The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend WELCOMES

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades
Welcome to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

May you be blessed in your Episcopal Ministry here.

Msgr. Robert C. Schulte, the staff and the people of the Cathedral Parish

The priests and people of SAINT MATTHEW CO-CATHEDRAL in South Bend joyfully welcome our new shepherd Bishop Kevin Rhoades

You have undertaken the work of the episcopate, and taking your place at the helm of the Church, you guide the ship against the waves. Hold fast to the rudder of faith, so that the violent storms of this age cannot sink you. The sea is indeed deep and vast, but fear not, “for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters” (Ps24.2). For it is with good reason that the Lord’s Church remains unmoved amid so many tempests of this world, built as it is upon the rock of the apostles, and she perseveres against the onslaught of the rushing waters by a foundation that is unshaken. She is dashed by the waves, but not destroyed by them, and while elements belonging to this world crash loudly against her, nevertheless she lays claim to the harbor of salvation, that most safe port where she receives those who are hard-pressed in her service.

Saint Ambrose, Letter 36 to Bishop Constantius

Ad multos annos!
In light of the mystery of the Holy Trinity, I will serve in your midst

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the Church celebrates the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus’ public life began with his baptism by John in the Jordan River. That event was a beautiful manifestation (a theophany) of the mystery of the most Holy Trinity. As the Son of God came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove and the voice of God the Father came from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son.”

As I prepare to begin my ministry among you as bishop this coming Wednesday, I invite you to join me in turning your attention to the central mystery of our faith and life, the Most Holy Trinity. Each of us was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we invoke the Holy Trinity every time we make the sign of the cross. I will be installed as your bishop on the feast of a great bishop, St. Hilary of Poitiers, who wrote a magnificent book entitled “On The Trinity.”

It is in light of the mystery of the Holy Trinity that I will serve in your midst. According to an ancient tradition of the Church, the bishop is to be an image of God the Father. I am very conscious that I have been called to lead you as a devoted father in the way of salvation. I am very humbled by this calling and I ask for your prayers as I begin this holy ministry.

Of course, Jesus, the Son, is the perfect image of the Father and reveals his merciful love to us. In this Year for Priests, we are reminded that priests are to be living signs in the Church of the Lord Jesus, the Head and Shepherd of the Church. As I begin my ministry among you, I also ask for your prayers for all of our priests and seminarians, that we may grow in holiness as living icons of Christ the Good Shepherd. And I especially ask for your prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in our diocese, one of my highest priorities as your new bishop.

Jesus, the eternal and only-begotten Son, together with the Father, has poured out the Holy Spirit upon the Church. When I was ordained a bishop five years ago, I received by the power of the Holy Spirit the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. It has been a tremendous joy and a great responsibility to act in the name and in the person of Christ as teacher, priest and shepherd. I realize that in doing so, it is the Holy Spirit who strengthens me in my weakness. He is the One who gives life to the church and enables us to fulfill our mission.

My brothers and sisters, I realize that I will have many responsibilities as I begin my episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend this Wednesday. I believe that one of my main responsibilities is to pray for you. I pledge to you my prayers. I will remember you each day at holy Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours. I will also pray for you when I pray the holy rosary. Please pray for me. It is through mutual prayer that we are united very closely with each other in the unity of the Most Holy Trinity.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the beloved daughter of the Father, the mother of the Son, and the temple of the Holy Spirit, pray for us and accompany us on our journey together!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop-designate of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Rhoades family ties bind with love

BY KAY COZAD

A s Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades answered the call from Pope Benedict XVI to become the new bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with a resounding “yes!” — leaving his home dio-
cese of Harrisburg and his friends and family members makes for a rather bittersweet move. His sister Robin McCracken and cousin Mary Earnest speak candidly about their close family ties and Bishop Rhoades’ move to the Midwest.

Of course, says McCracken, “It’s definitely bittersweet. I’m glad they’ve chosen him. I will support him. But I’ll miss him a lot!” As a going away gift she bought her brother a computer camera for use with Skype, a free Internet calling service, so they can keep in touch.

McCracken, a nurse, and her husband William have three chil-
dren, Johnny, Molly and Marykate, and are active mem-
bers of Our Lady of Consolation Parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Though he shoulders much responsibility as bishop, his sis-
ter says of Bishop Rhoades, “He is my brother first. Family is
important to him. He’s a regular person — he helps with dishes. He’s been to every birth, game and holiday of my family’s. He’s always right there with me.”

His natural involvement with his children endears him to her even more. “The kids love to stay with him at his home. He took Johnny to World Youth Day in Australia and hopes to take Molly to Spain. They are very comfortable with him, and exci-
ted that he’s bishop,” she says.

Growing up with Bishop Rhoades as big brother with five years between them, McCracken always felt that he watched out for her. “I’m close with Kevin. I look up to him,” she says. The only time she recalls him being in trouble is when he ate his favorite apple pie dessert too fast. As for the extended family, “He was always good with the older relatives. He would sit and listen to them. They loved him,” she adds.

She holds fond memories of family vacations that the young Rhoades would orchestrate. “Kevin was a big planner in those vacations. He loves history so he always added a historical spot to see on the way,” says McCracken. The bishop continues to join the McCracken fami-
ly for vacations when he can.

In the 1970s, young Rhoades and his sister turned their TV room into a disco. “We learned some of the dances. John Travolta would have been proud!” says McCracken. She and her family continue to enjoy his sense of humor and gentle teasing.

Another of her favorite mem-
ories of her brother involves their Grandma Sarah, who lived with them. “She was a baker and made those cinnamon buns. It was a whole day project and Kevin always helped.”

McCracken is touched that in recent years she and her brother occasionally bake those very buns together using their grand-
mother’s recipe.

The siblings enjoyed playing games together as children, as well. “We played Jeopardy, car-
sino, pinochle and rummy. Mom always made sure there was at least one new game on Christmas,” recalls McCracken.

Now, she quips, her brother beats her son in chess, a game he teaches the boy to play. “Kevin measures Johnny’s progress by how long it takes to win. If it takes longer than the time before, then Johnny is progress-
work, playing and singing together. Earnest and her husband Kevin have two children, Sean, who is godson to Bishop Rhoades, and Meghan. Earnest is an active parishioner of St. Theresa Parish and the assistant principal at St. Joseph School in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Earnest, who considered the young Rhoades her first best friend, says of him as a child, “He was fun, honest, very car-
ing, very smart and someone I could trust.” As for the present Bishop Rhoades she adds, “My cousin is the same person he

died, there was always a funeral for it. Kevin would always be the priest,” they say.

It was no surprise to either his sister or cousin that his calling was to eventually be to the priesthood. Earnest recalls hints of the priesthood in his preteen years. “He was a dedicated altar server,” she says. “He was inter-
est ed in the lives of the saints, too.”

Bishop Rhoades’ sister recalls his interest in Mass and prayer. She says in his second year at Mount Saint Mary’s (University) that he spoke with a priest and after praying at the college’s grotto, he had a growing sense of his calling. When he made the decision to enter the seminary, “an incredible peace came and he felt the Holy Spirit in him.” says McCracken. She recalls his unceremonious announcement that he would become a priest.

“We had no pressure from our parents. They always said ‘We want him to be what God wants him to be,'” she says.

Seminarian Kevin Rhoades, after ordination to the diocesan by Cardinal Terrence Cooke of New York at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, is shown with family.

McCacken prayed for his vocation and attended all the cer-
emonies including his ordina-
tion. “That was really neat,” she says. But she said it was “heart-
wrenching” when her brother travelled to Rome to study dur-
ing his seminary years. Their mother gave her a trip to Rome to reunite the siblings as a Christmas gift.

Following his ordination into the priesthood, then Father Rhoades gave each family member an individual blessing. “When he blessed me it was very emotional for both of us,” recalls Earnest. “We both cried. Happy tears, of course.”

Of her cousin’s vocation Earnest says, “He loves the Catholic Church and its teach-
ings. He has a personal relation-
ship with God through his prayer life. He respects other people and is interested in serving them and bringing them closer to God.”

“He’s very energetic,” his sis-
ter adds. “Being bishop is almost

This 1967 photo shows the Rhoads family, from left, Charles Rhoades, father, Kevin, Mary, mother, sister Robin and brother Chuck.
Bishop Rhoades’ sister writes about their mother, Mary Rhoades

BY ROBIN MCCracken

GAP, Pa. — “O Lord, you are the center of my life. I will always praise you, I will always serve you, I will always keep you in my sight.” — Ps 16:1-2, 7-11

This psalm describes how one woman I knew very closely lived her life. This woman was Bishop Rhoades’ and my mother, Mary Theresa Rhoades.

Mary was born Nov. 11, 1928, in Mahanoy City, Pa. She was the fifth child of Sarah and Carl Dakes. Her mother’s parents were from Ireland and her father was from Greece. Mary attended St. Canicus School in Mahanoy City until 10th grade, as it only went up to 10th grade, and then finished high school at Mahanoy City High. There, she met and married her high school sweetheart, Charles Rhoades.

Mary was the mother of three children: Chuck, Kevin and Robin. She would sometimes comment, “I’ll take as many children as God gives me.” She loved all children and treated us as true gifts from God. We knew every day that we were cherished and loved. As children, she said our prayers with us every night. We got a hug, kiss, and she said, “I love you,” every night as she tucked us in bed.

Our mother had a great dedication to Catholic education. All three of us had 12 years of Catholic education, graduating from Lebanon Catholic High School. (Kevin, of course, had many more years of Catholic education.)

Our mother worked in St. Mary’s Elementary School for over 20 years. She was the coordinator of the Learning Center. She was also a very active member of St. Mary’s Church in Lebanon, serving as a member on advisory boards, as a chairperson for fundraisers and as a Cub Scout leader. She encouraged us to be active participants in the church as well. Her sons were altar servers, and I was a lector and played the flute. The activities for the church always took precedence over any other activity.

Our mother truly made Christ the center of her life. The way she lived her life shows this over and over. Daily Mass, whenever possible, and regular confession were her routine. Attendance at Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation were a given. Praying the rosary, devotions, Stations of the Cross during Lent and daily prayer were common activities in our home.

I could see her faith and great devotion to the Eucharist by the way she prayed during the consecration of the Mass. I remember asking her what she prayed about, and she told me, “This is the most special time we have with Jesus. He is right here with us. I pray for you and your brothers, your Dad and others. I ask him for help and thank him. Sometimes, I don’t say anything and let him speak to me.”

During the whole consecration and until the Eucharist was placed back into the tabernacle she knelt, even if no kneelers were available. We always wore our “Sunday best” to church, never jeans and sneakers. Once as a teenager I gave her a hard time about always having to get dressed up. She responded, “Yes, God does care more what your soul looks like, but you have nice clothes. What better place is there to wear them?”

Our summer vacation always included a stop at a basilica, shrine, cathedral or other site of Catholic history. One year we traveled to Disney World and on the way experienced the wonderful history of St. Augustine.

