed right across from the Vatican, so I could walk over. It was a beautiful prayer experience just being in the area and doing my prayers by the fountain,” he said. “On Sunday, we had a terrace, and the Holy Father showed up on his terrace, and we prayed the Angelus with him, and he spoke and someone translated; it was beautiful!”

“The Lord has helped me this far;

He’s not going to let me

dangle out too long.”

FATHER BOB VANKEMPEN

Father Bob said their first day in Rome they had lunch with two seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend (Nicholas Monnin and Patrick Joseph “P.J.” Ernst) and two priests of the diocese (Father Sam Anderson and Father Zane Langenbrunner).

“Then, Saturday afternoon, we had a treat – Bishop Rhoades joined us for dinner,” Father Bob said. “We had a nice visit. All in all, it was a good trip. I had a few hiccups, but I’ve learned to roll with the punches.”

They were in Rome for three days and then boarded the cruise ship on October 30. Father Bob said he had to continue dialysis manually on the ship for a day or so until they

docked in Pisa, where they had a new machine waiting for him. He said it helped that his good friend, Becky Monnin, is also a close friend of his doctor. Monnin is a nurse at Memorial Hospital in South Bend and a parishioner at St. Matthew Cathedral. Father Bob met her a long time ago when he and another priest friend went on a cruise with her and some other friends; “and I’ve been cruising with her ever since,” he said.

Father Bob said “everybody working together” is what made it all work out for him to get a new machine and the things he needed while on the trip.

“I always say the Lord does answer prayers, especially when you need them – not that I didn’t have a few minutes (of groaning),” he said.

Since he’s been back, he said he’s been doing well. “I go get bloodwork every month, and I see [his doctor] every month. In December, my bloodwork was very good; everything is in line.”

Father Bob said he just had lab work the week he spoke to Today’s Catholic. He said his doctors and nurses keep their eyes on him, and he has phone numbers he can call at any time giving him direct access to a nurse or to someone at Baxter.

When asked if there’s been any movement on a kidney transplant, Father Bob responded: “Not that I’ve heard. I just got paperwork from IU Health to update my information, but I haven’t heard anything about donors. But the doctor did tell me at first it would be four, five, or six years.”

He said he had a friend interested in donating, but he wasn’t a match for Father Bob, but he may be able to do a swap. That would mean his friend’s kidney would go to someone else and that puts Father Bob on another list, which moves him up for a



ARE YOU A DONOR MATCH?

If you feel God is calling you to be a living kidney donor for Father Bob, visit iuhealth.org/transplant. Click on “Living Kidney Donor” and read through the donor education booklet. There’s also a short video. Then, fill out the donor evaluation form online.

kidney that would match. That is on hold for now.

Father Bob said a few others have asked about it, “but everything is on online, so they can tell yay or nay right away” [see sidebar].

Through it all, Father Bob said his spirits are good. “The Lord has helped me this far; He’s not going to let me dangle out too long.”

He shared a story of a woman he visited who has cancer and has been given six months to live. “I don’t have it so bad,” he said.

Father Bob shared that he received a lot of Christmas cards from people telling him they’re praying for him, praying he gets a kidney.

“We just have to keep praying,” he said. “I try to be positive every day – not that I don’t have times when I say, ‘Lord if you’re ready, I’m ready!’”

At St. Mary in Bristol, Father Bob has help from Father Nji Tegha Afuhwi, Parochial Vicar, and retired Father Terry Fisher comes to help out when needed, too.

“As long as I can connect early enough, I can make it to confession and do Mass,” Father Bob said. “I can tell when my body’s wearing out, and I try to watch it.”

He said everything went well during Christmas, and he was able to celebrate Midnight Mass, which he said he loves. He praised the staff at St. Mary.

“I have a wonderful staff; they all work together, and they’re all very good to me.”

Father Bob shared this message for Today’s Catholic readers: “Things are going well, but keep praying. I’m praying for you, too. Everything will happen in God’s time. And thank you.”

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'I AM HERE':

Personal Testimonies Share the Power of the Eucharist

In June of 2022, the Archdiocese of Detroit launched a project in conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival that aimed to foster in the faithful a deeper sense of devotion to Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist by inviting those in Detroit and beyond to share personal stories of how the Eucharist has impacted their lives in a real and powerful way.

The project, "I AM HERE," contains hundreds of personal stories of how the Eucharist has transformed people across the country, including dozens of Catholics who live and worship in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Throughout the next several months as the Church continues to prepare for the National Eucharistic Congress, which will be held July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, Today's Catholic will feature the stories of local men and women who have submitted their powerful testimonies to "I AM HERE." To read more, or to submit your own story of how the Eucharist has shaped your life, visit iamhere.org. To learn more about the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress, or to purchase tickets, visit diocesefwsb.org/congress.

'It Is When I Feel Closest to Jesus'

By Suzanne Horban
Corpus Christi Community,
South Bend

The Eucharist is everything that my faith is centered around. Jesus gives us His body and blood so that we can have eternal life. It is when I feel closest to Jesus.

COVID-19 gave me an appreciation for the Eucharist because I was not able to attend Mass or receive Jesus' body and blood because of the restrictions. I also suffered with COVID for three weeks. I took the Eucharist for granted before then. Since our Masses are still livestreamed,

the Prayer for Spiritual Communion is offered. I like to pray along with it in my head, changing the words slightly, to affirm my belief in the Eucharist and prepare myself to receive Jesus.

I have been fortunate with the help of my family to be available to attend daily Mass, hear the word of God, and receive the Eucharist. It has been a blessing.

Our world is full of so much noise. It is wonderful to just be able to listen to Jesus speak to me. Whether I am praying, reading, or just kneeling or sitting there, His guidance comes to me.

'My Life Is So Much Richer'

By Margie Buschur
St. Mary of the Presentation Church,
Geneva

I grew up in a small Midwestern town of about 2,500 people. There were a few factories around and a large number of farmers. My father was a farmer, and my mother was a homemaker. They raised a family of eight children. Although they both worked very hard, it was equally important to raise us as "good Catholics."

Ours was a predominantly Catholic community, and everyone went to Mass on Sunday. Many of us also attended Mass on weekday mornings before school. We sat with our classmates. We went to confession once a month. We received our first holy Communion and were confirmed by a bishop who drove almost three hours one way to get there. We also had

a Mass when we graduated from high school. There were many impressive things going on at church. We had 40 Hours of devotion from time to time, and frequent Benediction.

In the afternoon of the Sunday before All Souls' Day, we would form a procession using the main highway in town and walk to our cemetery about a mile away while praying the Rosary. A homily would follow.

I married my husband in that same church and raised my children in the Catholic faith. Even though I taught CCD and was involved with the youth group, the busyness of life placed my faith somewhat in the background. This was not intentional; life pulls us in many directions. But it does go full circle. This is what drew me to the Eucharistic Revival and I AM HERE. I think I was thirsty. The revival and I AM HERE made me realize



File photo

that Our Lord has been with me every step of the way – through the good and the bad.

