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Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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Diocesan Youths March for Life in Indianapolis



A group from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend poses for a picture during the 2024 Indiana March for Life on Monday, January 22, in Indianapolis.



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Pro-life supporters from Marian High School in Mishawaka march in downtown Indianapolis.

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Nearly 200 young people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend traveled to Indianapolis on Monday, January 22, to join their pro-life peers from across the state at the 2024 Indiana March for Life.

As the morning rally at the Indiana Convention Center concluded, Bishop Rhoades, who would join an estimated 1,800 people in nearly freezing temperatures throughout the duration of the march, offered some perspective and a prayer.

"I'm glad to see the young people from my diocese and all of you throughout the state of Indiana," the bishop said to the crowd of youths. "I'm so grateful to all of you. As I look out at you, I remember when I was your age, which was quite a long time ago. I was a sophomore in a Catholic high school in January of 1973. ... I remember that day when the Supreme Court made the *Roe v. Wade* decision, and how, as a high school student, we were all horrified back then. We couldn't believe it – that abortion on demand was basically legalized throughout our coun-

try. And here we are, 51 years later, and we're still marching. Now, *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, thanks be to God ... but the battle for life has not ended, because now it's on a state level."

Four of the five bishops of Indiana celebrated Mass at the convention center, and youths from the diocese assisted the bishops at Mass. Students from Saint Joseph High School brought the gifts to the altar, and Thomas Bundy, a seminarian at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, served at the altar, holding Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson's crozier throughout the Mass.

After Mass, the youths heard from several speakers as they congregated on Georgia Street to begin the march around downtown Indianapolis. Among those who spoke before the youths set out to the statehouse were Senator Mike Braun, disability advocate Katie Shaw, and Sarah Cabrera, the President and Founder of Homeschoolers 4 Life.

At the rally and throughout the march, the young people of

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MARCH FOR LIFE, from page 1

the diocese reflected on the reasons they chose to march for life.

Anna McCarthy, a junior at Bishop Dwenger High School, said she was inspired by the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., that she attended two years ago, and said this year, she "wanted to do it again, but more locally."

Marisa Carey, another junior at Bishop Dwenger, recalled that a speaker at one of the rallies said that Indiana was the first state to enact new legislation after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Carey said that it is still important to march in Indianapolis to show other states that, while Indiana has passed pro-life legislation in the wake of the 2022 ruling, "We are still here to support it and to support all those mothers who need it."

David Anderson, a senior at Bishop Dwenger, noted the importance of defending life from conception until natural death and said that whether someone is Catholic or not, that core belief of life matters. Michael Moran, a sophomore at Bishop Dwenger, said even if you are not Catholic or Christian, "the life we live and the love and the joy that we experience, especially through our faith – it's not really up to the parents to decide whether the baby gets to enjoy that life or live that love that we have."

Max Carey, a senior at Bishop Dwenger, said, "We are protecting the sanctity of all precious human life, for all the unborn," and his classmate, Jude Carsten, said it is important for the movement to show community.

Alex Earl, a sophomore at Marian High School, spoke of the importance of supporting mothers.

"It's important because I think we need to show women that there are people here to support them," Earl said, "and how many people there are in at least the state of Indiana who will support them and that they can get help if they don't want to abort their babies."

The diocese has taken steps to provide resources to mothers in need. Walking with Moms in Need is a national initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that supports mothers, particularly those who are underinsured and uninsured. Local resources for mothers in need can be found at walkingwithmomsfwsb.com/resources.

Emmanuel Reynolds, a senior at Marian, said marching was important so that "we can support all the people who are struggling [with unexpected pregnancies]." Ethan Adams, a senior at Bishop Dwenger, said the march was important in supporting "unborn children and mothers who are in crisis pregnancies."

After reaching the march's end at the steps of the Indiana Statehouse, the youths heard from several state and local leaders, including Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales.

Winded from the long walk, constant wind, and temperatures in the 30s, the youths loaded buses to return to the diocese having not only demonstrated on behalf of the unborn but also having learned more about how positive legal and cultural change can be brought about.



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Father Patrick Hake, Pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne and Co-Chaplain at Bishop Luers High School, looks on during the Indiana March for Life with a group from Bishop Luers on Friday, January 22, in Indianapolis.



Members of the Saint Joseph High School community from South Bend pose for a photo during the Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis.



Bishop Rhoades holds a pro-life sign as he participates in the Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis.

New Bishops' Report Marks Five Top Religious Liberty Concerns

BY KATE SCANLON

WASHINGTON D.C. (OSV News) – The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Religious Liberty, chaired by Bishop Rhoades, released a new report that identifies five top threats to religious liberty in the United States, including a federal regulation it says could impose mandates on doctors to perform objectionable procedures and threats to the Church's service to migrants.

The first annual "State of Religious Liberty in the United States," published on Tuesday, January 16, said potential threats to religious liberty in the United States largely come in the form of federal regulations or cultural trends.

Five key areas of concern, according to the 48-page report, include attacks against houses of worship, especially in the aftermath of the Israel-Hamas conflict; the Section 1557 regulation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which the report said "will likely impose a mandate on doctors to perform gender transition procedures and possibly abortions"; threats to religious charities serving migrants and refugees, "which will likely increase as the issue of immigration gains prominence in the election"; suppression of religious speech "on marriage and sexual difference"; and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Pregnant Workers Fairness Act regulations, which the report said "aim to require religious employers to be complicit in abortion in an unprecedented way."

Bishop Rhoades, who oversaw the report, told OSV News that the committee began this annual report to "educate the faithful" and "motivate people to get involved in promoting and protecting religious liberty."

The report's introduction said that because of a divided federal government, "most introduced bills that threatened religious liberty languished," resulting in threats in the form of "proposed regulations by federal agencies," or cultural trends such as growing partisanship regarding migration.

The report noted the U.S. Supreme Court only heard two cases implicating religious liberty in 2023, "but in each case the Supreme Court ruled for broader protections – for religious exercise in the workplace, in *Groff v. DeJoy*, and for free speech based on religious beliefs, in *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*."

Other areas of concern identified in the report include some state bills making clergy mandatory reporters for abuse

without an exception for the seal of the confessional. As the report notes, "For Catholic priests, breaking the confidentiality of statements made during the Sacrament of Reconciliation – that is, breaking the seal of the confessional – is a grave offense, resulting in automatic excommunication from the Church."

The report also identified partisanship within the Church as an area of concern.

"This dynamic is not new, is not unique to Catholics, nor will it disappear anytime soon," it said. "But it will be especially salient in 2024, and the long-term standing of the Church in the public square requires a conscious and sustained turn – away from partisanship and toward the Gospel."

Bishop Rhoades noted that threats to houses of worship remain a significant cultural concern, as Catholic churches and organizations saw van-

Potential threats to religious liberty in the United States largely come in the form of federal regulations or cultural trends.

dalism and other crimes in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision in 2022 that overturned prior rulings by the high court making abortion access a constitutional right; other faith traditions have seen more violence occur at their places of worship, such as the 2018 mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue.

Dan Balserak, the USCCB's Religious Liberty Director and Assistant General Counsel, told OSV News the committee's work has historically centered on "legal problems."

"Things are such now these days that we are actually having to worry about the physical health and safety of people in their place of worship," Balserak said. "Which is pretty disturbing."

Both Bishop Rhoades and Balserak said that a growing cultural divide on the issue of migration also threatens to imperil the Church's service to people who are migrants and refugees.

"The Church's mission, you

know, is we're to serve, serve the poor and the needy. That's part of our mission to the corporal works of mercy, so welcoming the stranger," Bishop Rhoades said, an act of mercy demanded by Jesus Christ in Matthew 25 when He renders justice at the final judgment. "And we're talking here about basic needs: sometimes food, sometimes shelter, clothing, and other kinds of assistance. The Church has always done this, and it's just part of our Christian responsibilities."

Bishop Rhoades said some have suggested that "somehow the Church is contributing to illegal immigration" through such service.

"Comprehensive immigration reform is something that the Catholic Church in the United States has been advocating for for decades," he added. He said that "our provision of humanitarian aid to human beings who are in need" is needed regardless of whether and how Congress would act.

Balserak said, "It seems that the role that religious charities play in the immigration system as service providers – helping immigrants get a place to sleep, get a meal, understand their legal obligations, the role that religious charities play in that regard – has been essentially scapegoated."

The real burden of responsibility is with Congress, which has failed to address "the immigration problem that the immigration crisis has created."

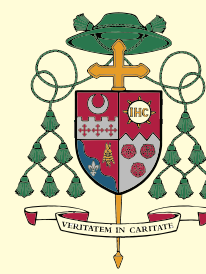
Erroneous claims about the Church's service to migrants, Balserak said, could imperil their ability to partner with the federal government on services to migrants and on other projects.

"At the end of the day ... what's being proposed is, basically, if you exercise your religious beliefs in this particular way or area, we're going to penalize you," he said, calling those claims "a classic religious liberty threat."

Both Bishop Rhoades and Balserak said the USCCB's new annual report concerns the landscape for domestic religious liberty, but the issue of religious liberty in the United States has echoes around the globe.

Bishop Rhoades said an erosion of that liberty would not only be "harmful to our country, and the principles on which our nation was founded, but also I think affects others around the world."