Many vacations were trips to the Jersey shore. The first thing we planned was where and when we were going to attend Sunday Mass. Then we planned our beach time, the boardwalk, the rides and other entertainment. When I was in college, she gave me the gift of a trip to Rome, paying for the trip out of money she had been saving. I was privileged to visit my brother Kevin for a whole week in Rome. She arranged for me to go there before she herself went. Years later, she did go to Rome, thanks to her husband, and witnessed her son’s ordination to the diaconate. She kept a diary of every experience she had in Rome and has several scrapbooks of her trip. Once while in Rome, Kevin excused himself for a moment and went

Our family reports their delight at having a clergyman in their midst. Earnest says, “I’m not surprised by the move. His priority is God and his obedience to the church. He is totally committed to his vocation,” she says.

Earnest reports, “We are very proud of what he has done for our diocese. ... I hope (in Fort Wayne-South Bend) there will be an increase in religious vocations under his leadership and the Catholic schools will flourish under his guidance.”

She adds jokingly, “My husband is a native of Indiana, so I know Indiana is big basketball territory, I expect the bishop will improve his game if he ever gets some free time to play.”

Bishop’s sister agrees saying, “He’s trying hard to eat right and stay healthy. When he has free time he plays sports — tennis, racquetball. Tell them to play with him,” she says.

His cousin believes that his pastoral strength lies in “his ability to reach out and relate to people of all walks of life and lead them closer to God.” She says, “He just has this way of making everyone feel important and special. ... I know he would be a good shepherd for any diocese.”

Carl Dakes, another of Bishop Rhoades’ cousins joins the women and says, “I am so proud of all of my family including Bishop Kevin. We all were close growing up. ... We will miss him as he heads west. But at least I will see my cousin every football season, since we travel to South Bend once a year to cheer on the Irish of Notre Dame.”

And says McCracken, “We hope to still see him a lot. He’ll come back for my daughter’s Confirmation and when my son Johnny graduates from high school.” As for now, the family keeps the new bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in their hearts and in their prayers.
to talk with the Missionaries of Charity. When he came back, he had a very special person accompanying him: Mother Teresa! Mom was in such awe that she didn’t know what to say. She hugged Mother Teresa and kissed her, and held her hand for a moment. Later that night she called me from Rome and told me she was with a true saint, saying, “I could feel God’s presence in her.”

Our mother lived for others. She and our father took people into our home when needed. When her mother Sarah could no longer live by herself, she was brought into our home without hesitation. Always loved and valued, she lived with us over eight years.

Another time, a young Catholic school teacher relocated to Lebanon and needed a place to stay until he found an apartment. He was made to feel so at home by my mother that he stayed for five years, leaving only to get married.

When mom’s mother-in-law eventually could no longer live by herself, she was brought into our home without hesitation. Always loved and valued, she lived with us over eight years.

The menu was planned weeks ahead, and she cooked a feast. The menu was planned weeks and family friend was invited. Every aunt, uncle, cousin and others to the religious life were before herself. She was the most giving person I will ever know.

A devoted and dedicated wife for almost 43 years, she treasured her grandchildren — Emily, Rachel, Johnny and Molly — and had what seemed to be unlimited energy in playing with them. Though she never met her youngest grandchild, Marykate, both of my daughters, Molly Theresa and Marykate, were named after her, Mary Theresa.

Material things were not important to mom. Whenever her children asked her what gifts she would like for Christmas, a birthday or Mother’s Day, she always responded, “A card and your prayers.” One time she spotted Chuck walking from the floral shop about two miles away carrying a single red rose, her favorite flower. She was so happy he would go to this trouble for her that she cried.

Kevin’s ordination to the priesthood and the wedding of her son, Chuck, as well as my wedding were highlights in her life.

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Christmas preparations were a special part of our lives. The Nativity set was a focal point in our living room. After Christmas dinner we always had a birthday cake and sang “Happy Birthday, Jesus.”

When mom learned how to do ceramics, she created the beautiful Nativity sets. It took her over a year to create each set. One of her sets is proudly and prominently displayed in the bishop’s residence, and one is in my own home.

Mom’s favorite week of the year was Holy Week, and Easter was her favorite holiday. As a family, we always participated in the beautiful Catholic traditions and rituals of the triduum, and the vigil of Holy Saturday often brought tears to her eyes.

Mom was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer Dec. 8, 1993. The doctors gave her less than one year to live, even with chemo and radiation treatments. “If this is God’s will,” she would accept it. Pain from the cancer was awful at times. Mom would ask for the pain medication but she would not complain. I could see that she was offering her suffering up for the Lord. It was a hard year for all of us. We prayed for a miracle, but she died on Oct. 30, 1994. Her death was difficult for us, but it was spiritually beautiful. Her loved ones surrounded her bedside, each saying a “good-bye for now,” taking turns thanking her and comforting her. Her own son gave her Anointing of the Sick, and we prayed the rosary, placing a crucifix on her chest. Kevin blessed her again, and she died.

Mom never waivered from her values. God was always first and her family and others were before herself. She was the most totally giving person I will ever know. I thank God for his most precious gift of my mother. I thank my mother for the most special gift she gave us, the gift of her faith.

Robin McCracken, the sister of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, contributed this article on their mother.
BY KAY COZAD

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Bishop Kevin Rhoades is a dynamic force to be reckoned with in matters of the Church. And his passion for his Catholic faith spills over into his friendships as well.

One longtime friend, Edwin Dominguez, has known the bishop for 25 years and remembers him as a young vibrant priest assigned to a small Hispanic mission church named Cristo Rey in Pennsylvania. As a teen Dominguez recalls, “His ability to speak fluent Spanish and his charismatic ways captured everyone’s heart and motivated the church community. Pretty much the way he has done wherever he goes.”

Dominguez and his wife Michelle have two daughters Sianna and Sheridan. The family members are active parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola of Buchanan Valley and say they are grateful for bishop’s friendship. “Bishop married my wife and I, baptized both my children and many of my nieces and nephews.... He has been a big part of our lives,” says Dominguez.

Michelle is a convert and credits the bishop’s strong faith example for her own faith journey. Her husband says, “Bishop Rhoades played an important role as she learned more of our faith and took RCIA classes. His example and support to Michelle along with the grace of God is why she is so knowledgeable and strong in her faith today.”

Michelle received her first Communion and Confirmation from her friend Bishop Rhoades. Of the many everyday memories the friends share, Dominguez holds his memory of their trip to Rome most dear. He describes one particular experience saying, “... the experience that stands out for me the most was when the bishop was with us when we prayed the rosary on our knees as we moved up the Holy Stairs. Devout pilgrims mount the steps on their knees, praying. It is a very slow process and can be very difficult and painful to your knees. As we prayed and approached the top of the stairs I could see that both bishop and I were struggling to get to the top. We both tried to imagine what Jesus went through and how his feet passed where we were kneeling. It was very spiritual and humbling. I was struggling and sweating profusely. Bishop was definitely doing better than me. I looked to my left and saw several nuns passing us on the stairs as if we had stopped. It was unbelievable how they progressed so quickly up the stairs without even a bead of sweat. When we finally reached the top we went to the gift shop. I motioned toward the nuns and said ‘There must be something in the water!’ Bishop turned to me and laughed. We entered the gift shop that the nuns operated and one of the nuns saw me sweating and offered me a towel. Bishop shared with her what I had said and she and bishop laughed as they spoke to each other in Italian.”

This genuine kindheartedness and his “remarkable way of communicating with people of different ages, background and race” makes Dominguez’s friend an inspiring leader. Dominguez says, “I have known bishop for quite a while and every time I hear his homilies I am moved.”

But he says his most impressive quality is his obedience to the church.

“No matter what is asked of him he gives all of himself to the church unselfishly, unconditionally and without doubt. He has always and will put our God first above all else. I have never known anyone that has come to him in need that he has denied. I am privileged to have had him as my priest, bishop, but most of all my friend.”

John DiSanto couldn’t agree more. DiSanto and his wife Maria, and their children Alessandro and Bianca, active parishioners of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, have shared a close friendship with Bishop Rhoades for five years. He says of his friend, “He has a youthful energy and enthusiasm about the Catholic faith. He wants the faith to be vibrant and alive.”

DiSanto first met Bishop Rhoades following his installation as bishop of the Harrisburg Diocese in 2004. After a “pleasan time at dinner” the two became friends.

DiSanto finds a commitment to the people of the diocese in his friend and says, “He is a defender and evangelizer of the Catholic faith. He builds bridges with other faiths and engages youth in the faith.”

His accessibility makes him every man’s bishop says DiSanto. “After Mass at the cathedral he’ll stand out on the street and shake everyone’s hand.” In addition to his accessibility another strength, says DiSanto, is bishop’s multilingualism. He celebrates Masses in Spanish, Vietnamese, Spanish and English. He also reaches out to the disabled Catholics with sign language as well, he says.

On a more personal note, DiSanto delights in the fact that his children exchange e-mails with the bishop to debate theology, which currently revolves around the true location of Mount Sinai. They joke that if anything were to happen to their parents they would want to live with Bishop Rhoades.

The bishop’s well-known generous nature warms the DiSanto family’s heart as they recall when on a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., on his daughter’s birthday, the family enjoyed a dinner out with the bishop.

After eating only a portion of her birthday cake, the bishop and the two DiSanto children embarked on a mission to find a homeless person to finish the cake. Unfortunately the first person they offered the cake to was lactose intolerant. Soon a young man in a crowded van politely took the cake.

DiSanto has business dealings with the bishop as a regional real estate developer, who is currently in charge of the $50 million high school building project in the Harrisburg Diocese. “I’ve seen him in so many different roles,” he says, adding, “He’s full of ideas and wants to get things done.”

As he prepares to say farewell to his friend John DiSanto says of Bishop Rhoades, “He is a man of God. It’s hard for him to leave his family. But I know he will be successful. As the Fort Wayne-South Bend people get to know him they’ll love him like we do.”
HARRISBURG staff bids farewell to Bishop Rhoades

BY KAY COZAD

HARRISBURG, Pa. — For the past five years diocesan office staff in the Diocese of Harrisburg has worked closely with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in an effort to shepherd the faithfulness of the area. Most hold the feeling that his appointment to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is “bittersweet.”

Maria Wood

Maria Wood has been Bishop Rhoades’ executive assistant since his return to Rome in 1988. She says of the bishop, “To work with Bishop Rhoades has been such a wonderful blessing in my life. To witness first hand his faith, devotion and love of the Catholic Church has had a profound impact on my faith. Bishop makes our faith real. He reaches out to the poor, home- and imprisoned in a very genuine, humble and quiet way. He leads people back to the Catholic faith with his compassion and understanding. He lives his faith every day! “What you see is what you get with Bishop Rhoades. He is prayerful, kind and gentle but he is also a strong defender of Catholic morals and teachings and does not withdraw from adversity. He is a shepherd for all people. “While it will be very difficult for him to leave his family, friends and the faithful of the Harrisburg Diocese, he is at peace. He is a faithful servant and accepts that he is being called to serve in another area of the Lord’s vineyard. He is looking forward to serving the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “I wish him well and I will miss him! The people of Fort Wayne-South Bend have inherited a gem!”