Since I attended the opening meeting of the Eucharistic Revival for our diocese in Huntington, I have been drawn in by the faith and desire to be more about Christ's body and blood. I also read the book "The Real Presence."

Knowing the number of faithful who do not totally believe the Eucharist is truly His body and blood surprised me and made me sad. But the "Walk With Me" event in Warsaw showed me how many people do get it. I felt the Holy Spirit follow us in the procession to the final

stop, where we witnessed Benediction. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' lectures and Mass at St. Charles Parish in Fort Wayne once again brought alive to me the meaning of Jesus made present. This immersion has definitely deepened my love of the Eucharist.

We must remember that when receiving His body and blood, Jesus is present in us. He told us this Himself, and our actions should display this always.

My life is so much richer knowing the Lord is fully with me during the Eucharist and every moment of my life. I feel it throughout my entire day.

'Being in Front of the Blessed Sacrament Is Comforting'

By Emma Saunders
St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne

I have experienced the power of the Eucharist at a few different points in my life, but the one that comes to mind first is during a moment of adoration where the monstrance was being processed through the room. Seeing hundreds of people on their knees worshipping and adoring was very moving, but the moment the priest walked by my section, it felt like kneeling wasn't enough. I wanted to reach out to the Blessed Sacrament. I've returned many times to that moment and thought about how I always want to feel that way about my faith.

We are lucky enough to have a perpetual adoration chapel at our parish, and I know that each week I have one hour set aside to really focus on my relationship with God. Being in front of the Blessed Sacrament is comforting. It is the physical reminder that I am not alone in my struggles and joys in life.

'I Sit in Silence and Listen'

By Mary Goldthrite-DeKever
Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka

During the past couple of years, I have begun going to Adoration before work a few times a week. I bring a journal with me and simply write what I feel God is saying to me as I sit in silence and listen. I am

blown away by what I write in the silence. God encourages me, centers me, redirects me, and shows His love to me in all things great and small. In the silence, God whispers to us and immense peace overflows. If I miss a week, I feel depleted and a little lost.

'God Is Actually with Me'

By Barbara Hillman
Our Lady of Good Hope Church,
Fort Wayne

The Eucharist makes me feel very close to God. When I receive the Eucharist, I receive a warm and loving feeling through my whole body, like

God is actually with me. I love being with my family and receiving the Eucharist together and being with the Church family. I love adoration because it is a quiet time for my mind and heart to be with God.

'Jesus Showed Me the Way Through'

By Cathi Kennedy
St. Monica Church, Mishawaka

January is a time when people choose a word for the year. This is often something like "courage," or "resilience," or "light." This practice can be a good tool to help focus on positive self-talk or an aspiration for professional growth. I did not choose a word for the year, but I did have a word that came to me during adoration: resentment. That's the word that, in quiet communion with God, came upon my heart.

It was not what I was expecting, and I was confused at first. Resentment? Why not "connection" or "encouragement" – something with a more positive connotation? Something to aspire to? But as I sat in front of Jesus and thought about it, I realized it is exactly the word I need. As always, He showed me the way through. Working through the resentment that's built up in my heart will create the space for good things like encouragement and connection, and maybe some peace.

'I Thank God for Using My Son to Get Closer to His Son'

By Diae Hunter
St. Charles Borromeo Church,
Fort Wayne

This morning at Mass, I saw a young boy begin to cry because he was too young to receive the Eucharist. His tears touched my heart because I, too, once cried for the Eucharist. I was raised in the Methodist Church and continued in that faith tradition after I married a Catholic man. When my 5-year-old son began talking about mommy's church and papa's church, I knew something had to change or my children would grow up

thinking it doesn't matter how they worship. I decided I could get as much from attending Catholic Mass as from a Methodist service, so we began attending Mass together as a family. It didn't take long before my heart began to hurt when, Sunday after Sunday, I watched everyone else receive Jesus in the Eucharist and I couldn't. The only solution was to become Catholic, and I began RCIA class as soon as possible. On January 25, 1998, I was confirmed and was finally able to receive Jesus – body and blood, soul and

divinity. That day, 25 years ago, was the beginning of a new journey with Jesus. Changes came slowly at first. I had a lot to learn. After I was taught daily mental prayer and began to attend daily Mass, my relationship with Jesus only grew more and more. The hardest thing about the pandemic was not being able to receive the Eucharist for so many weeks. Jesus is always present but never so present as in the Eucharist. I thank God for using my little son to bring me closer to His Son.

'I Have Never Left Adoration Empty'

By Jenny Born
St. Paul of the Cross,
Columbia City

There is no physical limit to the depth of the soul. It is not like our physical body that gets full with food we eat. The food from heaven — the Bread of Life, the Eucharist — is eternal and not confined to the rules of the physical world. There is no limit to the graces from this food, the Eucharist. It's a beautiful mystery that surpasses my understanding, but it fills my cup. I have never left adoration empty. Luke 24:5-6 says, "Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised." I don't seek Jesus from the world, I find Him in the Eucharist.



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At Dwenger, Bishop Rhoades Urges Students to Carry Christ

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

During his pastoral visit to Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne on Friday, January 12, Bishop Rhoades encouraged students to be like “Christophers” – bearers of Christ.

Hayden Fritz, a student at Bishop Dwenger whom Bishop Rhoades confirmed during the Mass he celebrated while visiting the school, had chosen St. Christopher as his confirmation name.

“Hayden’s confirmation is also an opportunity for all of us to remember our own confirmation and how we are living the gifts of the Holy Spirit we received,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. “We can ask ourselves how much we are following the exhortation of St. Paul to the Galatians, which we heard in the first reading. Paul says, ‘Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.’”

Bishop Rhoades continued to talk about Hayden’s confirmation saint and the story behind the meaning of “Christopher.”

“Hayden has chosen Christopher as his confirmation name. The name ‘Christopher’ – ‘Christophoros’ in Greek – means ‘Christ-bearer,’ one who carries Christ. St. Christopher is depicted in Western art carrying the Christ Child on his shoulder. This is based on a story that St. Christopher, who was very tall, would carry people across a dangerous stream where many people had previously drowned trying to get across. The story says that at one time, when St. Christopher was carrying a child on his shoulder across the stream, the child was revealed as Jesus.”

Bishop Rhoades concluded his homily by calling on the students to be like St. Christopher, to carry Christ to others.

“That’s what the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us to do – to bring Christ and His truth and His love to others. Hayden, may St. Christopher intercede for you today and every day, that you may always live by the Spirit and spread the love of Christ through your words and deeds as His faithful servant and disciple!”

Bishop Rhoades met with the school’s student council for lunch. There, he asked students about the school’s continued involvement with Catholic Relief Services, school dances, and the records of various athletic teams so far.