"If you've been paying attention to the international religious liberty front recently, we are incredibly blessed," Balserak said. "For all the problems that we are talking about in this report, we are



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, January 30: 10:30 a.m. – Priest Personnel Board Meeting, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw
Wednesday, January 31: 6:30 p.m. – Homily at close of 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion, St. John Bosco Church, Churubusco

incredibly blessed to live in the United States."

Balserak said the best way for Catholics to respond to religious liberty threats is to "go out and do the things that we are fighting for your right to do."

"So what's under threat right now?" he said. "Our service to immigrants? Go volunteer at a shelter for immigrants. We see arsons at pregnancy resource centers. There's a threat to the continued operation of ministries meant to help pregnant mothers in need."

Go volunteer at a pregnancy resource center."

That "ground-up approach," Balserak said, "is the most viable long-term solution to current threats that we face to religious liberty."

Kate Scanlon is a National Reporter for OSV News.

READ THE FULL REPORT
To read the "Annual Report of the State of Religious Liberty in the United States," go to usccb.cld.bz/Religious-Liberty-Annual-Report.



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



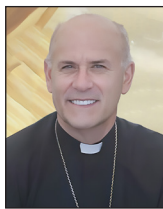
For up-to-date information about Eucharistic Revival events and resources, visit diocesefwsb.org/eucharist or diocesefwsb.org/eucaristia.

Persecution of Christians and the Ecumenism of Blood

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades at the Melkite Catholic Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame on Sunday, January 21.

Every year, I look forward to concelebrating the Divine Liturgy with my friend, Father Khaled Anatolios, and to worshipping together with you, the Melkite Catholic community and friends here at Notre Dame. When I was at the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops this past October in Rome, I had the wonderful experience of meeting and getting to know many of the bishops and patriarchs of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches who were all delegates at the synod. At the end of the month, in the synod's synthesis report, we affirmed how the Eastern Catholic Churches enrich the whole Church and that our unity in diversity is something we should all be grateful for. All of us, Latin and



BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Eastern Catholics, are mutually enriched by our respective traditions within the family of God, the Church.

The first reading today, from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, was probably written while Paul was under house arrest or in prison in Rome, not long before his martyrdom. Paul encourages Timothy to remain faithful to what he has learned from him. In fact, he lists nine elements of Timothy's following him. St. Paul writes to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, my way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me."

You may recall from the Acts of the Apostles the persecutions St. Paul endured in his missionary journeys. A persecution broke out in Antioch in Pisidia (not Syria), and Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the city. They then went to Iconium. Because of their preaching, enemies plotted to have them stoned, but they escaped to Lystra. In Lystra, St. Paul was actually stoned and dragged out of the city.

In his letter, St. Paul is

reminding Timothy of all these things to encourage him to be steadfast in the faith, to be ready for persecution and suffering. He writes, "In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." These are sobering words. "All who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." These are words for us to ponder. How do they apply to us? This past week, you may have seen that I released a report from the USCCB committee I chair, the Committee on Religious Liberty. It's the first annual report we have done on the state of religious liberty in the United States. The report summarizes developments this past year in the area of religious liberty at the federal level here in our country, and we look at the five largest threats we foresee in this new year. In our increasingly secularist culture, with ideologies particularly hostile toward the Catholic Church, we need to be aware of, and guard against, these threats.

Some speak of what we face as a kind of "soft persecution." You may have already experienced this – not just criticism for your Catholic faith and values, but even some hostility. We have had dozens of acts of vandalism to Catholic churches this past year in our country, especially because of our pro-life teaching and advocacy. Notice that St. Paul says that "all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." We don't have to worry about this if we don't want to live religiously in Christ Jesus. We can just go along with things that are against our faith, but that's not what the Lord asks of us. He said: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" and "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven."

St. Paul and the saints and martyrs of the Church chose to live religiously, to take up their cross and follow Jesus. To

do so requires the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude in the face of criticism, ridicule, hostility, and especially outright persecution that so many Christians face in our world today. In fact, there are more Christians in the world today who are being persecuted than in the first centuries of Christianity.

360 million Christians today live in nations with high levels of persecution or discrimination. That's 1 in 7 Christians worldwide, including 1 in 5 in Africa, 2 in 5 in Asia, and 1 in 15 in Latin America. We only have statistics from 2022, and things have gotten worse in many places since then. Back in 2022, more than 5,600 Christians were killed for their faith. More than 124,000 were forcibly displaced from their homes, and almost 15,000 became refugees. The persecution and martyrdom of Christians is often the work of fanatical terrorists but also often by governments of countries where the Christian community is a small minority, like in North Korea. Or governments that are lax in protecting Christians from terrorist attacks, like in Nigeria.

Who can forget from nine years ago the 20 kneeling, young Coptic Orthodox Christian men, migrant workers from Egypt, and one African man, kneeling on the beach on the Libyan coast, wearing orange jumpsuits used by ISIS for prisoners, executed like St. Paul by beheading? They died praying, "O Lord Jesus." They would not deny their Christian faith to save their lives.

And what about the young African? His name was Matthew Ayariga. We're not sure if he was from Ghana or Chad, or even if he was definitely a Christian. But we do know that, before he was beheaded, he was given an opportunity to save himself when ISIS questioned him about his faith. Matthew responded saying, "Their God is my God." He was probably a Christian, and if he wasn't, he became a Christian through the baptism of blood. I wanted to mention these martyrs also because something historic

happened this past year. Pope Francis, with the approval of the Coptic Orthodox Church, included them in our Catholic Martyrology. The feast day of these 21 martyrs is February 15.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Thursday, January 18. Sometimes we can be discouraged by the lack of significant progress in ecumenical endeavors, but I think it is good to call to mind what Pope St. John Paul II many years ago called the "ecumenism of martyrs." There is a deep level of communion among those Christians who have testified to Christ by the sacrifice of their lives. While we Christians on earth still live in an imperfect communion with one another, the martyrs in heaven already live in full and perfect communion. Pope Francis has spoken of this as an "ecumenism of blood."

In next year's Jubilee, Pope Francis will repeat what Pope John Paul II did in the Jubilee Year 2000 when he led an ecumenical celebration at the Colosseum and remembered the Christian martyrs from our different churches and ecclesial communities. They were killed simply for being Christians, not according to their denomination. Pope Francis has established a commission at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints called the Commission of the New Martyrs – Witnesses of the Faith. This commission is doing historical research and gathering testimonies of the lives of hundreds of Christians who shed their blood for Christ since the year 2000. This research will concern not only the Catholic Church but will extend to all Christian denominations.

In a world where at times it seems that evil prevails, it is good that we learn about the faithfulness and goodness of these martyrs who overcame evil and triumphed over it because God in Christ has conquered sin and death. They give us hope and inspire us to courage. This is something that unites all of us who are Christians – the hope that comes from faith in Christ as witnessed by the martyrs.

May we all take to heart the words of St. Paul: "All who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." As St. Paul encouraged Timothy, may we hold firm to the faith! May we love and support all our brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith today, remembering them in our prayers and providing assistance through advocacy and material aid. And, as we pray for Christian unity this week, let us remember the "ecumenism of blood" and ask the martyrs to intercede for the restoration of unity among all Christians, the unity they share in the Communion of Saints in heaven!



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National March for Life Pledges Solidarity with Moms, Children

BY PETER JESSERER SMITH

(OSV News) – Against gray skies and falling snow, thousands of people flocked to the nation's capital on Friday, January 19, for the national March for Life, gathering under the theme "With every woman, for every child," showing their resolve amid the piercing cold to make abortion eventually "unthinkable" in the United States.

"If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" Miguel Ángel Leyva, 21, a Catholic and third-year college student from Detroit, told OSV News.

The March for Life began in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which once legalized abortion nationwide, and gathers pro-life advocates from across the U.S. This year's march – its second year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022 – took place as winter weather put much of the U.S. in a deep freeze, snarling transportation and canceling flights.

While the crowd appeared smaller than in years past, this year's march showed a movement eager to up its game to help American society embrace a culture that affirms and supports the dignity of all human life, and not just for the unborn.

Leyva said the presence of so many people amid the punishing weather conditions "shows there are many who are willing to serve God and stand up for what is right."

Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, and others emphasized during the March for Life Rally that not only was the national march there to stay, but pro-life marches would be multiplying throughout all 50 states in the coming years.

"We will keep marching every year at the national level, as well as in our states, until our nation's laws reflect the basic truth that all human life is created equal and is worthy of protection," Mancini told the thousands gathered on the National Mall.

Speaker after speaker at the rally emphasized its theme of making abortion "unthinkable" by emphasizing the culture-changing and life-saving work of pregnancy resource centers and related efforts.

Aisha Taylor, author of "Navigating the Impossible: A Survival Guide for Single Moms," took to the rally stage and reminded the crowd, "It was people like you who helped people like me to choose life for my unborn twins."

"I am eternally grateful for that pregnancy center," she said, adding that her presence



OSV News photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters

A pro-life supporter takes part in the 51st annual March for Life rally amid a snowstorm in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 19.

among them was part of her pledge to "pay it forward" for all the support she had received to choose life.

Benjamin Watson, a former NFL tight end, said pro-life advocates must embark on "a new fight for life" that also addresses the factors behind abortion, and he connected those efforts to the wider struggle for peace and justice in society.

"*Roe* is done, but we still live in a culture that knows not how to care for life," Watson said.