Father Neil Sullivan

Father Neil Sullivan is the director of the Office of Worship and serves as master of ceremonies for Bishop Rhoades. He recalls meeting the bishop years ago at Holy Family Parish in Harrisburg, where he was an organist. After then Father Rhoades celebrated Mass as a visiting priest from neighboring St. Francis Parish, Father Sullivan told his mother, “I just met the nicest priest and he seemed so very happy.”

Father Sullivan finds the bishop to be very prayerful and not only an academic but has great wisdom. “I have complete trust in him because of his wisdom,” he says. Bishop Rhoades, he says, is a gentle, sincere, authentic person. One who is never too busy or tired to be present to the people around him. “I’ve never met anyone like him before,” says Father Sullivan who further describes the bishop as genuine, kind and loving. “There is a noble simplicity to him,” he says. He admires his discipline and strong work ethic. “He gets things done,” he says. But more than that he feels there is a great holiness about him that inspires others to be holy.

“I am grateful for him. Serving him has changed my life. I’m a better person, priest, Catholic because of him. He is a great friend,” says Father Sullivan.

As for his move to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Sullivan wishes him all the best and knows that he will love the people of the Midwest with true charity of the heart as he has those of Harrisburg. “He will breathe the Spirit into Fort Wayne-South Bend,” says the priest. “And what is already blooming will blossom further.”

Father Edward J. Quinlan

Father Edward J. Quinlan, who has served as secretary of education for the past 12 years, has known Bishop Rhoades since the early seminary days at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg. Later as principal of Bishop McDevitt High School Father Quinlan took up residence with then-Father Rhoades, who pastored St. Francis Parish. He says, “The people of the parish loved him dearly. Here, I saw just what a wonderful priest he is and was blessed to assist him.” Later during the time Bishop Rhoades was rector of the seminary, Father Quinlan saw first hand “his pastoral skills and administrative competence.”

As for the bishop’s interest in the Office of Education, Father Quinlan says, “Bishop Rhoades always held Catholic education in high regard.” The critical role education plays in the lives of inner city children is linked to his support of religious education for those attending public schools.

Bishop Rhoades made visits to schools on a regular basis as well as attending educational conferences, celebrating Mass for the monthly principals meetings, holding lunches for National Merit Scholarship finalists and more.

Bishop Rhoades, says Father Quinlan, has been direct in his insistence that what is proclaimed is the teaching of the church. “Bishop Rhoades is the first to speak of his love of our Lord and his Blessed Mother,” he says, adding, “He has a great respect for those entrusted with special responsibilities in the diocese, I experience that personally.”

His thoughts on the bishop’s move to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — “I am confident that he will do no less for Fort Wayne and South Bend than he did for us in Harrisburg. ... I hope he finds good friends among the priests of the diocese and a kindly reception by the people of Fort Wayne and South Bend. You will be blessed with your new shepherd.”

Father Ray Lavoie

Father Ray Lavoie has been the executive assistant to the Vocations Office in the Diocese of Harrisburg for the past five years and like Father Quinlan has known Bishop Rhoades since his seminarian days. He says, “Bishop Rhoades has a great love for the priesthood and also the people of the diocese he serves. He has a deep understanding of who a priest is and what he does. He has a desire to encourage young men to answer the call.”

“Vocations rose from 11 seminarians to 27 in the five years Bishop Rhoades presided in Harrisburg.”

Bishop Rhoades has been active in the vocations ministry by leading the youth to see the pope on World Youth Days, interacting with the youth during Confirmations and other events. He supports the office by making seminary visits and being active in the discernment programs in the diocese.

“He has a deep fatherly relationship with the seminarians,” says Father Lavoie, adding, “He’s very supportive.”

As for his feeling about the bishop’s appointment to this diocese, Father Lavoie says, “I experience him as a spiritual father. He has a great love for the people he serves. He’s a hard worker and demands that of others. He is very inspiring. When I found out he was leaving, I felt like I was losing a father.”

Father Ray Lavoie believes that his simple presence Bishop Rhoades will attract more seminarians. “He has a great love of Jesus Christ and a dynamic energy. He wants to build up the church. He rejoices in his Catholic faith, and it’s contagious!”

Ginny Duncan

Ginny Duncan, who has been the director of the Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities for over two years says, “Bishop Rhoades has a tremendous heart for people with disabilities.” With a background in speech and hearing, Duncan is a proficient sign language interpreter and first met Bishop Rhoades when she was invited to be a member of a task force created by him to develop this ministry in Harrisburg. She recollects interpreting his first Mass in the cathedral there, where he
Background and history of the Diocese of Harrisburg

Established in 1868 and located in central Pennsylvania, the Diocese of Harrisburg covers 15 counties and 7,700 square miles. Their neighbors are the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Dioceses of Allentown to the east, Scranton, to the north, Altoona-Johnstown to the west, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore to the south. Harrisburg is the capital of the commonwealth, and within the diocesan boundaries are to be found historic Gettysburg and Conewago Chapel, Hanover, famous for its shoes and horses, and Hershey, famous for chocolate. The Susquehanna runs through the diocese and some of the richest farmland in the world is found in Pennsylvania Dutch country in Lancaster County.

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He finds the bishop to be “very charitable” saying, “He always desires to serve the poor and initiate programs and initiatives to serve their needs. He promotes services for the poor, justice for immigrants, Masses and services for the Hispanic population. He also works hard for those with disabilities to participate fully in the church.”

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

approached some deaf parishioners and finger spelled his name to them. Duncan learned that the bishop had taken a signing class and worked with deaf children as a seminarian.

Bishop Rhoades established the disabilities ministry in 2007 after learning about the needs of the deaf community and others in the diocese challenged with disabilities. His support and involvement of the ministry encourages Duncan who says, “He’s a charismatic leader. He leads with kindness, humor and compassion. He is spiritually advanced and a compassionate leader. He calls you by name.”

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Other groups the ministry is currently serving includes parents of autistic children. Bishop Rhoades is consistent that all people have the sacraments and catechises available to them.

Duncan says working with Bishop Rhoades has been exciting. “He is easy to talk to and commands respect by his presence. He is a holy man. But he’s so friendly. He listens to ideas and encourages you to move forward with them.”

Under bishop’s tutelage the deaf community in Harrisburg churches has grown exponentialy and the office is working on having an advocate available in each parish of the diocese to field concerns of the disabled.

“He’s a charismatic leader. He leads with kindness, humor and sensitivity. I hope he continues all the good work he’s done here in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese. I wish him well,” says Duncan.

Lucia Murphy

For the past year Lucia Murphy has been the director of the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries, where she oversees the direction and leadership training of 13 different ministries. Coming from a corporate background, she has a great respect for Bishop Rhoades’ forward thinking. “He listens to research and demographics,” she says. “He allows that to inform his decisions.

“He has an easy personal style about him,” she says, adding, “He’s a gentle person. He is spiritually advanced and a compassionate leader. He calls you by name.”

Murphy considers the bishop “very available,” reporting that he celebrates many different special Masses including in prisons, for Blacks and for Hispanics as well. “In prisons, with the poor and the Latinos, he does it very humbly. It means the world to the folks,” Murphy says.

“He walks the walk,” She says, “He has a sincere desire to serve people. He is high energy.”

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Bishop has a gift in shepherding Hispanic people

BY DIANE FREEBY

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — “The Hispanic community has a friend in Bishop Rhoades!”

Father Bernardo Pistone, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg, Pa., says many will greatly miss their outgoing shepherd as he heads to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Known for his accessibility to English and Spanish-speaking Catholics alike, Bishop Kevin Rhoades has been involved with the Hispanic Apostolate of the Diocese of Harrisburg since his earlier days as a priest.

According to Father Pistone, Bishop Rhoades has a gift for tending his entire flock, reaching out to the Hispanic community in a special way.

“He learned the language and the culture,” says Father Pistone. “We as priests need to not only learn the language, but to understand their spirituality. The small things, as simple as blessing a statue, a car or a rosary ... this happens all the time in the Spanish community. He has an incredible gentleness and sensitivity that as soon as you encounter him, you have his total attention.”

When Father Rhoades became Bishop Rhoades in 2004, he did not forget the Hispanic community. According to Father Pistone, the first parish he visited was St. Francis Xavier, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

“He asked to be ordained on the feast of St. Juan Diego,” recalls Father Pistone. “He could have been ordained on the feast of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception or any other day, but he chose to be ordained on the feast of the poorest Indian that God ever made. And then three days later he came back here. This was his first public Mass.”

One of the purposes for the Hispanic Apostolate in the Diocese of Harrisburg is to promote quality and competence in Hispanic ministry through networking, training and the sharing of information and resources, according to the dioceesan Web site. The members are made up of pastors, other religious and lay representatives. Father Pistone says he is grateful for the dedicated leadership Bishop Rhoades provided.

“He ran the Hispanic Apostolate meetings while he was here, the last five years,” explains Father Pistone. “Normally bishops don’t do that. The previous administration I was involved with did not do that. He did. He was the chairman of the meeting. Also, he put together, with the help of some of us, the parish apostolate plan. The first in this diocese as well. This is what we need to do to keep the Hispanics in the church, to evangelize them and not to lose them to other evangelicals, which we have unfortunately done in the U.S. because of the lack of sensitivity to the Hispanic ways and Hispanic culture. We have lost many of them.”

Father Pistone says it is not just the Hispanic community who benefits from Bishop Rhoades humble hands-on approach.

“He is the most accessible man as a priest and as a bishop,” says Father Pistone. “He’s the same guy who invited Mother Teresa to come to Mount Saint Mary’s (University), and she did! He’s the same across the board, no matter who he’s dealing with. The love of the poor and the love of God is wonderful.”

Father Pistone believes Bishop Rhoades is a teacher who sanctifies by giving witness more than words.

“This is true also in the English-speaking community,” explains Father Pistone. “Imagine a bishop saying Mass on Christmas day in the prison system. He’s done that. It was his own initiative. He wanted to spend Christmas in the prison system. That doesn’t happen. For the last three to four Christmases he has been saying Mass not in the cathedral but inside the prison.”

Father Pistone believes Bishop Rhoades’ biggest strength is dedication to his people, no matter what language they speak.

“He has set up a model for the church,” says Father Pistone. “Some bishops are not like this. Some say ‘this is America, we speak English and this is the same for everybody,’ which drives people away.”

Currently, the Diocese of Harrisburg has several parishes with Mass celebrated in Spanish.

“We have one totally Hispanic parish in Lancaster (San Juan Bautista) and nine other parishes that provide Mass in English and in Spanish,” says Father Pistone, who has no shortage of ways to describe the friend and bishop who helped make it happen.

“He is the most incredible ... real ... holy person that’s ever walked the Diocese of Harrisburg,” Father Pistone says of Bishop Rhoades. “He goes and works in the soup kitchen as bishop, which he started many years ago. On his day off, he goes to minister to the poor, Hispanic person.”
THE OFFICE OF BISHOP:

Historical reflections

BY MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

Within the earliest Christian communities which the apostles left behind, a threefold “order” of ministry developed: bishop, presbyter (i.e., priest), deacon. This is evidenced first in some of the later New Testament texts, although the exact nature of each ministerial “order,” as well as their precise interrelationship, are largely matters of scholarly conjecture.