After an interview with a reporter for the Golden Trumpet, the school newspaper, Bishop Rhoades visited

ABOUT BISHOP DWENGER

Address: 300 E. Washington Center Rd., Fort Wayne
Phone number: 260-496-4700
Founded: 1963
Number of students: 910
Nickname: Saints
Principal: Jason Schiffli
Website: bishopdwenger.com

Tedra Lapp’s theology class, where students asked the bishop questions about how the pope was chosen. Bishop Rhoades responded that, while any Catholic male can become the pope, typically, the pope is chosen from among the clergy.

Bishop Rhoades also visited Alex Kromkowski’s Christology class. There, he spoke of Christ’s two natures, human and divine, as well as His one person. He also talked to students about the Prologue of John.

“That’s a great passage of Scripture to memorize. Did you know that in the old form of the Mass, before the Second



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Bishop Rhoades incenses a statue of Mary, Queen of All Saints, the patron of Bishop Dwenger High School, during Mass at the school on Friday, January 12.

Vatican Council, every Mass ended with the reading of the Prologue of John? Every Mass, ‘in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ And that’s kind of amazing.”



Engaging with students in a Christology class, Bishop Rhoades speaks of Christ’s two natures and the students’ extra-curricular activities.



Father Bobby Krusch proclaims the Gospel at Mass celebrated for students by Bishop Rhoades. During the homily, Bishop Rhoades encouraged the students to be “Christophers” — christbearers.



Bishop Rhoades confirmed sophomore Hayden Fritz during the celebration of Mass at Bishop Dwenger High School. Hayden’s father, Paul Clemente, chose Christopher as his confirmation name.

ry Christ to Others



Bishop Rhoades seals sophomore Hayden Fritz with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in front of his family and around 1,000 peers during a Mass celebrated on Friday, January 12.



Bishop Dwenger Principal Jason Schiffli greets Bishop Rhoades as he arrives for his pastoral visit on January 12. In an interview, Schiffli said that spiritual life at Bishop Dwenger has developed significantly within the last year, especially with the introduction of lunchtime Masses.



tures and singular person after asking about



ishop Dwenger. Fritz, sponsored by his grand-

Bishop Dwenger Expands Fun, Faith-Filled Opportunities

By Joshua Schipper

This school year, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne has seen the expansion and introduction of various programs and offerings. Perhaps most notably, the school revealed plans for a technical academy called St. Joseph the Worker. The proposed academy, a partnership between Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers High School, would offer programs in entrepreneurship, med tech, and construction trades.

While still in the planning stages, Bishop Dwenger Principal Jason Schiffli said he is hopeful to break ground on the facility next fall.

For students to maintain a well-rounded experience at Bishop Dwenger, the high school focuses on its "four pillars" – Academic Life, Spiritual Life, an Active Life, and a Life of Service.

Academically, Schiffli said that the high school has seen a lot of growth in its business department, which now offers numerous dual credit classes so that students can earn college credits alongside their high school credits. Schiffli said that next year, the business department hopes to offer a graduation pathway as well.

Continued success of the Mother Teresa Program, established in 2020 for students with mild and moderate needs, allows Bishop Dwenger to provide a Catholic education to those

who may be unable to thrive in a traditional classroom setting. Assistant Principal Amy Johns teaches the program's theology class.

"She loves her faith" Schiffli said. "She loves working with kids, little ones. They're making all these fun Catholic crafts, you know, that perhaps you'd see mostly in like a fourth or fifth or sixth grade class, right? But the kids are learning about their faith through art that they're doing; she does have a lot of fun, hands-on stuff that they're doing. That is really cool."

The school has continued to strengthen its spiritual pillar this year. Schiffli said he is particularly proud of increased foot traffic to the school's Queen of All Saints Chapel.

"Throughout the day, classes are coming down to the chapel to pray. And during adoration, the chapel is getting filled up. Some of our theology teachers actually conduct classes in there where they're talking about Scripture."

Father Bobby Krisch, Co-Chaplain at the school, spoke of spiritual life at Bishop Dwenger as part of what makes the school a possibility.

"It's what makes this place great, because it becomes the backdrop of everything that we do here. ... God has created a world that is ordered, it can be understood, and we come to know Him here at

Dwenger."

Another new offering Bishop Dwenger has implemented for its students is the opportunity for Mass during lunch periods. After carefully planning how to maintain the Eucharistic fast and a reverent yet brief liturgy, Father Krisch and fellow Co-Chaplain Father Michael Ammer began offering this opportunity to students in September.

Extra-curricular activities give students the opportunity to build bonds with their peers who have common interests, and Bishop Dwenger has expanded its offering of activities within the last several years. Schiffli said he tells freshmen coming into the school, "Make your mark," encouraging them to participate in a variety of clubs and teams.

Among groups that students have recently formed are a baking club and a medical club. PAWS, another addition to Bishop Dwenger's extra-curricular offering, is geared toward students interested in animal care and veterinary science.

Among the many fun activities that Bishop Dwenger hosts for its students, Schiffli pointed to a one-off event happening this school year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the annual "purse bingo" fundraiser. For around half



of a day, the students can have fun at a carnival hosted by the school. Then, in the evening, families and students from the community, partner schools, and feeder schools will have the opportunity to encounter the offerings of Bishop Dwenger while also enjoying carnival games, bouncy houses, and an ice rink.

Schiffli said Bishop Dwenger has also expanded opportunities for service. While each student is required to complete 10 hours of service each semester as part of their theology classes, many students go beyond this requirement.

The Sustainable Environmental Activities Club, formed within the last several years, for example, gives students the chance to make a positive impact on the environment. The club is tasked with operating the school recycling program and Earth Week activities, and it promotes green actions by the school. Some students serve the community by tutoring children at the Euell Wilson Center, and others give their time back to Bishop Dwenger to promote fundraisers and development of the school.

For more information about enrolling at Bishop Dwenger High School, visit bishopdwenger.com

HOMELESS, from page 1

and other items desperately needed by the unhoused. Meals are prepared and served by a rotating group of individuals or organizations who sign up to help. On Sunday, January 7, the folks at St. Henry stepped up. Foster called what he does “a hand up, not a hand out.”

This particular evening, as cold as it was, saw a sizable turnout, with about 40 to 50 souls gathered together. Foster told Today's Catholic that the weather influences the turnout.

“During the winter, it's a lot shorter,” Foster said. “We get about 50 to 70 during the winter; during the summer, we get about 200, 250 people out here.”

Foster is keenly aware of life on the street, having been there himself. It's Foster's own knowledge and history of having experienced the saving power of God's grace that propels him to bring what he calls his M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry to the people, many of whom are where he once was in life, face down and in a bad way. (M.I.S.F.I.T.S. stands for Moving In Spiritual Fellowship Including Those Suffering). Foster and his team have spent 20 years of Sundays bringing sustenance – and hope – to those most in need.

“I call them our precariously housed,” Foster said. “They're couch-surfing right now, staying in somebody's garage, or they'll stay at the Mission, wherever they can go just to stay out of the cold.”

Foster goes on to say what gets provided.

“If their clothes are wet, we usually have dry clothes for them. They get a hot meal – and a spiritual meal, as well.”