On Thursday, January 18, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, Chair of

the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, preached to a crowd of 7,000 gathered for a vigil Mass that was followed by a National Holy Hour for Life.

In states where "there are victories to be won," Bishop Burbidge said, the pro-life movement "must continue to be strategic. ... Where states have acted to enshrine extreme abortion policies into law, we must not lose hope. Even in the darkest places, we can be a light."

"It is not enough to reserve our message for those who will readily receive it, and to pursue victories only in those places where we are likely to win," he said. "We must persist in those places where our message is

rejected. We must bring light to the darkest corners. ... Every life is worth the effort."

At the morning Mass in the basilica on Friday, January 19, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, encouraged Catholics not to get discouraged by setbacks in the pro-life movement but to recall how Jesus Christ "fell three times under the weight of His cross but He got back up."

"Even after defeats we get back up and we march for life in radical solidarity with women and children," he said.

Sarai Gonzalez, 18, a public school student from Detroit who was attending the national march for the second time, said she was touched by Bishop Fernandes' homily during the Mass, calling it inspirational and moving.

"I felt at peace and loved. I felt the fire of the Holy Spirit within me," she said.

Braving the freezing temperatures of the early

morning were nearly 6,000 youth and adults who joined the March for Life Rally coming from the second annual Life Fest at the D.C. Armory, where they had fortified themselves listening to inspiring music and personal testimonies, and engaged in Eucharistic adoration and Mass.

As the snow continued to fall, thousands of marchers took to the streets to march between the Capitol and the Supreme Court buildings as the song "God bless America" rang out through the loudspeakers.

Before she went to the rally stage and on to march, Mancini told OSV News what she hoped people take away from the March for Life. "I hope that they take away that the pro-life movement is about the full flourishing of both mom and baby," she said.

Peter Jesserer Smith is the National News and Features Editor for OSV News.

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Bishop Dorsonville of Louisiana Dies Unexpectedly at 63

SCHRIEVER, Louisiana (OSV News) – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 19, due to complications from recent health problems, according to diocesan officials. He was 63. He is remembered for his various teaching and pastoral roles in his native Colombia as well as his service as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Bishop Dorsonville had headed the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese as its fifth bishop for less than a year since his installation on March 29, 2023. Before that, he had served as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., for eight years. “It is with great sadness and deep shock that I announce to you that our beloved shepherd, Bishop Mario Dorsonville, passed away at 6:50 p.m. this evening after he gave in to complications arising from recent health problems,” Father Simon Peter Engurait, the diocese’s Vicar General, said in posting the news of the bishop’s death on social media on January 19. “My heart is broken.” Bishop Dorsonville was a former chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration from 2019 to 2022. As of Monday, January 22, no funeral arrangements had been announced.

Washington Bishops Urge Faithful to Advocate for the Homeless

SEATTLE (OSV News) – The bishops of Washington state are urging the state’s 1 million Catholics to join the Washington State Catholic Conference in asking legislators for more resources to help the homeless and serve them with dignity. “In a nation and state of such great wealth, no person should spend their golden years in a shelter or on a city street, no family should ever worry about where they will spend the night, no one should ever lose the roof over their head because of a temporary economic crisis, and no low-income individual should have to accept a dangerous housing environment,” the bishops said in a statement released on Thursday, January 18. The statement, “Our Call to Serve Vulnerable Populations in Our Communities,” is signed by Seattle Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, Yakima Bishop Joseph J. Tyson, Spokane Bishop Thomas A. Daly, and Seattle Auxiliary Bishops Eusebio Elizondo and Frank R. Schuster. According to data from the 2022 Point in Time count, more than 25,000 people in the state are

Creating a Culture of Life



OSV News photo/Jeffrey Bruno, Knights of Columbus

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, celebrates Mass with other prelates, including Boston Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, to the left of Archbishop Lori, and more than 70 priests, during Life Fest at the D.C. Armory in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 19, ahead of the annual March for Life. The event featured Eucharistic adoration, Mass, and reflections, including from Cardinal O'Malley, who told those gathered that “dismantling unjust laws is only the beginning. We still have the arduous task of creating a pro-life culture, of changing people’s minds and hearts.”

either experiencing homelessness or on the brink of homelessness, the bishops said in the statement. “It is incumbent to remember that care for the poor is one of the recurring themes throughout both the Old and New Testaments,” the bishops said. “Care for the poor is not optional for the Christian.”

Pope Asks Leaders at Devos: Why Is World Plagued by Poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Nations and businesses must work together to promote ethically sound models of globalization, Pope Francis told global business and government leaders participating in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Wednesday, January 17. “How is it possible that in today’s world people are still dying of hunger, being exploited, condemned to illiteracy, lacking basic medical care, and left without shel-

ter?” he asked. “The process of globalization, which has by now clearly demonstrated the interdependence of the world’s nations and peoples, thus has a fundamentally moral dimension, which must make itself felt in the economic, cultural, political, and religious discussions that aim to shape the future of the international community,” he wrote. The pope’s message, addressed to Klaus Schwab, Chairperson of the World Economic Forum, was published by the Vatican on January 17.

Collection for the Church in Latin America Set for January 27-28

WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSV News) – The U.S. bishops’ upcoming collection for the Church in Latin America helps meet the “myriad spiritual and material needs among the most impoverished people in

the Western Hemisphere,” said Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America. “In an era with too much focus on what divides us from our sisters and brothers in Latin America,” he said that U.S. Catholics “continue to strengthen bonds of faith, hope, and love” and show solidarity with them. Parishes in most U.S. dioceses take the collection during Masses the weekend of January 27-28. The #iGiveCatholicTogether campaign also accepts online donations at [uscbb.org/givecatholic-together.org](https://uscbb.org/givecatholic-together), where visitors can give by selecting the “Church in Latin America” campaign. The collection supports pastoral projects – locally designed for specific needs – in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2022, it provided 251 grants totaling nearly \$6.6 million “to support a region where poverty, political and religious oppression, and other hardships” make the Catholic Church’s work “exceptionally difficult,” Bishop Cisneros said.

Six Nuns, Others Kidnapped in Haitian Capital

MEXICO CITY (OSV News) – Six nuns from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne were kidnapped on Friday, January 19, while traveling on a bus in the country’s capital, Port-au-Prince, according to officials with the Haitian Conference of Religious. Other passengers on the bus also were taken in the abduction, the officials said in a statement. “These many kidnappings fill the consecrated people of Haiti with sadness and fear,” said the statement, signed by P. Morachel Bonhomme, Conference President. He prayed that “the spirit of strength be given” to the sisters “to find a way out of this terrible situation.” On Sunday, January 21, in remarks after the Angelus, Pope Francis appealed for the release of all the hostages, while praying for “social harmony” in the country. Bishop Pierre-André Dumas of Anse-à-Veau et Miragoâne prayed “to help us put an end to this bitter nightmare and this tragic ordeal of our people which has lasted too long.”

Two U.S. Bishops Call for ‘Immediate and Total’ Ceasefire in Gaza Strip

SAN DIEGO (OSV News) – Two U.S. prelates are urging an “immediate and total” ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, which has experienced more than 100 days of war, while condemning Hamas and urging the release of Israeli hostages taken by the group. In a joint statement released on Wednesday, January 17, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego and Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said the “tens of thousands” of deaths resulting from the Israel-Hamas war and the risk of wider escalation “calls us as Americans to press for a national policy which is focused unswervingly” on ending the conflict. Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing some 1,200 people, taking 253 hostages, and sexually assaulting numerous women and girls, most of whom were brutally killed. Israel declared war the next day, and Palestinian authorities report more than 24,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Gaza. “Our country has a powerful voice on these issues,” the bishops said. “Let it echo Pope Francis’ call amidst suffering on all sides, ‘No to weapons, yes to peace.’ For this will be the only true pathway for justice in the land that so deeply reflects the presence of God.”

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Surprise 75th Birthday Party for Monsignor Robert Schulte



Photos by Bethany Beebe

On Thursday, January 4, the students, faculty, and staff at St. Jude Catholic School in Fort Wayne threw a surprise birthday party to celebrate Monsignor Robert Schulte's 75th birthday. "I thought I was going into a little skit presented by the first graders," said Monsignor Schulte, Pastor of St. Jude. The celebration, attended by the entire school, was a surprise that had been in the works for a couple of months. Mike Obergfell, Principal at St. Jude, said Monsignor Schulte's "great pastoral leadership" and homilies make him a blessing to the community. "The priesthood is a public vocation," Monsignor Schulte said, "so it was appropriate to share it with the schoolchildren and parishioners." Three students presented gifts to Monsignor Schulte, who also got to blow out the candles on a birthday cake and received a giant card with well-wishes from the whole school.



Bishop Celebrates New Chapter of Nocturnal Adoration Society

BY MARIA SOLIS

On Saturday, January 20, Bishop Rhoades celebrated an evening Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Plymouth to honor the inauguration of a new Nocturnal Adoration Society chapter beginning at the parish.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is a group of Hispanic men and women dedicated to praying before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic adoration on the first Friday of the month from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. There are currently four chapters in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, including at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen, St. Adalbert Church in South Bend, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Warsaw, and now at St. Michael the Archangel in Plymouth.