The leader of each community, its “ overseer” (in Greek, “ episkopos”), was the forerunner of today’s diocesan bishop. In each of the communities established by the apostles (or their followers), the individual was appointed with the oversight of the community we would today call the “bishop.” He possessed the authority and responsibility of leading a particular community of believers, both in terms of public prayer (the celebration of the Eucharist) and in terms of teaching and instructing the community in the way of the Lord Jesus.

The bishop was assisted in his work by deacons, who seem primarily to have been ministers of charity (assisting the poor and the sick), and who may have helped with the details of organization and administration of the local Christian community; the sixth chapter of Acts offers an account of their remote origins. The role of presbyters seems to have developed more slowly than that of deacons, but most scholars suggest that they were senior members of the community who served as an advisory “council” to the local bishop (perhaps analogous to the “elders” — that’s what presbyter means in Greek — of the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem). We might imagine the earliest bishops much like today’s pastors of large urban parishes, who are assisted by associate pastors and deacons. As the Church spread geographically (from a primarily urban phenomenon to one of remote areas) and the numbers of Christians increased, many of the tasks reserved to the bishop were delegated to the presbyters. For example, the bishop was originally the primary minister of the sacraments. With the toleration and later recognition of Christianity by the Empire, the growing number of Christians made it impossible for him to know and care for all of them, and it became necessary for the presbyters to assume a number of his duties (such as the celebration of the Eucharist, preaching, etc.).

Around the year A.D. 107, Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, had advised the Christians at Smyrna to “do nothing related to Church life apart from the bishop. That Eucharist alone is valid which is celebrated by the bishop or by the one to whom he has entrusted it.” Ignatius clearly sees “connectedness” to the bishop as a way of maintaining fidelity to authentic Christian worship. The bishop was very much the presider par excellence of the liturgical assembly. About a century later, Irenaeus of Lyons also emphasized the theological significance of the episcopate: in the face of competing portrayals of Jesus and his teaching. Irenaeus pointed out that it is most obviously through the bishops, as successors of the apostles (and who were themselves the most reliable witnesses of Jesus and his Gospel), that one can find out answers to the question “What would Jesus teach” or “What would Jesus do.”

This notion of “apostolic succession” (“diaconate “apostolicity”), elaborated most clearly by Irenaeus, is central to Catholic theology. The bishops, the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) reaffirmed, “in virtue of the unbroken succession going back to the beginning, are regarded as transmitters of the apostolic line.” “Lumen Gentium” 20. The bishops, as guarantors of the apostolic faith, have a sacred obligation faithfully to hand on what they themselves have received (this is at the root of what Catholic theology means by “traditio” or “paradosis,” the “handing on” of the faith).

Individual bishops throughout the world, while entrusted with the leadership of a particular community of faith (diocese), nonetheless are in service of the whole church in teaching and safeguarding the shared faith of the Catholic community. Under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome (the pope), the bishops work as part of a “college,” i.e., a brotherhood of those who share their ministry in the order of bishops. This shared identity and mission is reflected in a letter which Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, wrote to Stephen, Bishop of Rome (pope) around the year A.D. 254: “the large number of bishops is bound together by the glue of mutual harmony and the bond of unity ... and they should, as helpful and compassionate shepherds, gather the Lord’s sheep into one flock ... For although there are many of us shepherds, we nonetheless nourish one flock, and we have an obligation to guide and nurture each and every one of the sheep whom Christ has purchased with his blood and through his passion.”

The Second Vatican Council, utilizing the classical tripartite definition of ordained ministry as teaching, sanctifying and governing, described the role of the ordained ministry primarily in terms of the order of bishops. Bishops share in the fullness of Christ’s priesthood, and it is by delegation that the ordained priesthood and diaconate assist and support the work of the local bishop. That is why, practically speaking, the central moments of faith in the life of a diocese occur at the cathedral church: ordinations, the chrism Mass, the rite of election, et al. These liturgical celebrations expressly and powerfully exemplify the local church in its fullness — the entire assembly of faithful, the local clergy and religious, gathered in unity around the one altar, under the leadership of the bishop, shepherd of the local church. And it is there, around that altar, that the church carries out its most important and effective work, together sharing in the one sacrifice of Christ.

“If any one aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a noble task.” — 1 Tm 3:1. Later writers were occasionally less sanguine. St. Augustine, who wrote, is not a title of honor but rather the name of a work to be done. To be bishop was to be, and foremost, servant of the Church, reaching out to all in the Church but in a special way to its weakest members. A later devotee of Augustine, Gregory the Great, bishop of Rome from 590 until his death in 604, wrote a “manual” of pastoral care for other bishops, which became a standard guide throughout the Middle Ages. In it he outlined the qualities necessary in one chosen for the episcopate: a candidate for the office of bishop should be “pure of heart, exemplary in his way of life, prudent in his silence, helpful when speaking, near to everyone in his compassion, raised above all others in his life of prayer, a humble friend to the virtuous, while strong in his opposition to evil. He should not neglect his interior life by distractions which are external, nor should he, in caring for his own inner life, ignore the needs of others.” A tall order to fill, no doubt, and reminiscent of Paul’s self-description as “all things to all people.” — 1 Cor 9:22.

One of the documents produced during the Second Vatican Council was a decree on the pastoral office of bishops (“Christus Dominus,” Oct. 28, 1965). This text, drawing heavily on the theology of the Church outlined the previous year in “Lumen Gentium,” taught about the relationship of each bishop to the whole Church, of their relationships among themselves (collegiality) and, in particular, their relationship to the bishop of Rome (reiterating the Catholic principle that the bishop of Rome acts as head of the college of bishops); it further spoke of the work of individual bishops in their respective dioceses and their coworkers: auxiliary bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and those laypersons who possess a particular competence helpful to the Church’s mission.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, PhD, is the recto of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.
How are bishops appointed?

The following is prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Introduction
The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he know whom to select? The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves a number of important players — the most influential being the apostolic nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops and the pope. It can be a time-consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the first appointment of a priest as a bishop and a bishop’s later transfer to another diocese or his promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same.

Key terms
• Apostolic nuncio — the pope’s representative to both the government and to the hierarchy of a given nation; a key person in deciding which names are recommended to the Congregation for Bishops for possible episcopal appointment.
• Auxiliary bishop — a bishop appointed to assist a diocesan bishop.
• Congregation for Bishops — a department of the Roman curia, headed by a cardinal. The head of the congregation, called the “prefect,” is presently Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re of Italy. Among the congregation’s responsibilities are reviewing all aspects of episcopal appointments; assisting bishops in the correct exercise of their pastoral functions; handling “ad limina” visits (regular visits to Rome by bishops every five years); and establishing episcopal conferences and reviewing their decrees as required by canon law. Its membership consists of approximately 35 cardinals and archbishops from around the world. U.S. Cardinals on the congregation are William Wakefield Baum, Edmund Szoka, James Stafford and Bernard Law.
• Diocesan bishop — pastoral and legal head and representative of a diocese.
• Province — a territory comprising one archdiocese, called the metropolitan see, and one or more dioceses, called suffragan dioceses within his province. The United States is divided into 33 ecclesiastical provinces.
• Terna — a list of three candidates for a vacant office, including the office of bishop.

Stage 1: Bishops’ recommendations
Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. Prior to the regular province meeting (usually annually), the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and curricula vitae of priests which have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops at the province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The number of names on this provincial list may vary. The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Stage 2: The apostolic nuncio
By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He not only gathers facts and information about potential candidates, but also interprets that information for the congregation. While great weight is given to the nuncio’s recommendations, but it is important to remember that his “gatekeeper” role, however, does not mean that his recommendations are always followed.

For diocesan bishops
• After receiving the list of candidates forwarded by a province, the apostolic nuncio conducts his own investigation into the suitability of the candidates.
• A diocesan bishop must justify to the apostolic nuncio his need for an auxiliary bishop. This is easier if he is requesting a replacement for a retired or deceased auxiliary.
• A report is requested from the current bishop or the administrator of a diocese on the conditions and needs of the diocese. If the appointment is a replacement for a diocesan bishop or archbishop about to retire, consideration will be given to the incumbent’s recommendations. Broad consultation within the diocese is encouraged with regard to the needs of the diocese, but not the names of candidates.
• The report is to include the names of individuals in the diocese with whom the nuncio might consult and how to contact them.
• Previous bishops of the diocese are consulted.
• Bishops of the province are consulted.
• The president and vice president of the USCCB are consulted.
• If the vacancy to be filled is an archdiocese, other archbishops in the United States may be consulted.
• At this point, the nuncio narrows his list and a questionnaire is sent to 20 or 30 people who know each of the candidates for their input.

Stage 3: Congregation for Bishops
Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete and in order, and the prefect approves, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted or transferred, the matter may be handled by the prefect and the staff. If, however, the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full congregation is ordinarily involved.
A cardinal relator is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the cardinal relator’s report, the congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, chose another of the candidates on the terna, or even ask that another terna be prepared.

Stage 4: The pope decides
At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the pope informs the congregation of his decision. The congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is “yes,” the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement.
It often takes six to eight months — and sometimes longer — from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed.

The role of the archbishop

BY MSGR. OWEN CAMPION

Presiding at the installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in Fort Wayne’s Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 13 will be Archbishop Daniel Mark Buechlein, OSB.
As the fifth archbishop of Indianapolis, Archbishop Buechlein heads the Province of Indianapolis, which includes, in addition to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the dioceses of Evansville, Gary and Lafayette in Indiana.
Installing bishops within the province is the archbishop’s right, not to be superseded by a cardinal, the apostolic nuncio or any other bishop. The structure of having provinces, and archbishops at the head of provinces that include several dioceses, is very old in the church. In fact, the name “province” goes back to the days of the Roman Empire. The structure exists to emphasize the unity of the church, and specifically, the union between local bishops and the pope, if need be, to provide a mechanism for order in church business.
Archbishops have the place of honor in their provinces, and their title derives from the fact that they are bishops of dioceses established by the Holy See to be archdioceses and centers of provinces. However, they are first among equals when it comes to jurisdiction in the province. No archbishop, for example, is the superior of the bishop of one of the dioceses in the province, although he does have certain responsibilities and privileges.
Bishops of local dioceses must send certain reports to him as a check and balance. If he notices a gross problem in one of the dioceses in his province, especially if it pertains to management by the local bishop, the archbishop is expected to express his concerns to the Vatican. However, without direct authorization from the pope, the archbishop would have no authority to interfere in any situation in a diocese, except in a few circumstances, and such circumstances are very rare.
For example, if the bishop of a diocese in the province dies, or retires, or resigns, the circumstance of how to administer the diocese until another bishop can be appointed by Rome becomes an issue. The Holy See can act in such an instance, as it did in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend when Bishop John M.
**ROLE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

D’Arcy retired, by appointing the retiring bishop as administrator. However, this may not always be possible, obviously not if the bishop has died.