In working his ministry, Foster is very active in providing the best help he can to meet each individual's particular needs.

“I vet them so I know that they aren't drunk or high,” Foster said, “but if you've been in this misery, you know; you come out, give your story, because they listen to you. Everyone here has a story. You listen – listen and love. You listen once with human ears, then you listen with God's ears. You love them like we know how to love; love them like God loves them. Don't judge them, don't criticize them, don't ask them why ... unless they want to talk to you. Doing this has been an amazing blessing for us – not just for them, but for us, as well. It's been amazing.”

The effects of the M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry can also be seen in its graduates, those who have been helped off the streets and who are now coming back to serve others who are where they once were. A man at the recent Sunday gathering, Mark, told Today's Catholic that he was living with his wife in their Dodge Durango.



Photos by Scott Warden

The homeless stand in line as volunteers from St. Henry Church pass out chili, hot dogs, fresh fruit and vegetables, cookies, and bottled water during an event to help feed and clothe men and women living on the streets of Fort Wayne on Sunday, January 7.

HOW TO HELP

To learn more about M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry, including how to donate items and sign up to provide a meal at the weekly gatherings, visit misfitsministry.org.

To learn more about the work being done by St. Henry Parish and its community outreach programs, search for St. Henry Thrift Shoppe on Facebook.

“Me and my wife were sleeping in my Durango, homeless off and on for six years because we had nowhere else to go,” Mark said. “Something just clicked, and we put God first, and we've been surviving ever since. We're no longer homeless. My wife is employed, and I'm working, and we've had our own house for four years now.”

Another man, Todd, was also present, and shared that the M.I.S.F.I.T.S. saved him from life on the streets.

“I was going through a violent time in my life,” Todd said. “People were always attacking us, and one day, I was given the number for the M.I.S.F.I.T.S., and I went to that service and never looked back. They saved me,” Todd said, holding back tears. “M.I.S.F.I.T.S. saved me from the streets; they saved me. They saved my life, man. I was out here in the cold.”





Volunteers from St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne serve the homeless a hot meal in downtown Fort Wayne on Sunday, January 7.



It's why Todd now gives back, partly by showing up to the Sunday events underneath the railroad elevation, so he can give a hand up.

For the homeless gathered, the cold night was made a little warmer by the volunteers from St. Henry, who made and served hot dogs and chili to eager hands. They also gave out bags of fresh fruit, cookies, and bottled water. Partnering with Donnie Foster and his M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry is a way to live out the message of the Gospel, they said. It gives them a chance to show that St. Henry is dedicated to bringing the love of Christ to those who may suffer not only from homelessness and hunger, but also from a lack of hope.

Paul Gerardot, Property Manager at St. Henry, began partnering with Foster and his M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to deliver "truckloads of food every week to those in need," Gerardot said. "Since then, we have become friends, and together, we try to help people of all walks of life with their needs. The presence and help of St. Henry [at the January 7 event] was just one more step in our journey."

Gerardot said he wanted the St. Henry community – and the Fort Wayne Catholic community as a whole – to become more aware "of the homelessness crisis, and hopefully people will find a value in being kind to one another. The simplest and purest way to do this is just to give them some food. St. Henry is going to do it again and again."

Gerardot added that he is "blessed to be able to do this, and I ask others to join us in filling the need."

Foster and all those involved in his ministry, as well as the



Top, a volunteer gives a man a new blanket during an outreach night organized by M.I.S.F.I.T.S. Ministry in Fort Wayne. Above, homeless men and women eat their meals while sitting underneath a railroad bridge in downtown Fort Wayne.

volunteers in the St. Henry community, certainly would make Pope Francis proud, as they do not just throw money at poverty. They touch it – and are touched by it.

"You give back where your misery was and where your ministry ought to be," Foster said. "We've learned a lot from them. We've learned that they're just like us."

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

"Life is the most basic human right, and without it, no other rights can be enjoyed or protected."

- unknown



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MARCH FOR LIFE

Thousands to March for the Unborn in Indianapolis

BY SCOTT WARDEN

On Monday, January 22, thousands of pro-life supporters from across the state are expected to gather in Indianapolis to give witness to the sanctity of all human life – particularly the lives of the unborn – at the 2024 Indiana March for Life. For the first time since the event was founded in 2018, groups from each of the state's five dioceses – Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indianapolis, Evansville, Lafayette, and Gary – will participate, and four of the state's five bishops, including Bishop Rhoades, will celebrate the Mass for Life, which will precede the march.

With the 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and allowing individual states to regulate abortion within their bound-

aries, pro-life leaders in Indiana saw a greater need to focus their efforts on the state and local levels, prompting in them a desire to grow the March for Life in Indianapolis.

This new legislative reality "has resulted in an effort of the Ecclesiastical Province of the five dioceses in Indiana to solidify a common voice and witness to the Church's long-standing, Christ-centered teaching on the dignity of the person from the moment of conception to natural death," Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson told *The Criterion*, the newspaper of the archdiocese.

Nearly 200 youths and adult leaders from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will travel by bus to Indianapolis to take part in a pre-march Youth Rally, as well as the Mass for Life, the march itself, and the day's other activities.

"While local advocacy has always been an essential

INDIANA MARCH FOR LIFE SCHEDULE

9-11 a.m.: Youth Rally with the Sisters of Life and Sarah Kroger at the Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave.

11:30 a.m.: Mass for Life with the Bishops of Indiana at the Indiana Convention Center

1 p.m.: Pre-March Rally, corner of Georgia Street and Capitol Avenue, sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis

1:45 p.m.: March for Life, Georgia Street and Illinois Street to the State Capitol Building, 200 W. Washington St.

2:30 p.m.: Post-March Rally, South Steps of the State Capitol Building

and necessary part of the pro-life movement, it is now vitally important to advocate

for pro-life legislation and community-wide support of unborn children and mothers in need," said John Pratt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "Two of our neighboring states have, in the last 15 months, voted to pass aggressively pro-abortion laws/constitutional amendments. Our Catholic faith urges and compels us to pray, dream, and take action to let a culture of life truly reign in our state and entire country. The Indiana March for Life is pivotal given the realities of our day."

To reflect the increased importance of the statewide march, organizers added events to the day's schedule, including the Youth Rally – a ticketed event for students in grades 8-12 that will take place from 9-11 a.m. at the Indiana Convention Center prior to the Mass for Life. The Youth Rally will be led by musician Sarah Kroger and members of the New York-based Sisters of Life, a religious order founded

more than 30 years ago to care for mothers and their unborn children and provide a witness to the God-given dignity of all human life.

In a video conference with youth leaders from across the state, Sister Mary Grace, who joined the Sisters of Life in 2013 and professed first vows in 2018, shared what she hopes the young people in Indianapolis will take away from the event.