During his homily at the 6 p.m. Mass, Bishop Rhoades exclaimed how glad he was to see the love for Eucharistic adoration growing, especially during the Parish Year of the ongoing Eucharistic Revival. Bishop Rhoades added that being present with God in Eucharistic adoration is nourishment for our souls and allows us to connect with God to form a more intimate relationship with Him. Praying with Scripture before the Blessed Sacrament "can illuminate our lives and make us more Christ-like," he added.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades shared how his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has helped support him in his role as bishop and allowed him to grow his relationship with God. He also reminded the faithful that, four years ago, Pope Francis marked the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as a special day on the Church calendar – the Sunday of the Word of God. On this particular day, all are called to focus on the importance and value of sacred Scripture for the Christian life, Bishop Rhoades said. He invited all present at St. Michael the Archangel to think about how many times they read the Bible and meditate on it so that their lives will be formed in it.

We must not "let our Bibles stay on our bedside tables or bookshelves gathering dust!" he said. The simple act of reading a passage



Maria Solis

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Plymouth on Saturday, January 20, to honor the founding of a chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society. The group pledges to gather for Eucharistic adoration on the first Friday of each month from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

from the Bible every day and meditating on it in prayer is a beautiful way to grow in the spiritual life. Bishop Rhoades mentioned a beautiful quote from St. Augustine, who said, "When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you talk to God." Bishop Rhoades added that "the word of God and the Eucharist are intrinsically linked; by listening to the word of God, faith is born and strengthened; in the Eucharist, the Word is made flesh given to us as spiritual nourishment."

After his homily, Bishop Rhoades stood beside Father Fernando Jimenez, Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel, and extended a blessing to the members of the diocese's newest chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society. As he blessed the 40 members, each received a candle as a reminder to be the light of the world and a medal to symbolize their commitment and membership in the society.

Ernesto Benítez, a current member of the society, described the symbols depicted on the medal by saying that the white and yellow ribbon represents the Vatican colors. The medal also includes a man, a woman, and the Eucharist, symbolizing that

anyone is welcome to join the society, including children. The members of this society are called "*adoradores nocturnos*" in Spanish.

Father Jimenez said he had the initial idea of forming a chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society after discovering it in Mexico and then seeing it begin in our diocese.

After participating in the Mass, the members proceeded to the school cafeteria to enjoy dinner and fellowship. Bishop Rhoades joined the crowd to celebrate the new members and their new chapter. Other members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society from chapters in Illinois and Nebraska were present to celebrate as well.

Mauro Sanchez, Oscar Mendoza, and Father Jimenez shared how other chapters began in the diocese and the joy it brings them to see so many people come together once a month and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Antonio Zavala, who traveled from Illinois, said: "To be a part of this society takes a calling and devotion to the Eucharist. We have seen the growth of members across all the chapters because Eucharistic adoration transforms lives."

Young Adults Learn How to Cope with Mental Health Struggles

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Young adults gathered at 2Toms Brewing Company in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, January 16, for the opening session of the 2024 Theology on Tap winter series to hear from Beth Hlabse about mental health, suffering, and healing. During the evening, they shared food and drinks while engaging in discussions about the keynote talk.

Hlabse, a mental health counselor and the Program Director for the Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, talked about the detrimental effects of isolation, citing a figure that showed an increase in isolation in young adults throughout the past four decades, when, previously, isolation was considered more of an issue for those older than 65.

"These are trends that are concerning, because loneliness presents a real risk factor," Hlabse said. "It can exacerbate the challenges we experience in life. It can exacerbate our vulnerability to mental illness. But it demonstrates, on the other side of that, that we need connection, because what we've learned is the mind is embodied, embedded, and relational."

Pulling from the field of neuroscience, she also talked about the dynamic aspect of the mind, saying that the mind is composed of different networks of memory, and that these networks change through life.

"And this is beautiful, because it actually shows the neurobiological underpinnings for the capacity to heal. It may not necessarily mean that one's diagnosis, if we have a mental health diagnosis ... goes away, but it does mean that the way I experience those symptoms, and the way I manage those symptoms, can change, such that I can feel more free, more able to live a meaningful connected life even in the midst of illness."

This led Hlabse to begin answering the question, "Why do I suffer?"

"Science says, 'Well, it's a combination of factors, right? It's genetic, it's due to our biology, due to our environment, due to our development.' Mental illness is never reducible to any one of these factors. It comes about through a combination of these factors because of the fact that, as people, our mind is embodied, embedded, relational, and dynamic. That's to say, we're really vulnerable to our environments. But it also points to the fact that elements of our environment can really



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Theology on Tap emcees Isaac Melton and Cadence Faurete introduced the series patron, St. Edith Stein, who persevered despite suffering. Stein converted to Catholicism from Judaism, became a Carmelite nun, and "brought the light of Christ to a concentration camp," Faurete said during the session at 2Toms Brewing in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, January 16.



Beth Hlabse, a mental health counselor, shared advice on navigating suffering and healing through both faith and science.



Jay Annable engages in a small-group discussion about mental health before a question-and-answer session.

help us to experience greater wholeness and greater health."

Bringing faith into the equation, she said we know "through the eyes of faith that, as people, we are created good, we are created in God's image and in God's likeness. And I always like to pause and kind of think, 'Well, what does that mean to be created in God's image and likeness?'"

She compared the relationship of the Trinity to individuals, saying that, like the Trinity, people cannot live in isolation; people were made for love.

Next, Hlabse talked about healing from suffering. She explained that the apostle Thomas was wounded by the death of Christ, and that the grief of this wound contributed to his doubtfulness in Jesus' resurrection.

"When all of Thomas' friends were gathered in the Upper Room when those other apostles were gathered, and Christ appeared to them, Thomas wasn't there. I wonder what might have gone through Thomas' mind when he heard from his friends that Christ had appeared and he wasn't there. 'What's wrong with me? Perhaps this guy isn't who he says he is? Why not me? Perhaps I'm cut off or inaccessible from the promises offered to everybody else?' I can imagine it being a pretty dark space."

She said that, by appearing to Thomas at the place of Thomas' wounding, Christ reached into his wounds to heal him just as Thomas touched Jesus' wounds.

"He was offering Thomas communion and the possibility for new life, entering into his wounds, demonstrating to him that he wasn't actually alone in that space. And for Thomas, this was really the birth of his ministry, going forth in the light of the resurrected Christ."

Touching on scientific ways to heal wounds, Hlabse said to identify unmet needs. Having unmet needs, she explained, decreases one's ability to deal with stressors. Breaking these needs into four categories, she said to find supportive relationships, spend time in beauty and nature, move around, and find a silent place to relax.

"Anytime in silence can be an opportunity for a movement toward communion, just recognizing God's presence with us, an experience of prayer, recognizing our situatedness and creation," Hlabse said.

After her talk, Hlabse fielded questions from the young adults who had been engaged in small-group discussions.

Theology on Tap in Fort Wayne continues through Tuesday, February 13. For more information, visit diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw.

Theology on Tap Series on Prayer Opens in South Bend

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

Icy roads and subzero temperatures couldn't stop 50 young people from gathering for prayer, discussion, and drinks at South Bend's Theology on Tap. The winter 2024 series began on Tuesday, January 16, with an evening at Bar Louie in Granger. The theme for the winter series is "Lord, Teach Us to Pray."

"The goal of our time together is for us to become more disposed to different kinds of prayer, while keeping the words of Jesus on prayer at the forefront of our time together," said Audrey Lewis, a Theology on Tap volunteer.

The South Bend Theology on Tap team, which is made up mostly of volunteers, began weekly planning meetings for the winter's series in November. "It's a lot of bouncing ideas off each other," Lewis said of their six-person team.

The team also chose the winter series' patron saint – St. Francis de Sales. "St. Francis de Sales was a 16th-century French priest and bishop, widely known for his gentleness and his skill at making and keeping friends," explained Ally Brown, another volunteer. "So, we love that as young adults."

Addressing the series' theme of prayer, Brown told attendees, "There are many different ways to reach out or listen to God; we have chosen to highlight just a handful of these prayer forms over the next four weeks." Throughout the next month, the weekly series will address the theme of prayer through the Rosary, the saints, and art. The first evening was focused on prayer through music.

The featured speaker was Andrew Goldstein, a musician, songwriter, and COO of The Vigil Project, which trains Catholic musicians and creates devotional music. Goldstein had been to Theology on Tap on the West Coast, but this was his first time at South Bend's Theology on Tap since his family moved to the area six months ago.

For a person who has devoted much of his life to making music, Goldstein sees it as a gift from God and to be offered back to God. "This gift of music is meant to be, as St. Augustine would say ... a response of love," Goldstein said.

He added, "Using this gift properly is a responsibility of each one of us." And part of that responsibility means thinking seriously about how to engage with music and devotion well. "The challenge of musicians, and the challenge of all of us, is how do we take the load off of Sunday Mass



Photos by Kasia Balsbaugh

Young adults enjoy fellowship at the beginning of South Bend's Theology on Tap evening on Tuesday, January 16.



Catholic musician Andrew Goldstein and volunteers lead prayer music for the Theology on Tap gathering.



and create a culture of musical devotion in the day-to-day life?" Goldstein said.

In thinking about music as prayer, Goldstein applied it to the three ways of prayer outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "Music, when applied to this structure – vocal, meditative, contemplative – has a way of not only guiding us through that but actually creating a really direct avenue," Goldstein said. "Because music helps us begin this vocal prayer, turn toward the meditative, and then if we're in that place, enter into that contemplative place."