Then, the administrator is selected by the College of Consultors in the diocese. This body, appointed by the bishop and composed only of priests, has several responsibilities, but perhaps the most significant is to select an administrator if the office of bishop in a diocese becomes vacant and if an administrator has not been named by the Holy See.

The election process, however, is not open ended. If the consultors deadlock, the archbishop is required to step into the proceedings and to name an administrator. Again, this occurs only in the most unusual of situations.

Archbishops supervise the procedure by which bishops of the province recommend names of priests to the Vatican for consideration to be bishops. He solicits names, coordinates discussions about possible candidates, and he submits the results of discussions to Rome.

When a bishop in the province dies, retires or resigns, the archbishop is an important adviser to the Holy See in the selection of a new bishop. By the same token, if the question of creating a new diocese within the province is raised, the archbishop’s advice is sought. He is regarded as a reliable and informed, but neutral, third party.

Church law ordinarily assigns the archdiocesan tribunal the right of hearing appeals on cases decided in diocesan courts within the province. Most often, diocesan tribunals today hear cases involving the validity of marriages. Decisions rendered by the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan tribunal are appealed to Indianapolis. After Indianapolis, appeals are made to Rome.

Of course, archbishops serve as diocesan bishops in their own archdioceses.

Archbishops wear a distinctive vestment, a circular white woolen stole, with pendants hanging front and black, on which black crosses are embroidered. The pope himself confers the pallium on each new archbishop. Since Pope Paul VI, these vestments have been conferred in ceremonies in Rome’s St. Peter’s Basilica on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29.

The location of the ceremony, the feast day itself, and the personal involvement by the pope all signify the closeness of each archbishop to the papacy.

When Archbishop Buechlein installs Bishop Rhoades, the archbishop will be wearing his pallium, given him by Pope John Paul II on June 29, 1987.

Bishop Rhoades already is an ordained bishop. Were he not yet a bishop, it would be Archbishop Buechlein’s right to ordain him to the episcopacy.

For instance, a priest of the Indianapolis archdiocese, Father Paul Etienne, was installed as Bishop of Cheyenne, in Wyoming, on Dec. 9. Since the Cheyenne Diocese is within the Province of Denver, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap, of Denver, both ordained Bishop Etienne to the episcopacy and then installed him as the eighth bishop of Cheyenne.

(Auxiliary bishops, however, are usually ordained to the episcopacy by the bishops whom they will serve. The apostolic nuncio installs archbishops.)

The archbishop, by right of office, presides at the funeral of a diocesan bishop within his province. Of course, he may delegate any of these functions to another bishop. For instance, when retired Bishop Francis R. Shea of Evansville died in 1994, Archbishop Buechlein allowed Evansville Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger to officiate at the funeral Mass.

Archbishop Buechlein is a native of Indiana, born on April 20, 1938. He entered the Benedictine community at St. Meinrad Archabbey and solemnly professed as a monk on Aug. 15, 1963. He was ordained a priest on May 3, 1964.

For some years, he taught theology at the seminary at St. Meinrad, and he was president-rector of the seminary when Pope John Paul II appointed him the third bishop of Memphis on Jan. 20, 1987.

Since the Memphis diocese is within the Province of Louisville, then archbishop, now retired, Thomas C. Kelly, OP, of Louisville, ordained and then installed Bishop Buechlein in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 2, 1987.

The same pope named Bishop Buechlein to be the fifth bishop of Indianapolis on July 14, 1992, and the then Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Pio Laghi, who was later named a cardinal and is now deceased, installed him at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Indianapolis.
B y decree of Pope Pius IX, Jan. 8, 1857, the northern half of the state of Indiana was erected into the Diocese of Fort Wayne, the boundaries being that part of the state north of the southern lines of Fountain, Montgomery, Boone, Hamilton, Madison, Delaware, Randolph and Warren counties. The remaining southern half of the state made up the Diocese of Vincennes. (This old See — the original designation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis — has been designated a titular see.) In 1944, the apostolic decree of His Holiness Pope Pius XII established the Diocese of Lafayette from the southern 24 counties of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, approximately dividing the size of the diocese in half.

Another division occurred in 1957, the year the sixth bishop of Fort Wayne, Bishop Leo A. Pursley, was installed and the diocese celebrated its 100th anniversary. At that time, four northwest counties of Indiana were taken from the Diocese of Fort Wayne to form the new Diocese of Gary.

Three years later, the Diocese of Fort Wayne was renamed the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and, St. Matthew Parish in South Bend was designated the co-Cathedral along with the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. With this change, the second auxiliary bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Joseph R. Crowley, was consecrated two years later and was assigned to St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. Today the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend comprises 14 counties of northeastern Indiana and has a Catholic population of nearly 160,000, comprised of 57,345 Catholic families and households. The area covers 5,792 square miles with a total population of 2,162,786.

There are 80 parishes in the diocese, three chapels and two oratories. The clergy consists of one bishop, 75 diocesan priests, 21 international priests and five other priests serving in the diocese. The total number of priests in the diocese is 238, which includes 37 priests from nine religious orders. There are 13 permanent deacons.

The diocese also includes approximately 413 women from 19 religious orders. There is one seminary for religious orders in the diocese with 17 candidates for the priesthood.

The diocese serves five colleges and universities — made up of 16,357 students — four Catholic high schools with a total enrollment of 3,180 students, and 40 parishes with parochial schools with 9,701 elementary-school students. In addition, there are three Catholic hospitals, three other healthcare facilities and four homes for the elderly.

**John Henry Luers**

Born Sept. 29, 1819, Luten, Germany

Ordained priest Nov. 11, 1846, Cincinnati, Ohio

Ordained Bishop of Fort Wayne Jan. 10, 1858

Died June 29, 1871

**Joseph Dwenger**

Born April 7, 1837, St. John's, Ohio

Ordained priest Sept. 4, 1859

Ordained Bishop of Fort Wayne April 14, 1872

Died Jan. 22, 1893

During this period, he was near the seat of the Cincinnati diocese and developed a strong friendship with Purcell.

With the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Wayne in 1858, Luers was a natural choice for its first bishop. However, the bishop’s concern was greatly aroused when he reached the then-small city of Fort Wayne, the seat of the new diocese. Confronted with a small Catholic flock, rampant anti-Catholicism and some corruption, Luers feared that little could be done to cultivate the young diocese. Because of this, he spent much time early in his episcopate trying to have diocesan boundaries redrawn to suit his own appointment changed.

Nevertheless, though the bishop was not entirely satisfied with his episcopal designation, it was said by Bishop Alerding in his history of the diocese that Luers “spared himself no labors official or menial, religious or domestic, of the house or of the field, of the city or of the country. Well is it known to everyone that Bishop Luers, when he arrived in the diocese, was a man of many parts, who could do any work with equal facility, great accuracy and good taste.”

**Joseph Dwenger**

Born April 7, 1837, St. John’s, Ohio

Ordained priest Sept. 4, 1859

Ordained Bishop of Fort Wayne April 14, 1872

Died Jan. 22, 1893

With the passing of Bishop Luers, Joseph Dwenger was named the second bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne.

Born in Mercer County, Ohio, of German immigrants on April 7, 1837, little Joseph was welcomed by his parents with great joy, his father telling a neighbor, as Alerding reports in his history of the diocese, “Last night God sent us a little bishop!” However, Dwenger suffered the death of both parents before his 11th birthday, at which time he was placed in the care of the Society of the Precious Blood, fulfilling the desire of his mother.

In 1859, Dwenger was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Purcell and in 1872 was consecrated as bishop of Fort Wayne, his father’s words at his birth coming true.

Though many believed him to be coarse and rude, Dwenger was a kind and confirmed man who was able to overcome the many obstacles that faced him when he began his episcopacy. Known for his imposing figure and the vitality with which he conducted his duties, Dwenger was successful in correcting the financial troubles that met him on his arrival in the diocese. As Archbishop Purcell commented to Father Sorin of Notre Dame, Dwenger “tends to imagine he knows more than anyone else, and that with one hand he can lift more than anyone else.”

Having been an orphan himself, Dwenger had a special place in his heart for other orphans. During his episcopate, he established many orphanages and schools throughout the diocese, including the St. Joseph’s Asylum for Boys in Lafayette, then a part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, and the St. Vincent’s Asylum for Girls in Fort Wayne.

Feeling strongly that the faith must be incorporated into every facet of education, Dwenger enlisted the aid of various religious orders throughout the diocese in staffing the schools with religious sisters. Through his undying efforts, many parochial schools were launched. In one account of his successful labors, it was said that most parishes with as few as 30 families enjoyed the benefits of a parish school.

In 1890, Dwenger was struck with severe heart and lung complications, which left him virtually incapacitated until his death on Jan. 23, 1893. At the time of his death, he was remembered fondly by many, having founded as many as 12 parishes and many more diocesan schools during his time as bishop. In addition, the number of diocesan clergy jumped from 48 to 80.

Dwenger had served his people devotedly, adhering to the truth unequivocally. At the beloved bishop’s funeral, Bishop Rademacher told the faithful, “His will was strong and unbending, when he believed himself in the right, and especially when he defended what he considered right and just.”
Joseph Rademacher

Ordained a priest Aug. 2, 1863, Fort Wayne
Ordained Bishop of Nashville, June 24, 1883
Appointed Bishop of Fort Wayne, July 15, 1893
Died June 12, 1900

B orn Dec. 3, 1840, in Michigan, Joseph Rademacher was ordained a priest by Bishop Luers in 1863 in Fort Wayne. In 1872, he was named chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne and, in 1883, was consecrated the bishop of Nashville and then the Diocese of Fort Wayne in 1893.

Alerding was a mild-mannered man who preferred not to conduct his role as administrator. Despite this, he governed the diocese well during his short — just over five — years as bishop.

Rememering Rademacher as a generous and kindhearted man, in his history of the diocese, Alerding tells of a time when a poor man went to Rademacher, in his exceedingly generous and kindhearted man, who, he believed, needed it more that he had only scraps for shoes.

The humble bishop’s life and episcopate was brought to an abrupt end in January of 1899, at which time he suffered a debilitating stroke. His early death was considered a great loss for the diocese.

As evidenced through his many acts of benevolence, Rademacher was a selfless man who truly saw himself as the servant of his people.

In addition to his great humility and generosity of spirit, Rademacher was also a highly intelligent man. Alerding recalls in his history a time when he visited the good bishop after having just studied the history of France. As the two spoke of a decisive battle, Rademacher corrected Alerding on two factual points, one being the date. Accordingly, Alerding asked, “Tell me, pray, Father Rademacher, how did you happen to know so exactly this date and this name?” Ah! he responded, “I have read the history of those times.”

The humble bishop’s life and episcopate was brought to an abrupt end in January of 1899, at which time he suffered a debilitating stroke. His early death was considered a great loss for the diocese.

Alerding was appointed the fourth bishop of Fort Wayne in 1900.