"We've walked with thousands of women in New York City and beyond, and what we've come to learn is that truly, in the pro-life movement, love is the only answer," Sister Mary Grace said. "As simple and as profound as that is, most of the women that come into our care, they don't need their problems to be fixed. Even though we offer them all the emotional, physical, spiritual, mental support they need, ultimately, any woman in crisis needs to know she's loved. Because I'll tell you, when a woman knows that she's loved, she can do anything... she's even capable of receiving a life they didn't plan for and receiving a new gift of their own life."

Sister Mary Grace continued: "So first and foremost, we want to give the youth an experience of that, actually, for them to be told through stories and dynamic insights of the sisters, but through the whole event, that they are good and that their life does not depend on how good their grades are, or what kind of friends they're with, or what kind of academic abilities they have, or how sporty and successful they are, or what kind of fears they face and the lies that they hear as a youth. ... We love them, and they need to know that their worth doesn't depend on any other condition apart from the fact that God wants them, wills them, and they're deeply wanted."

Sister Mary Grace told the youth leaders that this will be the first year the order has accepted invitations to join local marches, and despite being inundated with requests, it has chosen just two in which to participate: Hawaii, she joked, for obvious, weather-related reasons, and Indiana, for its dedication to the cause of life.

"For us, when we discern where we go, we ask the Holy Spirit, 'Show us where you want us,' and we've been

Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

— Psalm 100:3

St. Stanislaus Kostka

55756 Tulip Road, New Carlisle



*May the Divine Guidance
that assisted St. Joseph
prevail for those who
are active in the
pro-life movement.*

**St. Joseph
Hessen Cassel**



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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

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
South Bend

hounded by you people," she said of pro-life leaders in Indiana. "And that's not really a reflection of us as much as it is that there is a spirit and movement rising up in Indiana at this moment that I think we need to pay attention to. We need to wake up to the reality that you are one of the few states that God has given the capacity to be like a lighthouse to the rest of the United States right now. You're one of the few lasting states that are holding true to the possibility of a culture of life in America. You're one of the few remaining."

Sister Mary Grace continued: "And so for the sake of your state that is crying out, and also for the sake of the rest of the country, too, the fact that you are willing to wave the flag that you're a pro-life state, the fact that you're willing to buckle down and form your youth, that you're willing to keep marching even though *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, what you're speaking to is for your youth but it is also outstanding for your country. As a community based on the East Coast, where some of the worst abortion laws are happening, New York needs Indiana to witness to this; Massachusetts needs it, Colorado needs it. We're desperate to know and be convinced that it's still possible to have a pro-life state."



"The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being."
— Pope John Paul II



Since 1973, more than 63 million babies have died by abortion. It's time to stop the violence!
Pray to end abortion...
and begin emotional
and spiritual healing.
St. Mary of the Assumption
DECATUR
and St. Joseph School

**"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 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
South Bend, Indiana 46637**



**"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

Annoyed but Full of Hope: My Catholic Wish List for 2024

You have no idea how many of my columns have begun as a germ of a thought – usually an annoyed question – scribbled on a scrap of paper. This one reflects my late, rather curmudgeonly, “wish list” of what I’d like to see happen within Catholicism in 2024.

Indulge me, please. Let me just get it off my chest. It’s not a bad list. In fact, it may well reflect the thoughts of many who, after reading about the rather opulent Roman apartments used by Cardinal Raymond Burke (recently told by Pope Francis to begin paying market rates for the place), and the newly convicted embezzler Cardinal Angelo Becciu (whose vast residence adjacent to St. Peter’s Square includes a “restaurant quality” kitchen and servant quarters for which he reportedly pays only a “nominal monthly rent”) may perhaps wonder:

– Why are these followers of Christ, who wear red as a symbol of their readiness to die for the faith, living in luxury to begin with?

– How do they look at the poor living under Bernini’s colonnade and then swan off to their fancy digs in good conscience?

– Do they learn about housing shortages in every great city, and of working people being unable to afford reasonable living space, and consider how incongruous their lived

lives are to their stated purposes?

– In the 21st century, well past the age of medieval monarchies and religious peerages, what justifies their privilege?

– If two cardinals are living like this in Rome, there are others, of course. Why are any cardinals living large while the bishop of Rome resides in a fairly humble suite at the Domus Sanctae Marthae (“St. Martha’s House”) and takes his meals in common with visiting priests and prelates?

This, in a way, touches on the second item on my list and prompts another question: Why are bishops still living in pretty mansions instead of parish rectories, where they could, importantly, be among their priests and (perhaps more importantly) with the parishioners they are meant to shepherd?

I’ve written about this before – and some bishops have, in fact, either sold or repurposed their mansions and taken up residence in rectories, but why aren’t more of them? In 2024, can’t the shepherds become more incarnational, living and praying and hoping and laughing and crying with the people they serve?

Isn’t that what Jesus did? Number three? This should be an absolute no-brainer, yet we are still waiting to hear the findings of an investigation into Father Marko Rupnik, the accused sexual abuser of more than 20 women and at least one man,



GUEST
COMMENTARY

ELIZABETH SCALIA

whose own Jesuit order found the accusations highly credible before they dismissed him for being disobedient. His accusers were initially not even going to get an investigation until news broke that Rupnik had been quietly incardinated in Slovenia, which rightly created a worldwide furor and finally set the fact-finding wheels in motion.

And here, we’d thought the Church had at least learned its lesson about moving around bad priests!

Speaking of learning and lessons, can 2024 be the year when the institutional Church finally reads the room – or the emptying pews – and begins to seriously address how to better teach this fascinating, well-reasoned but often complex faith? Clearly the “just get them through to confirmation” method is an abject failure. The kids aren’t staying, and neither are the parents, and for one enormous but simple reason: They don’t know why they should.

Most Catholics don’t know

SCALIA, page 17

A Eucharistic Word: Tabernacle

While praying in our pew after Communion during a recent Sunday Mass, our 6-year-old son decided to administer a pop quiz to his willing little sister. “What was the first tabernacle?” he asked. “I have no idea,” she replied. “Mary, of course! Her tummy held Jesus for the first time,” he answered. “But what was the second tabernacle?” she shot back. My son then looked at me, tables turned on him from trying to stump his sister to now being stumped by her. “Do you know?” he asked me.

Of course, I could have gone a variety of directions with this. But as I raised my eyes, I was drawn immediately to St. Joseph in the creche, as we were still in the Christmas season. “St. Joseph’s arms were,” I blurted out without much thinking.

That got me thinking, then, of what the subsequent “tabernacles” might’ve been. The manger itself? Maybe the arms of the innkeeper’s wife? Maybe a shepherd? No matter who or what might’ve held Our Lord next, we know it was an unworthy place for the Lord of the universe.

But what of the tabernacles today? We have beautiful receptacles crafted of precious metals in churches and chapels. Our tabernacles contain the Eucharistic species remaining after Mass, especially reserved for the sick and dying and for both public and private worship, and adoration outside of Mass.



GUEST
COLUMN

MICHAEL HEINLEIN

The glowing sanctuary lamp next to the tabernacle tells us Jesus is there. When we recognize His presence, we are drawn to show reverence to Christ’s sacramental presence in our midst. By gestures and prayers, we make clear our faith in His Real Presence and show Him our love and devotion.