After his presentation, Goldstein and a couple other musicians led the Theology on Tap attendees in worship and prayer through music.

Attendee Julia Akre said she had "jumped on the opportunity" to attend the Theology on Tap series after moving back to her hometown of nearby Niles, Michigan.

"This is my first time coming to Theology on Tap after graduating college and trying very hard to find local community to really connect with," Akre said. "I went to a university that was relatively Catholic, and I was part of a scholarship that had a great Catholic community. So, I'm really, really itching and thirsting for a group of people that I can talk theology with and that I can grow in my faith with."

"I was a little bit nervous coming in because I knew nobody here, but I sat down and was immediately able to start talking to somebody," Akre said.

A phenomenon that began in Chicago in the 1980s, Theology on Tap spread to South Bend soon after. After a hiatus, the event came back to stay in the 2000s.

Sean Allen, former organizer of South Bend's Theology on Tap and current president of Ablaze Mission, attended the winter series opening on Tuesday. Allen reiterated the Church's need to be "reaching out to this young adult demographic" and cited Pope Francis' theme of "accompaniment" as a necessary way to engage with one another in living lives of faith.

As Brown told attendees, "We also hope that these presentations and small-group discussions will provide you with new techniques and tools to help you pray without ceasing."

Catholic musician Andrew Goldstein speaks at Theology on Tap during the winter 2024 series' opening session, which is themed, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray."

Bishop Rhoades Visits St. Joseph Grade School

BY KASIA BALSBAUGH

When Bishop Rhoades saw what a St. Joseph Preschool class was eating for snack time, he couldn't resist.

"You're eating my favorite snack – Cheez-Its!" the bishop exclaimed. Soon, every one of the preschoolers was offering to share.

"Oh my goodness, I'm teaching them generosity," Bishop Rhoades joked as he walked around the table accepting Cheez-Its held in outstretched hands. "Thank you!"

From building very high Lego towers to questioning fourth graders about the Beatitudes, Bishop Rhoades had a full morning during his pastoral visit to St. Joseph Grade School in South Bend on Friday, January 19.

"It's really edifying, and I feel a lot of support from the bishop for the work that we're doing," Holy Cross Father Matt Fase, Pastor of the affiliated St. Joseph Parish, said about the visit.

Bishop Rhoades began the morning by officiating at an all-school Mass, which was a votive Mass celebrating Blessed Basil Moreau, who founded the Congregation of the Holy Cross, the religious order of priests and brothers that founded the University of Notre Dame. Members of the community also run St. Joseph Parish and St. Joseph Grade School, which is the oldest school in the diocese.

ABOUT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Address: 216 N. Hill St.,
South Bend

Phone number: 574-234-0451

Founded: 1854

Number of students: 483

Nickname: Eagles

Principal: Melissa Green

Website: stjosephgradeschool.com

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades told the story of Blessed Basil Moreau, a French missionary, ninth in a family of 14 children, whose religious order spread throughout the world to evangelize. "He was so close to God. He was a man of deep prayer," Bishop Rhoades said.

"Blessed Basil taught his priests and brothers how important it was for them to imitate Jesus," Bishop Rhoades said. "That was really most important to him. ... We want to be like Jesus. That means we have a special love for people who are hurting, for people who are poor, who are sick, who are suffering. And I know that's a priority for you here at St. Joseph School. That's part of our Catholic mission."

Bishop Rhoades' goal after Mass was to visit as many classrooms as he could. He



Photos by Kasia Balsbaugh

Bishop Rhoades reads a book to the children at St. Joseph Preschool during his pastoral visit on Friday, January 19.

began at St. Joseph Preschool, where he read books and played with the children from infants to age 6. He asked the 3- and 4-year-olds questions about the Nativity story, and they answered all his questions, even the "hardest one" about where Jesus was born. "I'm very impressed!" Bishop Rhoades said when a little girl shouted out excitedly, "Bethlehem!"

Next, Bishop Rhoades visited classrooms in St. Joseph Grade School. He asked questions and let the students ask him questions of their own,

which ranged from "What are the steps to becoming a bishop?" (It's a very confidential process involving lots of research from local representatives, the bishop said, adding that he had no idea he was being considered before getting the phone call offering him the position) to "Why do you wear pink?" ("Technically magenta," the bishop said, adding that cardinals, bishops, and the pope each have historical clothing colors).

Father Fase and Melissa Green, Principal of St. Joseph Grade School, hosted Bishop

Rhoades' school tour. "It seemed like in every classroom the students interacted with him so warmly and genuinely," Green said. "It's amusing to see in a K-8 building how differently students interact."

For instance, when Bishop Rhoades visited a third grade math class, he was confused by a math problem on a worksheet he picked up. "I need remedial work," he joked amid good-natured laughter from teachers and students. The third graders were more than willing to help – "Do you want counters?" one of them offered. "You can talk to Mrs. Sherwood, she can help you!" suggested another.

When the bishop asked the third graders about fortitude, they all knew the definition: "being brave and strong in the face of trials," they chorused. When Bishop Rhoades asked for examples of fortitude, one of the students offered, "You practiced fortitude when you walked in because you tried a math problem!"

Another goal for Bishop Rhoades' visit was talking with the eighth graders, whom he wasn't able to confirm personally because he was traveling for the synod. He spoke to them about confirmation and their chosen patron saints. "It was almost like he was getting an opportunity to share the big ideas from his confirmation homilies with them in a more intimate way in the classroom," Green said.

Green is in her third year as Principal of St. Joseph Grade School. She said it's been "many years" since the last pastoral visit of the bishop to the school, so it was a momentous occasion. "We got the Mass ready, our building



Bishop Rhoades opens the votive Mass in celebration of Blessed Basil Moreau during his visit to St. Joseph Parish in South Bend on Friday, January 19.



Students and staff from St. Joseph Grade School listen to Bishop Rhoades at Mass on Friday, January 19.



Bishop Rhoades asks the 3- to 4-year-olds at St. Joseph Preschool questions about the Nativity story.

ready, and then just prepared the kids to be hospitable and ready to interact with the bishop," Green said.

On preparations for the visit, Father Fase added: "At the practical level, we've been talking up the bishop's visit in the school community, and so that was a really great opportunity to teach more explicitly about who the bishop is and what the diocese is. ... So it really gives us an excuse to teach more explicitly about all those different aspects of the diocesan Church."

At the end of his visit, Bishop Rhoades had lunch with some of the students, faculty,

and staff who presented him with a gift bag full of St. Joseph Preschool and Grade School swag. Green also asked him a question: What can we do to better support the bishop's work and the diocese?

"What keeps me going are the prayers," Bishop Rhoades responded. He added that seeing Catholics live out their Catholic mission and identity "gives [him] so much joy."

"I was really proud that he perceived that our Catholic identity is really being lived out in our school," Green said afterward. "You know, to hear that the work that he saw, and the things he observed today

and heard the children say bring him joy—I feel like that's a huge compliment."

Green added that seeing Bishop Rhoades interact with the students and teachers in their classroom reminded her of something Pope Francis has said: "Be shepherds with the smell of sheep."

"He talked to the kids today about how they needed to be the fragrance of Christ in the world through their confirmations, and I thought, well, this is a day where Bishop Rhoades is choosing to take on the smell of the sheep ... and I think that was really beautiful to see," Green said.



The sixth grade students at St. Joseph Grade School respond to Bishop Rhoades as he visits their language arts class.



Bishop Rhoades asks the eighth grade students at St. Joseph Grade School about their confirmation saints. Bishop Rhoades had to miss their confirmation because of his work at the Synod of Bishops in Rome.



A Catholic school of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, stewarded by the Congregation of Holy Cross, serving boys and girls in preschool through 8th grade.

Making God Known, Loved, and Served

Sharing the Good News Through Our Catholic Schools

BY DAVID MAUGEL

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend continues to be blessed with so many outstanding teachers, staff, and administrators who have answered the call to serve in the ministry of education throughout our diocese. Teachers, in collaboration with their administrators, have worked tirelessly to address identified priorities through our Diocesan Accreditation in the areas of Catholic Identity and Mission, Aspiring Catholic Leaders, Curriculum, Operational Vitality Metric, and Enrollment Management.

I have witnessed teachers and administrators living our mission – “The mission of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is to evangelize and form disciples of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church through the ministry of education” – through ongoing formation and professional development during our annual Mission and Curriculum days each year. Additionally, there seemed to be stronger intention from everyone participating in the formational opportunities to connect themselves and what they do on a daily basis to the truth, beauty, and goodness of our Catholic faith.

During the Diocesan Mission Day, we all experienced joy and excitement for the Eucharist from Franciscan Father Agustino Torres in his keynote, “The Eucharist as Relationship, Identity, and Mission in Our Schools.” Father Torres was able to connect for us the Real Presence of Our Lord in the

Eucharist and its foundation in building a relationship with Jesus Christ and developing the individual school charisms to foster discipleship in our mission in our Catholic schools. I was excited to hear from many teachers and administrators who shared how motivated they felt from Father Torres’ keynote and his authentic witness as they take on the challenges of making disciples of Jesus Christ.