As ordinary of the diocese, Alerding was dedicated to the growth and enrichment of parish schools, saying, “A prosperous school means a prosperous parish, a poor school means a poor parish.”

Alerding brought fresh vigor to the diocese, drawing it together through his wholehearted support of the Supreme Pontiff. To celebrate the XIII’s Silver Jubilee, Alerding offered a solemn Pontifical Mass at the cathedral and directed that a solemn Mass be offered in each parish.

With the coming of World War I in 1914, new challenges were brought to the diocese. As droves of immigrants came to the U.S. from oppressed, battle-worn European countries.

Alerding vigorously fought socialism, as it crept into the U.S., and stressed the importance of undiluted faith, particularly during the trying times.

He wrote that “the dangers to faith are pride, neglect of prayers, of family prayer, of public devotions, of the Mass, of the sacraments; ignorance of the truths of religion; a bad life; the reading of bad literature; bad companions; secret societies; and mixed marriages.”

He further fought the dangers of the then-new motion pictures, which depicted the many evils lurking in the world, warning, “Witnessing such scenes corrupts the moral sense.”

In the early 1920s, the good bishop’s health began to decline, though he continued to perform his many duties as bishop. However, on Thanksgiving Day in 1924, while on a drive, the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by another vehicle, overturning the bishop’s car and severely injuring him and the other passengers.

Though taken to a hospital, the bishop’s health would never be fully restored, and he passed away on Dec. 6, 1924.

During his tenure of 24 years as bishop, the number of “mission churches” with resident pastors had risen from 102 to 148 while the number of “mission churches” without resident pastors declined from 39 to 31. Further, the Catholic population in the diocese doubled, a true testament to Alerding’s wise guidance.

In his first foray into publishing, he compiled a pamphlet entitled Kind Words From the Priest to His People, which he later renamed Kind Words From Your Pastor, and sent to parishes throughout the U.S. This was only the beginning of many publications that would spread the truth of the Catholic Church and her teachings.

In June of 1908, Noll began the publication of the The Parish Monthly, a magazine that he hoped would “put forth good, clean literature to make The Parish Monthly a welcome visitor in every home, Catholic and non-Catholic.” Noll’s continuing efforts toward educating the public eventually led him to found Our Sunday Visitor in 1912.

With his success in guiding the Catholic faithful as a parish priest, Noll was seen as an excellent successor to Bishop Alerding at the time of that holy bishop’s death, and he was consecrated the fifth bishop of Fort Wayne in 1925.

As bishop, Noll continued in his fervor for education, spreading his conviction that religion and education must be united in his book “Our Nation’s National Enemy No. 1: Education Without Religion.”

Accordingly, Catholic grade schools, high schools and colleges thrived in the diocese. Still other structures were built, including, in 1927, the Catholic Community Center on the corner of Park and Jefferson streets in Fort Wayne, which was a place where Catholic life in the area thrived until it was sold in 1941.

In addition to fulfilling the need for accurate information concerning Catholicism, Noll carried on the tradition of his flock, encouraging practices such as Forty Hours devotion for the laity within parishes. As war continued to rage across the globe, Noll told his flock that peace could be won only through prayer and encouraged them to “attend weekday Mass more frequently, recite the family rosary regularly, and … attend Holy Hours of repa- ration held in their churches.”

Welcoming many religious orders for men and women into the diocese, a strong outward awareness of the religious in the area was present, and the orders flourished.

Noll was also a leading force in the completion of construction of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. After its construction had been postponed due to both the Great Depression and World War II, Noll was asked to influence bishops throughout the United States to pledge money for the completion of the structure. Accordingly, he chaired a committee dedicated to raising the necessary $7 million. As in many other ventures, Noll was once more successful, and construction was recommenced in 1954.

Meanwhile, in 1941, at the request of Auxiliary Bishop Parsley, Pope Pius XII named Noll an archbishop, a personal title that was granted to him though the diocese was not named an archdiocese.

In August of 1954, Archbishop Noll was struck with illness, and, in March of 1955, Bishop Parsley was named apostolic administrator of the diocese. After other
Leo Aloysius Pursley was born on March 12, 1902, in Hartford City, Indiana. Pursley attended Hunter College and was ordained a priest on June 11, 1927, at Fort Wayne. Pursley served as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne and South Bend from August 24, 1946, to December 29, 1956. Pursley retired in 1985. Pursley died on November 15, 1998.


John M. D’Arcy was born August 18, 1932, in Hartford City, Indiana. D’Arcy was ordained a priest on February 2, 1957, and appointed Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on February 18, 1975. D’Arcy retired on July 21, 1981.

William E. McManus, an auxiliary bishop of Chicago, was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in October 1976. Born on January 27, 1914, in Chicago, Illinois, McManus entered the seminary at a young age and was ordained to the priesthood in 1937.

Following his ordination, he served in a Chicago parish for one year, after which he earned his master’s degree in education from Catholic University of America in 1942. After another brief stint as a parish priest, Father McManus held several positions, which included being assistant director of the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, D.C., superintendent of the Catholic schools in the Chicago area, a domestic prelate, and an active member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and United States Catholic Conference.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Pursley, Bishop McManus was assigned as the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Saying that he was “more interested in people than in buildings,” no new parishes were formed during his tenure though some structures were either built or renovated. Still others were sold or demolished, including St. Vincent Villa and Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, respectively.

During Bishop McManus’ episcopate, he led a diocesan delegation to the Call to Action Conference held in October 1976, the outcome of which were 30 resolutions that expressed controversial views on clerical celibacy, birth control, women and homosexuality.

Within the diocese, he also sought to fully implement every pastoral liturgical changes such as offering the reception of holy Communion in the hand and the sacrament of reconciliation face-to-face. After experiencing heart-related health difficulties, Bishop McManus retired in 1985. He returned to Chicago, where he lived until his death on March 3, 1997.


D’Arcy was appointed eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and was installed on May 1, 1985, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Indiana. D’Arcy was appointed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a result of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, approved in 2003, citing his efforts there as “a voice in the wilderness,” submitting letters to his superiors raising concerns and making requests that actions be taken regarding the misconduct of some local priests.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was recognized as one of eight (arch)dioceses with exceptional and positive response to the clergy sexual-abuse crisis. In 2002, Bishop D’Arcy wrote a series of op-ed columns on the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church for secular newspapers within and outside the local diocese. The series also was published in a pamphlet titled, “Some Pastoral Reflections in a Moment of Crisis.”

During his 24 years as the shepherd of the local diocese, Bishop D’Arcy has cooperated with the Archdiocese of Boston and was appointed vicar for spiritual development for the archdiocese at the same time. In addition, he directed the renewal and restructuring of the Office of Family Life, Office of Campus Ministry and the permanent diaconate. On July 21, 1981, he was appointed regional bishop for the Lowell region of the archdiocese, continuing as vicar for spiritual development.

Bishop D’Arcy chaired a committee of New England bishops that wrote a significant pioneering “Letter on Priestly Formation,” which has been used around the world to strengthen the formation of priests. This document was distributed to and used by the National Lay Review Board in its recent report on the clergy sexual-abuse crisis. He has given more than 50 retreats to bishops and priests throughout the country and more than 30 retreats to college and university students.

On Feb. 26, 1985, Bishop D’Arcy was appointed eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and was installed on May 1, 1985, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
December 8, 2009

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Diocese of Fort Wayne
1103 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Dear Bishop Rhoades:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Mary's College, I welcome you as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Founded in 1844 and sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's is an academic community where women develop their talents and prepare to make a difference in the world. Saint Mary's cultivates a community of intellectual inquiry, liturgical prayer, and social action. As we prepare women for roles of leadership, we pay special attention to the rights and responsibilities of women in the world of work, church, community, and family.

I look forward to your visit to our beautiful campus and to your leadership in our diocese.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Mooney
President
Welcome to your new home, the diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend. It has been ours too from its beginning in the nineteenth century.

The Congregation of Holy Cross put down roots in northern Indiana in November 1842, only a year after the first Holy Cross missionaries arrived in the United States. Bishop Hailandiere of Vincennes gave them a tract of land on condition that they would open an orphan asylum or "other religious charitable institution." Fr. Edouard Sorin, C.S.C., their leader, christened the place Notre Dame du Lac and the college they founded, which was chartered by the Indiana legislature in 1844, fulfilled the second part of the bargain. Orphans arrived in due time and a manual trades school was opened to give them some training. The first Holy Cross Sisters from France joined the Priests and Brothers in 1843 and opened a school for girls, the forerunner of today’s St. Mary’s College.

Over the next decade, the Holy Cross religious at Notre Dame created an apostolic center which served the Catholics within a hundred mile radius of Notre Dame. Boys and girls from the scattered Catholic families in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan were sent for an education, orphans were received and cared for, and young men and women who wished to devote themselves to religious life were trained and sent out on mission. The Holy Cross Priests rode a circuit providing a sacramental ministry and organized the Catholics into parish communities. The first two parishes in South Bend, St. Joseph’s and St. Patrick’s, were established and staffed. Later in the nineteenth century, the Congregation supplied Polish-speaking personnel for the establishment of national parishes in South Bend and Chicago. In the twentieth century, Spanish-speaking Priests and Brothers served migrants from Mexico in South Bend and northern Indiana.

As the number of Brothers and Sisters grew, new foundations from Notre Dame were made in Indiana and as far away as New Orleans, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, northeastern Pennsylvania and New York City. When the Congregation, at the Vatican’s request, undertook to staff a mission in East Bengal (today’s Bangladesh), two English-speaking religious were sent from America to work there. Today’s Holy Cross Mission Center at Notre Dame orchestrates the sending of personnel and financial aid to Bangladesh, East Africa, Chile, Peru and Mexico. As a result of this apostolic works, the Congregation of Holy Cross received papal approval in 1857. The Sisters were organized as a separate congregation at Rome’s insistence.

Since its foundation, Notre Dame has been a place where both the education of the mind and the heart have gone hand in hand; it has been—and strives to always be—“a powerful force for good in the world,” as Fr. Sorin wrote to our Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau. Generations of students have graduated from Notre Dame with a firm moral compass, eager and willing to serve the Church and society and well-trained academically to meet the inevitable challenges they have and will face. The family of Notre Dame, which is a very real fact of our life, includes a community of close to 15,000 people on campus—students, faculty, staff, and over 124,000 alumni. We want to welcome you as a member of our family and encourage our campus to a place to pray and worship, to relax, to preach and teach—and yes, to watch football (and other sports)!

The Lord Jesus is very present on our campus, both sacramentally and spiritually. All of us strive to become better disciples of Him through learning in the classroom and also in the countless examples of purpose-driven service to the poor. We strive to be in communion with the Church.

Again, Bishop Rhoades, welcome to our diocese, and welcome to the Notre Dame family!
Welcome, Bishop Rhoades!

The parishes served by religious of the Congregation of Holy Cross welcome their new Shepherd,

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

We pledge to him our prayerful support, our profound respect, and our heartfelt affection.

We look forward to working with Bishop Rhoades, and under his authority, to make Christ known, loved, and served.