As my mind wandered about tabernacles, I thought of how each of us, too, in a sense, becomes a tabernacle. We are members of Christ’s body by baptism. We are temples of the Holy Spirit.

When we receive holy Communion, Christ’s body, blood, soul, and divinity dwells within us just as the Word was made flesh and came to dwell among us in Mary’s womb at Nazareth so long ago. As the bread and wine lying in the altar are changed by the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Eucharistic flesh and blood, so, too, ought we be changed by receiving the sacrament.

HEINLEIN, page 17

The Work of the Apostles Brings Us to Jesus Christ



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Jonah, an Old Testament writing seldom presented in the liturgy. While Jonah is the central figure in this book, he was not the author. The author is unknown. Scholars believe that the Book of Jonah was written sometime after the Babylonian Exile of the Jews.

The reading speaks of Jonah’s visit to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, located roughly in the region of modern Syria. He went there, at God’s command, to preach conversion.

Preaching conversion in

Nineveh was a tall order, and the Jews who first heard this reading knew exactly how difficult the assignment was. No city on earth had the image of evil and vice that surrounded Nineveh.

Nineveh, after all, was the capital of Assyria. Through the centuries, many neighboring powers invaded, and overwhelmed, the Holy Land. None of these invaders matched the Assyrians for bloodthirstiness and brutality. To convert the people of Nineveh would have been regarded as almost impossible.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Paul was challenged in leading the Corinthian Christians to a fully devout Christian life. The city was what Nineveh was symbolically to the ancient Jews. Corinth was known around the Roman imperial world as a center of vice and licentiousness. This distinction said very much since vice and lewdness prevailed throughout the empire.

The apostle called upon the

Christians of Corinth to remember that time passes quickly, and that life is short. They had before them two options. The first was life in Jesus – a life that is everlasting, but it requires fidelity to the Gospel and the Gospel’s values. The other option was eternal death, awaiting those who spurn the Gospel.

St. Paul obviously urges the Corinthians to be holy.

The Gospel of Mark provides the last reading. First is a brief mention that John the Baptist “has been handed over,” a phrase used to predict the arrest of Jesus on Good Friday. The reading continues to say that Jesus was preaching that the “Kingdom of God is near.”

Then, the Lord calls Simon and Andrew, brothers and fishermen, as apostles, to be followed by the call of James and John.

For the early Christians, the Twelve were especially important. From the apostles came knowledge of Jesus. It was vital to assure, and present, their credentials. Thus, this Gospel carefully identifies the apostles.

The Lord’s call was sudden. They were unprepared, yet Jesus and the offer of salvation caused them to drop everything and follow Jesus.

The call of the apostles is instructive. They were part of the Lord’s plan of salvation. They continued the Lord’s work.

Reflection

The Church called us liturgically to celebrate the birth of Christ. Two weeks later, it celebrated the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Then, it offered us the feast of the Lord’s baptism by John in the Jordan River.

These celebrations taught critical lessons about Jesus. He is human, the son of Mary. He is the Son of God, the Savior, assuming our sins even though Jesus was without sin.

Now, the Church tells us that Jesus calls us to eternal life. He charged the apostles specifically to continue the work of salvation. He taught them, prepared them. As Jesus planned, the apostles, through the Church founded upon Peter, still teach

us and guide us to Christ.

These four apostles’ instant response made clear that for them, nothing was more important in life than being with Christ, than following Christ.

Maybe questions are in order. What is our impression of Jesus? For us, is the Lord our great hope for finding joy and purpose in life?

READINGS

Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalms 25:4-9; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Monday: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Psalms 89:20-22, 25-26; Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Psalms 24:7-10; Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalms 89:4-5, 27-30; Mark 4:1-20

Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Psalms 117:1-2; Mark 16:15-18

Friday: 2 Timothy 1:1-18 or Titus 1:1-5; Psalms 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mark 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Psalms 51:12-17; Mark 4:35-41

It's Not Your Life, It's Not Your Death, It's Not Your Choice

When I was an auxiliary bishop in the Los Angeles archdiocese some years ago, the state of California was militating in favor of physician-assisted suicide. During the campaign, while driving through my pastoral region, I saw a pro-euthanasia billboard with the following message: "My Life, my Death, my Choice." Immediately, I thought of St. Paul's diametrically opposite remark in his Letter to the Romans: "We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." I do believe that in regard to the issue of assisted suicide, it comes down to this: Did the billboard get it right, or did St. Paul? Does my life belong to me, or is it a gift from God? Is my death a matter of my personal choice, or is it under God's providence and at His disposal?

This great question has come to the forefront of my mind once again, since my current home state of Minnesota is considering legislation very similar to the one that California did indeed adopt. The proposal is couched in language designed to assuage moral anxieties: It will be offered only to those who have a terminal diagnosis and who are making the decision in complete autonomy.

In regard to the first point, color me very skeptical. In many countries in Europe and in Canada, where physician-assisted suicide was approved in a similarly limited way, the restrictions on who can access it and the safeguards in place to prevent elder abuse, among

other things, have been gradually lifted. In many of those places, the elderly, those with dementia, those experiencing depression or severe anxiety can all be candidates for this form of "treatment." Though the advocates of medically assisted suicide will deny it until the cows come home, this law places the entire state directly on the slipperiest of slopes. True freedom is ordered toward moral value and ultimately to the supreme value who is God.

And in regard to the second point, we're back to the California billboard. Though we place a huge premium on it in our culture, I don't consider autonomy the supreme value. Authentic freedom is not radical self-determination; rather, it is ordered to certain goods that the mind has discerned. I become free, for instance, to play golf, not because I swing the club any way I want, but instead in the measure that I have interiorized the rules that properly govern the swing. A purely "autonomous" golfer will be a failure on the course. In precisely the same way, a sheerly autonomous moral agent will wreak havoc all around him and lose his ethical bearings. If I speak obsessively of "choice" but never even raise a question regarding the good or evil being chosen, I find myself in a moral and intellectual wasteland. True freedom is ordered toward moral value and ultimately to the supreme value who is God.

Some advocates of physician-assisted suicide will argue that autonomy over one's body is of utmost importance for those who face the prospect of a dreadfully painful demise. But this consideration is largely



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

beside the point, for palliative care is so advanced that in practically all cases, pain can be successfully managed. I say this with special emphasis in the state of Minnesota, which is justly famous for the high quality of its hospitals, including and especially the Mayo Clinic.

The deeper point is this: Even if a dying person found himself in great pain, actively killing himself would not be morally justifiable. The reason is that the direct killing of the innocent is, in the language of the Church, "intrinsically evil" – which is to say, incapable of being morally sanctioned, no matter how extenuating the circumstances or how beneficial the consequences. I have argued before that when this category is lost sight of, a dangerous relativism holds sway. And when even the direct taking of innocent life is a matter of personal choice, the entire moral enterprise has in fact collapsed into incoherence.