DAVID MAUGEL



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

During the Diocesan Curriculum Day, Brett Salkeld offered a presentation on “Making Every Class Catholic,” utilizing his book, “Educating for Eternity: A Teacher’s Champion for Making Every Class Catholic.” After teachers gained insights through Salkeld’s keynote on how to bring the truth, beauty, and goodness alive for students in each of their classrooms, they collaborated on implementing concepts with their curriculum frameworks for English and math. Guided by principal leadership, the elementary schools worked within geographical cohorts to foster deeper understanding of Catholic faith that could be embedded

throughout all subjects and content areas. Meanwhile, the high schools collaborated within departments based on specific content areas. This work is challenging because we all have our own faith journey that adds to the discussion on how to authentically bring the Church’s teachings and the personal faith journey of educators into the classroom in all subjects. Principals assisted teachers in identifying a reasonable level of implementing our Catholic faith in each course’s curriculum framework.

A team of principals developed three levels of implementation in collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office – Foundational, Progress, and Ultimate levels. The Foundational level utilizes Google slides and may include poster displays in the classroom to be referenced during every lesson connecting the Catholic Curriculum Standards and virtues for each lesson. The Progress level combines the Google slides with the classroom teacher’s Catholic faith formation that is expressed verbally or with pictorial representation shaping it into a more authentic experience. The Ultimate level combines the Google slides, classroom teacher’s Catholic faith formation, and Church traditions, teachings, and resources throughout each lesson regardless of the subject. While we have a variety

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

To mark National Catholic Schools Week (January 28-February 3), the National Catholic Educational Association is asking schools around the country to celebrate different aspects of their Catholic school communities. Below is a suggested schedule of appreciation. For more information on Catholic Schools Week, visit ncea.org/csw.

Sunday, January 28:
Celebrating Your Parish

Monday, January 29:
Celebrating Your Community

Tuesday, January 30:
Celebrating Your Students

Wednesday, January 31:
Celebrating the Nation

Thursday, February 1:
Celebrating Vocations

Friday, February 2:
Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers

Saturday, February 3:
Celebrating Families



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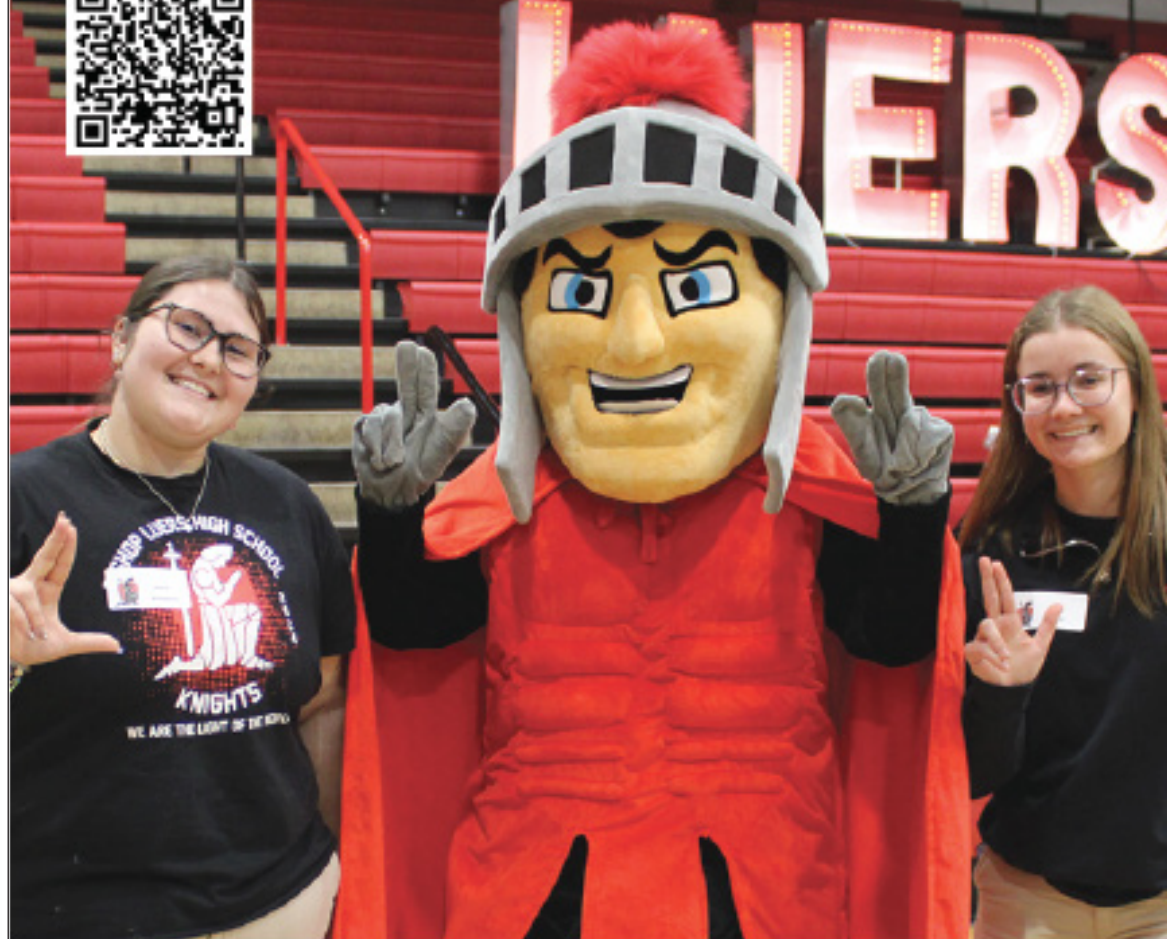
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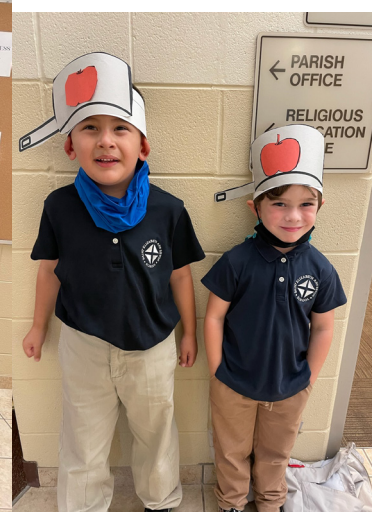
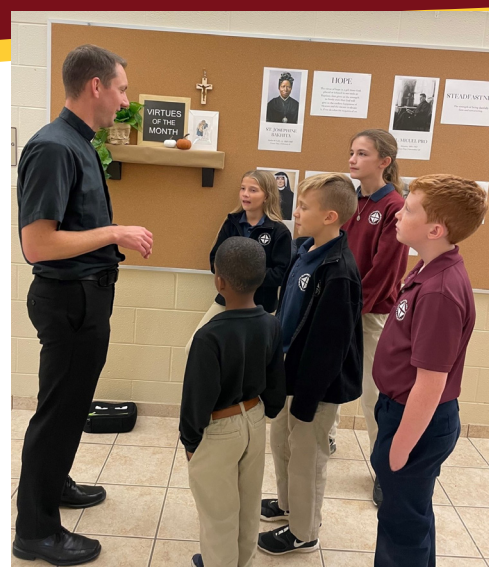
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MAUGEL, from page 12

of levels of implementation, I have experienced many teachers and principals willing to continue to set their sights on the Ultimate level of implementation. The English and math frameworks will have a refresh completed at the end of January and then we'll begin the work on social studies and science. Please pray for all of us during this journey of embedding our Catholic worldview throughout all we do.

As we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week from Sunday, January 28, through Saturday, February 3, I would like to end by saying thank you to all the teachers, staff, and principals who, on a daily basis, provide God's love, grace, and mercy in the ministry of education.

David Mangel is Superintendent of Schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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The Oath of Fidelity of Dr. Marco J. Clark, President of Holy Cross College, before Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on March 25, 2023

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Is Hell Empty? I Think Not, but I Hope I'm Wrong

Sometimes you hope to be wrong. For example: A good friend from college seminary discerned out of formation and began to pursue a relationship with a young woman. I didn't think they were a match. I told him as much. (Graciously, he did not end our friendship over my opinion.)

He continued to pursue her. Years later, they're happily married. They're very devout. And they're raising a beautiful family. I was wrong, thank God!

I feel the same way about hell. I think there are a lot of souls lost for eternity because they've refused God's love. I hope I'm wrong. But I don't think I am.

Hell is on my mind because of a comment Pope Francis recently made. During an interview on Sunday, January 14, on "Che Tempo Che Fa" on Italy's Nove channel, the pope was asked how he imagines hell. The Holy Father responded, "It's difficult to imagine it," and added, "what I would say is not a dogma of faith, but my personal thought: I like to think hell is empty; I hope it is."

You can imagine the reactions on social media. Some commentators declared the pope had decreed hell was empty. Others offered more nuanced responses. Catholic speaker Chris Stefanick said on X, "It seems to me that, in Scripture, God 'desires' that all men be saved but explicitly warns us that many are not."

Another X user, Father Joseph Krupp, wrote in a post: "Why freak out over the pope saying he hopes hell is empty? What kind of psychopaths hope hell is full?" I certainly hope it's empty.

But there's enough evidence in Scripture and tradition to give one pause. I might hope hell is empty, but I think that it's probably not.

Jesus warns in the Gospels how our attachments can keep us from heaven's joy. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire" (Mk 9:43). Jesus seems to be saying that it's possible to reject His love and cling instead to our own desires. We can put things between us and God.