“The spirit of faith inspires and enlivens zeal, that is, the sacred fire that the divine Master came to bring upon the earth. So if one has faith and the zeal inspired by faith...such a person will be ready to go wherever obedience calls to save souls... and extend the rule of Jesus Christ on earth.”

-Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross
Bishop of Allentown
On behalf of the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese
extends sincerest and prayerful best wishes and congratulations to
The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades
upon his installation as
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop Dale J. Melczek
and the Diocese of Gary
welcomes
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, our mother diocese and neighbor.

Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt
and the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg
pray for God’s grace and blessings on
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
as shepherd of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Diocese of Metuchen
from the Faithful of THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
Bishop Paul Bootkoski
sends congratulations and prayerful best wishes that continued blessings come to BISHOP KEVIN RHOADES as he becomes the shepherd of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Welcome Bishop Rhoades

We are honored to have you as Bishop of our Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese.

Welcome Bishop Rhoades!

May the Holy Spirit inspire and guide your ministry among us.

St. Adalbert Church and St. Casimir Church

Bienvenidos! Witamy!

Welcome Bishop Rhoades!

May the Holy Spirit inspire and guide your ministry among us.

St. Adalbert Church and St. Casimir Church

BISHOP RHoades

Father Barry England
and the parishioners of
St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka
welcome you to the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend!

May the Holy Spirit be with you and guide you in the years ahead!
The Sisters of the Holy Cross welcome you, Bishop Rhoades, to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. We offer you our continued prayers in your service to the Church. May Mary, our Compassionate Mother, guide you as you lead our diocese.

- The Sisters of the Holy Cross

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER of South Bend, Indiana Welcomes Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend We have served the Catholic population of the South Bend area since 1974 by providing quality counseling in a faith-based setting.

- SAMARITAN Counseling Center

Welcome, Bishop Rhoades...

Many many blessings, especially those of the Little Flower endow your efforts in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

- Forever Learning Institute

The Parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Henry Welcome The Most Reverend Kevin Rhoades As the ninth bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese Ad multos Annos!

- The Parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Henry

Dear Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,

We the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton, wish you a very hearty welcome to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. We love you. We promise obedience, prayers and cooperation. We will continue to pray for your smooth transition into this new appointment. We will pray too, for the ease of your personal transition from your long-time home in Pennsylvania to your new “home” in northern Indiana. We are a small parish located just about as far west as one can go in the diocese. We invite you to visit us and look forward to meeting you. We welcome your focus, your dedication and your commitment to our diocese.

Rev. Pius N. Ilechukwu, Pastor for parishioners

- Little Flower Parish Center
As the new bishop of the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese, Bishop Rhoades will carry on a tradition begun with his predecessor, Archbishop John Noll, as chair of the Our Sunday Visitor Board of Directors.

Founded by Archbishop Noll, Our Sunday Visitor is a self-owned, non-profit corporation that serves the Church both in this diocese and around the world through its publishing and offering envelope divisions.

Through its Institute, Our Sunday Visitor also supports a variety of programs in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — including the Masters in Religious Education program for teachers and DREs and Education in Ministry as well as local high school scholarship funds and projects for Catholic Charities and other diocesan organizations.

All of the board members and employees of Our Sunday Visitor extend our congratulations to Bishop Rhoades and look forward to his leadership as we continue to serve the Church in truth with charity.
Welcome to Fort Wayne Most Reverend and Sir Knight Kevin C. Rhoades your 4th Degree Honor Guard is here to serve you.

Knights of Columbus Anthony Wayne Assembly No. 239

Fr. Gary Sigler & Your Queen of Angels Parish Family wish to extend to you a warm welcome, and pledge to you our prayers and support as you begin to shepherd the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Congratulations, Bishop Kevin Rhoades!

Welcome Bishop Rhoades! May the Catholic Community Foundation continue to flourish under your guidance.

A seed has been planted in the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana which holds over 100 endowments for parishes, schools, diocesan agencies and the Legacy of Faith endowments for Catholic education, Hispanic Ministries and Catholic Charities.

May they someday give shade to future generations.

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana welcomes you to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
A Warm WELCOME to

Bishop Kevin Rhoades

May your leadership be enriched by the continued blessings of the Good Shepherd

The priests and parishioners of

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH
ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH
OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH
ST. JUDE PARISH
Fort Wayne
Saint Mary's College welcomes Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. We look forward to his first visit to our beautiful campus and to many years of his pastoral care.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Welcome

Please be assured of the generosity of prayers and the hospitality of the people of two of the oldest parishes in Fort Wayne, as you become our shepherd.

Saint Mary Catholic Church
“Serving the People of God spiritually and physically since 1848”

Saint Peter Catholic Church
“The Splendour of the South Side since 1872”
Welcome

BISHOP RHOADES

The diocesan employees in the offices listed below extend to you, their experience, loyalty and a promise to pursue your goals and purposes with an effort matching your own. With this, we offer our prayers for your success as our shepherd as well as your personal happiness.

- Cathedral Books & Gifts
- The Diocesan Business Office
- The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry
- The Office of Catechesis
- Catholic Charities
- Diocesan Services Agency
- The Office of Communications
- The Development Office
- The Office of Diocesan Archives
- The Office of Family Life
- The Diocesan Office for Hispanic Ministry
- The Catholic Schools Office
- The Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization
- The Marriage Tribunal
- The Office of Vocation
- The Office of Worship
- The Office of Youth Ministry
- Today’s Catholic

Bishop Kevin Rhoades

Congratulations and Prayerful Best Wishes on Your Installation

May the Fort Wayne – South Bend Diocese Grow in Faith & Love With Your Spiritual Guidance

Cross International Catholic Outreach

www.crosscatholic.org
Welcome Bishop Rhoades

May you lead us in the light of Christ with the radiance of His truth.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
and the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago

celebrate and pray for God’s blessings on the new shepherd of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
CARDINAL JUSTIN RIGALI
together with the Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Laity
of the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
prayerfully congratulates
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades
on the occasion of his installation as
Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend

May the Lord
richly bless your
episcopal ministry
as you shepherd
the faithful
of the Diocese of
Fort Wayne - South Bend
The Members of the Permanent Diaconate and the Deacon Candidates
OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
extend a warm welcome to

Bishop Kevin Rhoades

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Paul Baumgartner
Deacon Paul Dits
Deacon Emilio Gizzi
Deacon Harris Hoeffel
Deacon Ted Kizman

DEACON CANDIDATES

Robert Byrne
David Elchert
James Fitzpatrick
James Fuchs
William Gallagher
John Hilger

James Kitchens
Jerome Kohrman
Stanley LeMieux
Melvin Tardy Jr.
James Tighe

Mary Szymczak, Director of Formation

With profound joy and heartfelt thanks to Almighty God, Our Father, we, the parish families of St. Louis Besancon and St. Rose Monroeville welcome our new Apostle and Shepherd, BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES. We pray that the faithful integrity and prudent wisdom of our prior bishops may continue through Bishop Rhoades in the days ahead as we remember our yesterdays with: Bishop John M. D’Arcy Bishop William McManus Bishop Leo A. Pursley Archbishop John F. Noll Bishop Herman J. Alerding Bishop Joseph Rademacher Bishop Joseph Dwenger Bishop John H. Luers

May the Lord shower you with every grace and blessing!
Welcome Bishop Rhoades

May your ministry be blessed and personally fulfilling.

Mike and Dee Dee Dahm

MaryTv welcomes Bishop Kevin Rhoades

The Echo Program
In Partnership with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Echo, Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

Welcome Bishop Rhoades

Michele L. Ashton, M.D.
Sandra R. Brown, M.D.
Tracy S. Byrne, M.D.
Uthman Cavallo, M.D.
Len R. Ferguson, M.D.
Joseph P. Harmon, M.D.
Mark G. Lewis, D.O.
Carlton L. Lyons, M.D.
Kelly W. McGuire, M.D.
Gregory P. Wolfe, M.D.

610 North Michigan Street • Suite 200 • South Bend • www.obgynni.com

The blood of one was shed for all.

Welcome Bishop Rhoades

Most Precious Blood Parish
Fort Wayne
shares the joy of your arrival as His servant and our shepherd.

Thou Art Peter

St. Joseph Parish and St. Catherine of Alexandria
Roanoke
Nix Settlement
Father Kenneth Sarrazine
We join in welcoming
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
to the Diocese of
Fort Wayne-South Bend

May the Lord bless our
new shepherd

A Warm Welcome
BISHOP RHoades
to Fort Wayne... and
into the hearts of all of us...
we pray for your success and happiness.
Chris and Shannon Tippmann

Ancilla College extends a
warm and gracious welcome to
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Happy New Year
BISHOP RHoades!
As a new decade begins with a new
episcopacy, we share the joy of your
arrival and pray that your guidance
and leadership be blessed by the Holy Spirit.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
WELCOMES
BISHOP KEVIN RHoades
and looks forward to
his assistance in sharing our mission.

DIVINE MERCY GIFTS
320 DIXIE WAY NORTH
South Bend
1/2 mile north of Notre Dame on State
Road 933
(574) 277-1400

May the rich blessings of
Divine Mercy
be showered upon the episcopacy of
The Most Reverend
Kevin C. Rhoades

Ave Maria Press®
Notre Dame, Indiana
A Ministry of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross

St. Bernard Parish
Wabash
Welcomes
Bishop Rhoades
with joy and prayers that
his episcopacy will be blessed
in many ways.

1.866.ANCILLA • 574.936.8898 • www.ancilla.edu
MOUNT ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY

From the Cradle of Bishops at the seminary at Mount St. Mary’s University to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend...Blessings Bishop Rhoades, from your friends at Mount St. Mary's University.

DISCOVER 200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC MISSION.
Mount St. Mary’s University is joyfully and proudly Catholic. Our goal is to expand the spiritual life of every student here. We live out our mission—Faith. Discovery. Leadership. Community.
Learn more at www.mountadmissions.com.

Welcome, Bishop Rhoades,
from all of us at the
Notre Dame Center for Ethics & Culture:

David Solomon    W.P. and H.B. White Director
Elizabeth Kirk    Associate Director
Kathryn Wales    Program Coordinator
Tracy Westlake    Administrative Assistant
Adam Skoczylas       Website Coordinator

STUDENT ASSISTANTS
Karen Chan    Octavia Ratiu    Tom Everett
Victor Ratiu    Claire Brown    Kelly Mason    Pete Freddoso

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
welcomes you,

BISHOP KEVIN RHOADES,
to our Diocese and assures you of our prayerful support.

¡Bien Venido!
Welcome Bishop Rhoades!
To the Fort Wayne Community...
We look forward to serving the continued diocesan hospitality plans.

Welcome Bishop Rhoades
May this new year and all those that follow in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend be rich in blessings, success and personal happiness.

Leonard J. Andorfer & Co., LLP
Certified Public Accountants
FORT WAYNE

Welcome Bishop Rhoades
The Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

BISHOP RHOADES
Your Brother Knights of Santa Maria Council #533, South Bend offer prayers that Our Lady will continue to be a constant presence in your life.