To those in other parts of the country, I would urge vigilance. If this legislation hasn't come to your state yet, it probably will soon enough. If you stand for the culture of life, fight it!

Bishop Robert Barron is the Bishop of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and the Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

WORD ON FIRE

HEINLEIN, from page 16

When God wants us to be His tabernacle, what do we do? The short answer is, of course, is to live as Christ did. The Eucharist contains the grace we need to live Christ and give Christ. The Eucharist is our road map to virtue, the blueprint for holiness. The Eucharist is the key to open the tabernacle of our hearts and let Christ live in the world. While I'm not sure what – or more likely who – was the second tabernacle, I know it's a calling for each of us. Will we stretch out our arms, open our hearts, give Him room?

Michael R. Heinlein is author of "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

SCALIA, from page 16

what they don't know. They know the scandals; they see the privileged princes; they're savvy enough to understand media missteps and walk-backs, but Catholics don't know enough about the Eucharist, or the varied, subversive, and uplifting power of prayer (and all the little whys and wherefores of the faith) to perceive that the Mass is nevertheless the most exciting place to be. People want to believe in something, but Catholicism is doing a lousy job of explaining itself. It's precisely because folks want to believe in something bigger than themselves – something extraordinary and powerful and real – that people accept invitations to learn about sigils and supernaturalism and the mediocre magic of "New Age" gnosticism. But while they're doing that, they're missing out on the

greatest supernatural engagement in their midst – the one that begins with the Sign of the Cross and concludes with the veil between heaven and earth being penetrated as the God-man becomes present and alive to us and within us – with miracles and angels and saints all along the way. Listen, perhaps if we seriously teach the adults – not just pointing them to 2,000 years of documents and expecting them to know where to begin, but really forming the adults – they will become on fire for the faith and will want to pass it on to their children, not as an obligation but as a gift bestowed. It is good, even exciting, to know the faith. It is good to serve justice and mercy with abiding love. And, ahh! It is good, now and then, to indulge a frustrated rant. Elizabeth Scalia is the Culture Editor for OSV News.

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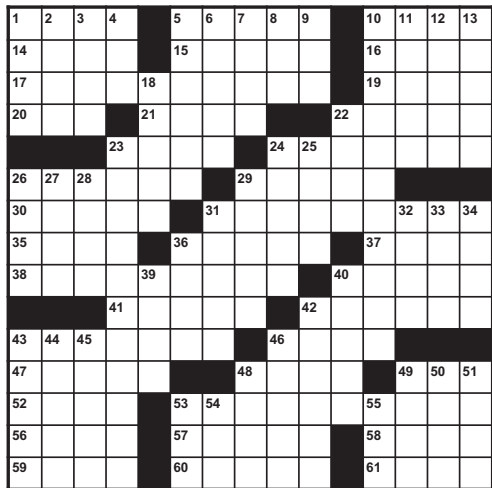
Gospel for January 21, 2024
Mark 1:14-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B: After John's arrest. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JOHN KINGDOM SIMON FISHERMEN FARTHER IN A BOAT LEFT	JESUS REPENT BROTHER COME JAMES MENDING THEIR FATHER	THE TIME THE SEA ANDREW FOLLOWED ZEBEDEE CALLED HIRED
---	--	---

IN A BOAT

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



ACROSS

- 1 "What God ____ joined together..."
- 5 "Regina ____"
- 10 Soaks, as flax
- 14 "... lema sabachthani?" (Mk 15:34)
- 15 Catholic comedian married to Burns
- 16 Top officer, briefly
- 17 Opening pair?
- 19 Wax, at the drugstore
- 20 Father
- 21 Agenda notation
- 22 The Sacred ____ of Jesus
- 23 Scent
- 24 Latin parties
- 26 Complain
- 29 Waits
- 30 Saint for managers of the Hilton and the like
- 31 Secondary occupations
- 35 Wife of Shiva
- 36 Bogs down
- 37 Exude slowly
- 38 They visited the newborn Jesus
- 40 Bay
- 41 They were found in Juan Diego's cape at Guadalupe
- 42 Follows
- 43 Campbell's "Wichita ____"
- 46 Second of the twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament
- 47 Got up
- 48 Of moderate temperature
- 49 Alphabet string
- 52 Past tense of bid
- 53 Vocation
- 56 Ancient Egyptian life-giving force (var.)
- 57 Summits of buildings
- 58 Hindu goddess of fire
- 59 Make a home
- 60 Great achievement
- 61 Hissy fit

DOWN

- 1 Influential Catholic Hollywood costume designer
- 2 Catholic actor, Robert ____
- 3 Hopper
- 4 LBJ beagle
- 5 Church song leader
- 6 Tree of the birch family
- 7 Type of sch.
- 8 Book after Ex
- 9 Serpent's tail?
- 10 Closing hymn
- 11 Letter by which a priest is released from one diocese and accepted into another
- 12 Earth
- 13 Sings like Ella
- 18 Assisted
- 22 Cad
- 23 Adjective for God
- 24 Vatican news service
- 25 Ancient Roman day
- 26 Tibetan oxen
- 27 Indian nursemaid
- 28 "... there is neither slave no free person, there is not ____" (Gal 3:28)
- 29 "... the ____ of the air and the fish of the sea..." (Ps 8:9)
- 31 Seductively beautiful woman
- 32 Founder of Our Sunday Visitor newspaper, Fr. John ____
- 33 OT prophetic book
- 34 Hardens
- 36 Flat-topped rise
- 39 Nazareth, to Jesus
- 40 List parts
- 42 Most painful
- 43 Father of Rachel
- 44 Angry
- 45 Swellings
- 46 Former seaport in Israel
- 48 Fleece
- 49 A sacrament is an outward ____
- 50 Novelist Morrison
- 51 Single entity
- 53 ____-Cana Conference
- 54 Bird that attacked Sinbad's ship
- 55 Stockholm flier

Answer key can be found on page 19



OSV News photo/courtesy University of Notre Dame

Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then President of the University of Notre Dame, second from left, joins hands with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Reverend Edgar Chandler, and Monsignor Robert J. Hagarty of Chicago, far right, in this 1964 file photo. As King taught, "We must confront the evils of racism and prejudice with the love of Christ," Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, who is President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a January 10 statement ahead of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which was celebrated on Monday, January 15.

Reflect on King's Teachings to Confront 'Evils of Racism'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – The federal holiday honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave Americans a time to "pause and reflect" on his "indelible legacy" and "his rallying cry in the pursuit of justice and peace," the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a statement released on Wednesday, January 10.

As King taught, "We must confront the evils of racism and prejudice with the love of Christ," Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese

for the Military Services said, quoting the slain civil rights leader: "Deeply etched in the fiber of our religious tradition is the conviction that men are made in the image of God ... the heirs of a legacy of dignity and worth. ... This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January, which this year

was celebrated on January 15, his birthday. King led the civil rights movement until his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. He was just 39 years old and would have turned 95 this year.

"Each of us can and must work for justice and peace, remembering Reverend King's call to action: 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Archbishop Broglio said in his statement.