Jesus admonishes us, putting us on alert for the judgment that will come on the last day. Those sorted on the right will enter into the Father's house. Those on the left who have ignored the way of life prescribed in the Gospel will be told, "Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt 25:41).

St. Paul frequently writes of the possibility of damnation. The Book of Revelation offers some pretty graphic imagery about the torments of fire and brimstone that await those who belong to the devil.

Based on the teaching of Jesus and the witness of Scripture, the Church has long



GUEST COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE

taught that love of God is incompatible with grave sin. Those who refuse to repent will perish (cf. Lk 13:5).

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that this eternal punishment is just. He writes: "Now after their fall the angels could not be restored. Therefore, neither can man after death: and thus the punishment of the damned will have no end. ... Just as the demons are obstinate in wickedness and therefore have to be punished forever, so too are the souls of men who die without charity, since 'death is to men what their fall was to the angels.'" It's not possible to repent after death.

And the examples of men and women who have wronged little ones, preyed on the faithful, ignored the poor, waged wars, and committed countless other crimes that cry out to heaven for vengeance are too numerous to mention here.

Did they repent? I hope so. Do I think it is likely? No. I hope I'm wrong.

Father Patrick Briscoe is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

A Culture of Life and Civilization of Love

Earlier this month, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with a large group of students, faculty, and staff from the University of Notre Dame to participate in the annual March for Life. For years, Notre Dame has sent one of the largest groups to join in this joyful witness to the dignity of all human life, and in these years after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the march has been even more joyful. The work of building a culture of life is not done, but we have great reason for hope.

The March for Life is an amazing gathering of people from across the country. I've met people through the years who've traveled from as far as California and Idaho to join the event. I wouldn't be surprised if nearly every one of the 50 states is represented in the crowd. But the thing that amazes me the most is the overwhelming number of young people who attend – college and high school students, even babies in strollers and swaddles. These young people often hold signs that proclaim, "We are the pro-life generation," and it's easy to believe this is true. This is a great encouragement to those of us in middle age (and older) who have carried the torch for life since the court's terrible decision in 1973.

As part of the March for Life weekend festivities, I helped lead an "Art for Life" tour at the



HUMOR IN THE MIX

KEN HALLENIUS

National Gallery of Art, focusing on pieces in the collection that illustrate the culture of life. One of the items I spoke about was a medallion honoring the author Nathaniel Hawthorne, the 19th-century writer of "The Scarlet Letter" and "The House of the Seven Gables." He was a descendant of the first Puritans who came to North America to avoid religious persecution. In his books and stories, he dealt with themes of sin and guilt in the human heart, and expressed an anti-Puritan attitude that grew out of his own experience as the scion of a prominent New England family. His great grandfather had been a judge in the Salem witch trials, and Nathaniel worked to distance himself from this association through his writing.

Hawthorne's legacy also includes a prominent contribution to building a culture of life in America. His youngest daughter, Rose, born in 1851, married a writer named George

HALLENIUS, page 17

While Temptations Arise, Christians Are Called to Reject Sin



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONSIGNOR OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for this weekend. Deuteronomy appears in bibles as the fifth book in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

In this reading, Moses addresses the Chosen People, whom he has led, with God's help, from Egypt where they were enslaved. He promises that God will send prophets, with whom the people can relate. If anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself or herself without having been called by God, death

will follow, because God always will take care of His people.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been treasured. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste, according to their state in life. From Christianity's earliest times, however, Christians have chosen lifelong virginity for religious reasons.

Corinth in the first century A.D. was a city notorious for its outrageous sexual excesses. Indeed, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and carnal desire, was the city's special deity.

Paul saw virginity as a powerful Christian witness, reflecting Jesus, and from a more pragmatic point of view, he thought that Christians who were not obligated by marriage and parenthood should devote much of their time to God's service.

Put these two impressions together. The result is the ancient Christian link between virginity and discipleship.

St. Mark's Gospel is the

source of the third reading. It is an interesting story, the first of four references to exorcisms.

First, Mark again reveals the identity of Jesus. While Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services, going to synagogue to pray together and to learn the teachings of the Torah was definitely a high ideal for Jews during the time of Jesus, as indeed it still is among Jews today.

That Jesus went to the synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals the Lord's extraordinary devotion to God. He was perfectly obedient to the role of Redeemer, further shown in the countless examples of Jesus' mercy and love.

People listened, seeing the Lord's holiness. So, a dramatic moment came when a man "with an unclean spirit" appeared. This man recognized Jesus as the "Holy One of God," affirming that Jesus has the power to do anything.

Exercising nothing less than divine power, Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys.

The people are amazed. No devil can overcome the power of God.

Reflection

Thanks be to God, few people today would say that they, or great numbers of people, are "possessed by the devil," although the Church still teaches that such possessions occur.

Still, sin is real. Evil is real. All sin is the mark of the devil's involvement – to some extent, at least – in any person's spiritual life.

An unfortunate reality of our own irreligious times is that fewer and fewer people have any sense of sin. Few regard themselves as sinners. They succumb to the age-old tactic of rationalization, abetted by this culture's increasing rejection of any transcendent religious principle, taught by any religious authority.

They succumb to selfishness and often eventually to hopelessness in their hearts. They imprison themselves. They cripple themselves. They rob themselves. Sin is not the con-

sequence of freedom. It is just the opposite. Sin is no reward. It brings nothing but the bad.

Jesus, the Son of God in the words of Mark, rescues people from sin, forgiving them for sins committed, and pointing the way to holiness.

Resisting sin, nevertheless, requires personal resolve, equal to that urged by Paul in his message to the Corinthians.

READINGS

Sunday: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Monday: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Psalms 3:2-7; Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Psalms 86:1-6; Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Psalms 32:1-2, 5-7; Mark 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; (Responsorial Psalm) 1 Chronicles 29:10-11b, 11d-12d; Mark 6:7-13

Friday: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalms 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Saturday: 1 Kings 3:4-13; Psalms 119:9-14; Mark 6:30-34

Gender Ideology Is Among Major Threats to Religious Liberty

In the inaugural report by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the “State of Religious Liberty in the United States,” published on Tuesday, January 16, the landscape of religious freedom in America is scrutinized with concern and a call to vigilance. The comprehensive 48-page report does not merely outline threats; it serves as a clarion call to all who cherish religious liberty, urging awareness and action in the face of growing challenges.

The report delineates five critical areas where religious liberty is threatened, providing a stark overview of the challenges Catholics face in America today. Notably, these threats are not limited to legislative battles but extend into the cultural and social arenas, affecting core aspects of what we believe as Catholics and how we live.

Bishop Rhoades, Chair of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, which released the report, told OSV News that the committee began this annual report in order to “educate the faithful” and “motivate people to get involved in promoting and protecting religious liberty.” In an election year, this is all the more necessary. Catholics must study, form their consciences according to the mind of the Church, and make prudent decisions at the ballot box.

After surveying threats to religious liberty in Congress, the executive branch and the Supreme Court, the report concludes by directing Catholics to consider five main threats to religious liberty.

1. Attacks against houses of worship:

Foremost among these is the alarming rise in attacks against houses of worship, a phenomenon that transcends denominational boundaries and speaks to a broader climate of religious intolerance. The lingering shadow of the Israel-Hamas conflict has exacerbated this, heightening concerns for the safety of these sacred spaces that should be havens of peace and community.

2. Proposed compulsion of health care workers:

Equally concerning is a proposed regulation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concerning Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. This looming federal

mandate may compel doctors to perform gender transition procedures and abortions, which would present a profound challenge to the conscience rights of health care professionals and the ethical standards of Catholic medical practice.

3. Threats to religious charities:

The plight of religious charities serving migrants and refugees is another area under scrutiny. As immigration becomes a focal point in electoral politics, these charities face increasing threats, potentially undermining their mission to serve the vulnerable in accordance with Catholic social teaching.

4. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act:

Additionally, the report raises concerns about the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act regulations, enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. According to the U.S. bishops’ conference, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to workers with medical needs due to pregnancy or childbirth, but these regulations potentially require religious employers to participate in practices antithetical to their pro-life beliefs, marking a significant encroachment on religious freedom.

5. Stifling of religious expression:

Finally, the suppression of religious speech, particularly regarding marriage and sexual difference, highlights a growing trend of societal and legal pressures to stifle the influence of religious beliefs in the public square.

This last threat is particularly difficult. Many Catholics self-censor at work or among friends, fearing ridicule – or, worse, recrimination – should they speak honestly or openly about Catholic teaching about marriage and human sexuality.

The celebration of “Pride Month” generated numerous controversies last year. Recall the protests and counterprotests surrounding the Los Angeles Dodgers’ decision to present the Los Angeles Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an anti-Catholic organization, a “Community Hero Award” during the team’s Pride Month festivities. More such events are likely to come.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR EDITORIAL

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

And the bishops rightly predict that gender ideology, along with abortion and hostilities toward ministries that serve migrants at the border, will be a significant issue in the presidential campaign. The bishops note, “As with abortion, support of gender ideology tends to be associated with hostility to the exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions upholding the sexual difference between men and women.” Religious freedom requires not only that we can openly hold these views but that we can freely teach and defend them.

The pressure to conform to social norms concerning human sexuality is exceedingly great. The LGBTQ lobby is well-established and effective in silencing opposing views. In 2020, the U.S. Department of Education issued the Religious Liberty and Free Inquiry Rule. The rule includes a provision known as the Equal Campus Access rule, which protects religious student groups at public universities from discrimination. In February of 2023, a new rule was proposed to rescind those protections, putting student leaders at risk if they hold that sex should be reserved to the confines of a marriage of one man and one woman.

The concern about gender ideology is not alarmist. Neither is it partisan or extremist. It is present, and because these conversations are so difficult, requiring compassion and charity, we must prepare ourselves in order to engage in them well.

Bishop Rhoades told OSV News that an erosion of that liberty would not only be “harmful to our country, and the principles on which our nation was founded, but also I think affects others around the world.” The decisions made in America have implications beyond our shores. We should equip ourselves, then, that we may advocate for religious liberty in our country, knowing that doing so will influence religious liberty throughout the world.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 28, 2024
Mark 1:21-28

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Jesus and the demons at Capernaum. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAPERNAUM	SABBATH	SYNAGOGUE
PEOPLE	TEACHING	NOT AS
A MAN	CRIED OUT	JESUS
NAZARETH	DESTROY US	KNOW
YOU ARE	HOLY ONE OF GOD	QUIET
COME OUT	CRY	AMAZED
OBEY	SPREAD	REGION

DEMONS OBEY

H T E R A Z A N A M A X
J O K M U A N R E P A C
E T L W K T U O E M O C
S E F Y S A B B A T H S
U I L W O N K Z K W L U
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O P G E V B P O F D R T
N E R N A N A T Z G C S
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HALLENIUS, from page 16

Lathrop, and together they welcomed a son, Francis. Tragedy struck the family several years later when Francis died of diphtheria at age 5. George took to drinking as an attempt to cope with his grief, leading to periods of increasing instability in his character.

Rose threw herself into charity work. At age 45, she enrolled herself in a nurse training course to learn to care for those with cancer, which was (and remains) the dreaded disease of the day. At the time, the common belief was that cancer was contagious, so her choice to care for patients was considered a death sentence. Because of this fear of contagion, most hospitals would not accept dying cancer patients.

After finishing her nursing course, Rose established a care facility on the Lower East Side of Manhattan called the Saint Rose Free Home for Incurable Cancer, dedicated to St. Rose of Lima. She welcomed and cared for indigent men and women who suffered from cancer but had nowhere to live. The home had no hot running water, but it was clean. She begged for donations to support her work, writing letters to the editors of various newspapers and to various philanthropists, refusing to take payment from her patients or the government.

In 1899, at the suggestion of a Dominican friar who visited the Saint Rose Home to

minister to one of his parishioners, Rose and her co-worker at the home, Alice Huber, were received as Third Order Dominicans. In December of 1900, the archbishop of New York formally approved them as a new religious order. Today known as the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Congregation of St. Rose of Lima, their mission remains, as Rose wrote in a letter, to “take the lowest class both in poverty and suffering (the cancerous poor) and put them in such a condition, that if Our Lord knocked at the door we would not be ashamed to show what we had done.”

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, known in religious life as Mother Mary Alphonsa, died on July 9, 1926, at Rosary Hill Home, Hawthorne, New York, in the motherhouse of her congregation, having spent the day writing letters to seek donations.

In 2003, the late Cardinal Edward Egan of New York approved the opening of her cause for canonization, and we know her today as “Servant of God Mother Mary Alphonsa.” We can think of Rose and her congregation as one of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s greatest legacies.

May Mother Mary Alphonsa intercede that we may recognize the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death!

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



Photos by Katie Owens

Students and staff at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Warsaw kneel before the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic adoration.

Adoration Gives Students a 'Special Time with Christ'

BY KATIE OWENS

The Gospel of St. Matthew tells the story of Jesus traveling to Judea, where he preached to large crowds and performed healings. While answering questions from the Pharisees, "children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Mt 19:13-15).

Following this Gospel call, leaders at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Warsaw are making sure students are able to come to Jesus on a regular basis and be in His presence at Eucharistic adoration.

On the first Friday of every month while school is in session, older students are partnered with younger students to help little ones better understand the importance and sacredness of truly being in the presence of God.

"Our faith is meant to be experienced in the community," Sacred Heart Principal Mike McClain told Today's Catholic. "Eucharistic adoration is another chance for our student population to get together with their classroom and school community and interact with the living God through the sacrament. It's also nice the way we do it – pairing older and younger grades together. The older grades can serve as models for the younger grades."

"Let the children come to Me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"

– Mt 19:13-15



McClain said staff members, including preschool teacher Jill Lopez, make a point to vary the adoration experience for the children "to give our scholars a slightly different environment every time," McClain said. "Sometimes we're with the whole school, sometimes just a class or two. Sometimes there are more candles than others. Sometimes there is a hymn, sometimes simply 'holy silence.' By varying it, we're helping kids start to form their own preferences for how to spend their time in adoration."

Lopez, who teaches Pre-K 3, told Today's Catholic that she prays with the themes and format each month. "Children's adoration is truly a group

effort," she said. "So many wonderful people come to me with thoughts and ideas, and I'm like a funnel for all these amazing ideas. I organize classes and times, and when Friday morning rolls around, we set everything up for a special time with Christ."

Lopez added: "It's such a blessing to be Catholic and to have access to the Eucharist to share with our kids. We get to have the Creator of heaven and earth right there with us, to look at and pray with. Every time we have children's adoration, the Holy Spirit just sweeps through the room and touches the hearts of our children. It's a beautiful and heartwarming thing to witness.

And our school is lucky to have two fantastic priests [Father Jonathon Norton and Father David Langford] who bring us closer to Jesus during these quiet times of adoration. I can't express how honored I am to share this sacred space with our Lord and Savior and all the wonderful children I've come to love."

Along with time spent in adoration, students at Sacred Heart attend daily Mass twice a week during the school year. Father Norton, Pastor at Sacred Heart and Director of Seminarians in the diocese's Office of Vocations, said he is "grateful to watch how the Lord is moving in the lives of these children by way of

the sacraments." Because of these opportunities, Father Norton said, students at Sacred Heart are "excited about the Eucharist." But also, he said, some are having their eyes opened to a possible vocation in the future. "We have a growing number of boys asking to serve at Mass, and some are expressing interest in becoming priests," Father Norton said. "I am excited to see which of them enter seminary when they get older. I was in second grade when I first felt a call to the priesthood, so I know there's a good chance some of these boys will become priests, too. On the same note, we have a couple of girls who have mentioned that they are interested in religious life. This is so exciting, because I know our Eucharistic Lord is working on their hearts."

"I am honored to be the pastor of a parish and school," Father Norton said ahead of National Catholic Schools Week, which will be celebrated across the country from Sunday, January 28, through Saturday, February 3. "Our school brings so much life to the parish just by the presence of the students each day but also by their presence as a school during Mass twice a week. The school also helps families to bond, which improves the experience of community at Sacred Heart. I'm moved by the opportunity to provide the sacraments for them in a way that I never had while attending public schools."

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

EMHC Training in Fort Wayne and South Bend
FORT WAYNE/SOUTH BEND – Those planning to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for their parishes are invited to attend a free training on Saturday, February 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Joseph Parish, 226 N. Hill St. or St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 4916 Trier Rd. Advanced registration is required. For full details, frequently asked questions, and registration, visit diocesefwsb.org/trainings. Contact Brian MacMichael at bmacmichael@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Compline and Candlelight Adoration
MISHAWAKA – St. Monica Church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., will host Compline and candlelight adoration from 8:45-10 p.m. on Friday, February 2, with Compline (Night Prayer) from the Liturgy of the Hours, followed by a simple Holy Hour of candlelit adoration. The church will be dark and quiet, but the Light of Christ will burn in our hearts. Contact Jessica Roberts at jroberts@stmonicamish.org.

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 raffle, and tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25. For more information visit stjosephgarrett.com.

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Trivia Night
SOUTH BEND – The annual St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Parish trivia night will be held on Saturday, February 10, at M.R. Falcons, 3212 Keller St. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and play starts at 6:30 p.m. There will be a cash bar. Bring your own food to share with your table mates. Cost is \$10 per person with 10 people per

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Arcola Gary Greene, 80, St. Patrick	Sue Christle, 75, St. Charles Borromeo	Mishawaka Joseph Nicolini, 94, St. Bavo
Bremen Joan Loftus, 95, St. Dominic	Fred Jehle, 84, St. Charles Borromeo	Robert E. Klotz, Sr., 95, St. John the Baptist
Bristol Sanita Cripe, 94, St. Mary of the Annunciation	Duane Pontenberg, 84, St. Vincent de Paul	South Bend Anthony Mersits, 88, Holy Cross
Fort Wayne Michael D. Cole, 61, Queen of Angels	Goshen Douglas Allen, 70, St. John the Evangelist	Loretta M. Taberski, 91, St. Adalbert
Ruthella R. Kramer, 96, Queen of Angels	Granger Brian Pawlowski, 54, St. Pius X	Dan Kaczorowski, 82, St. Casimir

Send obituaries to obituaries@diocesefwsb.org.

table. Contact Nancy Bakos at pastor@ststanparish.com for information.

Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations
FORT WAYNE – The Little Flower Holy Hour is held from 7-8 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, September-May, at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel next to the Cathedral

of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. The Holy Hour is led by a different priest or deacon each month. Join in praying for vocations. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611 or cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org.

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 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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