As "a champion of civil

rights," King used the word of God "to effect change of hearts and minds," the archbishop continued. "Given the issues of migration, antisemitism, and racial and religious discrimination touching our communities, we are reminded that the work of bringing people together in mutual recognition and cooperation is never really done. There remain forces in the human condition that would tear asunder what has been accomplished."

He called all to "remain vigilant to take advantage of

positive signs existing in evangelization efforts and continued civic progress within human relations. These things help shape communities that manifest the affirmative outcomes arising from our varied races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds."

Archbishop Broglio added, "The Catholic Church is committed to this endeavor and willingly clasps hands and hearts with all others of like mind, faith, and hope."

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Italian Dinner Buffet

GARRETT – The Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph Catholic Church, on the corner of Ijams and Houston Streets, are hosting an Italian Dinner Buffet on Saturday, February 3, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Proceeds will help restore the St. Joseph Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Dinner tickets are \$20. There is a cash raffle, \$5 each or six for \$25. Visit stjosephgarrett.com for information.

Wine, Brush, and Canvas

GARRETT – St. Joseph Parish, 300 W. Houston St., will host a board and brush Eucharistic art event where you will be guided in applying paint to canvas to create your own masterpiece of faith on Tuesday, January 23, from 6-8 p.m. Must be 21 years of age and registration is required. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 payable at the door. Contact Eileen Sarrazine at 260-750-3706 or register online at stjosephgarrett.com.

Trivia Knight 2024

FORT WAYNE – Bishop Luers High School will host a Trivia Knight on Friday, February 2, in the gymnasium, 333 E. Paulding Rd. Gather nine of your smartest friends/family for 10 rounds of trivia, a 50/50 raffle, and heads and tails. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and trivia begins at 7 p.m. This year's dress-up theme is Decades (best dressed wins a prize). Bring your own snacks. Beer and wine available for purchase. Tickets are \$125 per table of 10. Register today at bishopluer.org. Must be 21 or older. Contact Kristin Spoltman at 260-456-1261 or kspoltman@bishopluer.org for information.

BBQ and Bourbon Evening

FORT WAYNE – An evening of fellowship for men 21 and older is planned for Friday, February 9, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Jude Church's Thaddeus Hall, 2109 E. State Blvd. Eastern Carolina BBQ will be paired with a couple of rye whiskies. A preview of the 2024 Bourbon Pilgrimage will also be shared. Please bring a side dish. You do not need to drink to join. Contact Kris Church at 260-484-6609 or kchurch@stjudefw.org for information.

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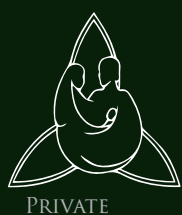
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Church, World to Mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A major leap forward in Christian unity began with an embrace, as Pope Francis recalled.

St. Paul VI and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople met, and embraced, in Jerusalem in January of 1964, and the following year, they lifted the mutual excommunications their churches had issued in 1054.

Pope Francis marked the anniversary during his Angelus address on Saturday, January 6, telling a crowd in St. Peter's Square that the two leaders had broken down "a wall of incommunicability that had kept Catholics and Orthodox apart for centuries. Let us learn from the embrace of those two great men of the Church on the path to Christian unity: praying together, walking together, working together."

The praying, walking, and working will be highlighted January 18-25 as Christians around the world celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

After the embrace, Pope Paul VI had told the patriarch, "What can and must now commence to develop is that fraternal charity, which is ingenious in finding new ways of showing itself, and which, taking its lessons from the past, is ready to pardon, more ready to believe good than evil, careful above all to conform itself to the Divine Master and to allow itself to be drawn to and transformed by Him."

The prayers and reflections for this year's week of prayer – focused on the theme, "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" – were prepared by an ecumenical group of Christians in Burkina Faso, which has been "experiencing a serious security crisis" since 2016. Christians have been the target of jihadist terrorist attacks, and hundreds of churches have been forced to close.

Yet, the materials said, the situation has prompted Christian communities not only to pray for peace but to work together to care for people displaced by the fighting and to promote Christian-Muslim dialogue.

In Rome, Pope Francis will be joined by Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury on Thursday, January 25, for vespers closing the week of prayer and to witness just how much fraternal charity exists among bishops of their churches.

Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, told Catholic News Service on Tuesday, January 9, that



"We still are not being faithful to Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper that His disciples be one."

BISHOP BRIAN FARRELL, SECRETARY OF THE DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY

the pope and archbishop will formally send forth 25 pairs of bishops – an Anglican and a Catholic from the same region – who have promised to pray and work together, usually on a joint charitable project.

Pope Francis and Archbishop Welby sent forth a similar group of 19 Anglican and 19 Catholic bishops during a prayer service in Rome in 2019. The twinning is a project

of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, known as IARCCUM. The teams of bishops will have seminars in both Rome and Canterbury, England.

Some of the highlights in Vatican ecumenical relations during the past year included: Pope Francis' ecumenical peace pilgrimage to South Sudan with Archbishop

Welby and the Reverend Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the Church of Scotland; the Vatican visit of Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria, Egypt, and Pope Francis' announcement that he added the 21 Coptic martyrs murdered by Islamic State terrorists in 2015 to the Roman Martyrology, the list of saints' feast days; and the ecumenical prayer vigil that preceded

the opening of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.

Bishop Farrell said it is difficult to know what else to add because "visits, mutual support, ecumenical dialogues – it's all so normal now that we take it for granted."

"The challenge we have is to not get used to the good relations that we have and forget that we are on a journey toward full unity," he said. "This is the temptation of the ecumenical movement, to just kind of be happy with what we have achieved."

"We still are not being faithful to Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper that His disciples be one," the bishop said.

The global ecumenical movement is also increasingly focused on 2025, which is the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which gave birth to the Nicene Creed.

The anniversary, Bishop Farrell said, will be an opportunity for the Christian churches "to bring the fundamentals of the faith into the center of Christian life, because we have a tendency, especially here in the West, to think of the Church as what it does, but we forget the very foundation of what we're doing is our faith in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Another Nicaea-related ecumenical hope is making less progress, Bishop Farrell said.

Different Christian communities celebrated Easter on different days until the Council of Nicaea in 325 decided that for the unity of the Christian community and its witness, Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

But the Julian calendar, which is what Christians used in the fourth century and many Orthodox churches still use, was out of sync with the actual solar year, so March 21 – generally assumed to be the date of the Northern Hemisphere's spring equinox – gradually "drifted" away from the actual equinox.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII, relying on the work of astronomers, reformed the calendar, dropping 10 days and making the equinox fall on March 21 again.

While the World Council of Churches, the Vatican, and a variety of Christian churches and ecumenical bodies have tried to get all Christians to agree on a common date for Easter, Bishop Farrell said that "not all the churches are willing to adapt or change."

However, an occasional coincidence in the Julian and Gregorian calendars means that even if they do not have an agreement for the future, Christians will celebrate Easter on the same day in 2025.