553 East Washington • South Bend

Welcome Brother Knight
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES
Indiana State Knights of Columbus
In solidarity with our bishops and priests!

STEPHAN ZIEMBA FR. MICHAEL YADRON
State Deputy State Chaplain

Bishop Rhoades
Your Brother Knights in Father Tremmel Council, Plymouth, welcome you to the diocese and to Indiana, where the Knights of Columbus are in solidarity with our priests and bishops.

553 East Washington • South Bend
Greetings, Bishop Rhoades

The Seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend send sincere congratulations and the promise of prayer as you come into our midst.

Deacon Andrew Budzinski
Matthew Coonan
Terrence Coonan Jr.
Benjamin Muhlenkamp
Jacob Meyer
Royce Gregerson
Zachary Barry
Cristian Reyes

Matthew Soberalski
Joseph Becker
Brandon McCaffery
Jonathan Norton
Daniel Davis
Christopher Sindelar
Nathan Maskal
Thomas Zehr

Vocation Office - Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend
Msgr. Bernard J. Galic, Director  Mary Szymczak, Associate

Very Reverend James A. Wehner, STD, Rector / President, and the community of the Pontifical College Josephinum send congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, JCL on his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

AD MULTOS ANNOS!
Welcome to your new home

as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend.

Please know of our support and prayers!

The Indiana Province of Priests and Brothers

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend in the following Institutions and Parishes

University of Notre Dame (1842)
Sacred Heart Parish (1842)
St. Joseph Parish (1853)
Ave Maria Press (1865)
St. Casimir Parish (1899)
St. Stanislaus Parish (1899)
Holy Cross Parish (1929)
Christ the King Parish (1937)
Little Flower Parish (1950)

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

We thank God for your presence among us and we welcome you. Know of our support and prayers, especially during our hours of Eucharistic Adoration.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration
Adoremus in Aeternum Sanctissimum Sacramentum
wwwssfpa.org

VERITATEM IN CARITATE
Truth in Charity
Welcome to Indiana

Bishop Rhoades

and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The parishes of
St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart,
St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart,
St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, and
St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol

are all along the way between Fort Wayne and South Bend.

The folks in these parishes know it will be a while before you can get around to see them and their churches and schools...and when you do, they promise a warm Hoosier welcome. Until that time, all of us, priests, parents, students, will read about you in this paper and remember you in our prayers.
Welcome Bishop Rhoades!

The people and priests of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish welcome you with all our hearts and look forward to celebrating, praying, and working with you.

St. elizabeth Ann Seton Parish • 10700 Aboite Center Road
Fort Wayne

St. John the Baptist Parish
FORT WAYNE
welcomes
Bishop Kevin Rhoades
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne -South Bend
and promises prayers
in support of his intentions for
The New Evangelization
Increased Vocations
and
Support of Catholic Schools and Religious Education

Welcome,
BISHOP RHoades
Your friends at St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton are only twenty minutes south of Fort Wayne, and looking forward to your first visit.

St. Joseph Parish
BLUFFTON
Congratulations, Bishop Rhoades.

We are happy to congratulate Bishop Kevin Rhoades on his episcopal ordination and appointment to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Rev. Edward E. Erpelding and the faithful of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Avilla congratulate BISHOP RHODES as he becomes the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Welcome, Bishop Rhoades

We look forward to your guidance in the years ahead. Our prayers are with you.

From Sister M. Elise Kriss, President, and the sisters, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Saint Francis.

Welcome Bishop Rhoades

We look forward to working with you in serving our community in the spirit of Saint Francis.

May God bless you and the Spirit guide you in this new journey and always.

The Franciscan Center - 4643 Gaywood Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806 - (260) 744-3977
www.thefranciscancenter.org

Rev. Edward E. Erpelding and the faithful of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Avilla congratulate BISHOP RHODES as he becomes the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Welcome, Bishop Rhoades

We look forward to your guidance in the years ahead. Our prayers are with you.

From Sister M. Elise Kriss, President, and the sisters, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Saint Francis.
As he becomes our shepherd, the pastor and people of St. Aloysius Parish Yoder, send prayers and congratulations to BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

St. Joseph Parish
MISHAWAKA
Extends a warm welcome to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
May many blessings of our patron light your way.

St. Mary's Decatur welcomes you!
The RHOADES to Decatur are open to you ANYTIME!

Sacred Heart Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Warsaw Welcome Bishop Rhoades with a promise of prayers, support, and best wishes for the success of his episcopacy in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop Rhoades...
TODAY'S CATHOLIC
is now “your voice to your people” and each of us on the staff of the paper looks forward to delivering this expression of evangelization in a way that brings souls closer to their loved ones, closer to you, their shepherd, and closer to Christ. *

Bishop Paul S. Loverde and the Faithful of the Diocese of Arlington Offer Prayerful Support and Congratulations to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on the occasion of his Installation as the Ninth Bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese
To Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,

In the Notre Dame spirit of hospitality and community, We welcome you in the Lord as our shepherd well prepared by grace and experience.

Sincerely,

The University of Notre Dame

Her students, faculty, staff, trustees, and the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame
Bishop Rhoades,
We thank the Lord that he has called you to be our Shepherd. We welcome you with open hearts and with our prayers.

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
WATERLOO

The parishioners and pastor of ST. PATRICK Arcola send a warm welcome and a promise of prayers to Bishop Kevin Rhoades

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish
NORTH MANCHESTER sends Bishop Rhoades prayerful best wishes that the blessings of our patron be bestowed upon his mission.

Welcome, Bishop Rhoades!
We ask in the name of your Son, that you bless the Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Rhoades. Provide him with the gifts he will need to carry on the ministry of Jesus in our diocese and help him to feel welcome here in his new home. Amen.
Saint Therese Church & School

St. Monica Parish and School congratulates The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades on the occasion of his installation as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Congratulations and Best Wishes Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades As you begin your new ministry, May the Lord bless you with every gift.

Bishop William L. Higi and the Priests and Faithful of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

and the entire
Church in Central and Southern Indiana

send sincere congratulations
to

Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades

upon the occasion of his installation as Bishop
of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

You have our prayers and best wishes
With heavy hearts and abiding gratitude, the Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg bid fond farewell to our beloved shepherd, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and pledge our continued prayerful support in your new home in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Ad multos annos.
CONGRATULATIONS

to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

on the occasion of your

INSTALLATION

as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

from Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger

and the People

of the

Diocese of Evansville

The Catholic Church in Southwestern Indiana
Welcome
Bishop Kevin Rhoades
from the priests and people of
Holy Family Parish
South Bend

May God bless your ministry among us
and fill you with His Holy Spirit.
May He give you vision and courage
and joy and fulfillment
as you shepherd us on our way to Him.

The pastor and parishioners of
Our Lady of Hungary Parish
and all of its various societies
heartily welcome our new bishop,
Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
as the ninth bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese
and congratulate him on the happy occasion
of his installation and wish him a very
successful ministry in shepherding his flock.
Rev. Lawrence Teteh, C.S.Sp (Pastor)
Mr. Al Heet (Pastoral Council Chairman)

BISHOP RHOADES
The Saint Vincent De Paul Society’s
Fort Wayne District Council
Welcomes you to our diocese.
We look forward to your guidance
and support in the forthcoming years.
God Bless!

A Spiritual Bouquet
For Bishop Rhoades
from the Catholic students in the diocese:
• One monthly Mass in honor of Bishop Rhoades
  January - May
• One Rosary each month for the remainder
  of the school year - January - May.
• Offer one daily petition for his intention
  for the remainder of the school year.

Catholic Schools Office
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades coat of arms

The coat of arms for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, combines diocesan and personal elements.

The crescent moon at the top left of the shield symbolizes the Blessed Virgin, the patroness of the diocese and the cathedral under the title of her Immaculate Conception; the battlefield, or rampart, recalling the historic foundation of the See City of Fort Wayne; and the three crosses of equal size representing the Most Blessed Trinity; the basic mystery of our faith.

The lower portion of the left side includes heraldic reference to the city and area of South Bend. The lily is a traditional symbol of St. Joseph whose name identifies the county of which South Bend is the seat and also the river which flows through it. The use of the “fleur de lis,” the French form of the lily, recalls the pioneer settlement of the territory by the French and the early missionary labors of French priests, particularly Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin and his companions who founded the University of Notre Dame.

The figure of the six-winged seraph, or cherub, in front of his bishop, even though at that time it was deep in winter and the rose garden was bare, signifies, in the same confident belief in the Blessed Virgin, the patroness of the city and area of South Bend. The curving line behind, signify- ing that Jesus is the “Light of the World.”

The Host is the red heraldic rose that centuries ago was set aside as one of the heraldic emblems for Jesus’ Mother. The simple silver background of the lower half of his arms represents both spiritual purity and priesthood and the humble cloth of Juan Diego’s tilma. Dividing the two separate fields of the arms is a device known in the heraldic science as dancetty.

It is a device commonly employed in heraldry to depict motion. For Bishop Rhoades, this division device symbolically represents four spe- cific mountain ranges that will forever remain close to his heart: the verdant peaks that are the imposing terrain of the See of Harrisburg; and the verdant peaks that are the imposing terrain of the See of Harrisburg.

Surmounting the episcopal shield is the Pilgrim’s Hat, the heraldic emblem for all prelates and priests of the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. For the rank of bishop, both residential and titular, the Pilgrim’s Hat is worked in deep green, the true color of the Office of Bishop.

For bishops, there are six tassels suspended on either side of the hat in a pyramidal style. The hat as the galero and the tassel takes the name fiocherto. These, too, are worked in green for the Office of Bishop.

Bishop Rhoades’ coat of arms is the episcopal cross. For the rank of bishop, this cross has only one transverse arm. The cross may be jeweled or depicted as plain, as in the case of the cross of Bishop Rhoades’ heraldic achievement, and most resembles the proces- sional cross used at Mass.

The personal Arms of Bishop Rhoades was devised by James-Charles Noonon, Jr. of Philadelphia. The impalement of the arms of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with the per- sonal Arms of Bishop Rhoades was undertaken by Emily MacMichael of Fort Wayne.

Episcopal Motto

In heraldry, a motto has been both a personal philosophy of life as well as a family dictum, sometimes even a cry for battle. But in church heraldry, the per- sonal motto of a prelate has always been intended to repre- sent his personal spirituality and theologically-based philosophy of life and is most frequently grounded in sacred Scripture.

Bishop Rhoades has selected the phrase “VERITATEM IN CARITATE” that translates into English as “Truth in Charity.” This motto, or personal philo- sophy, served him well in his lead- ership as rector of Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary where he steadily encouraged future priests to always be faithful in proclaiming and living the truth of the Gospel in charity.

The words of this motto are found in sacred Scripture in St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. “Let us proclaim the truth in char- ity and grow to the full maturity of Christ the head.” (4:15).

The Second Vatican Council, in its teaching on the church as the body of Christ, refers to this scriptural passage saying, “Christ continually provides in his body, that is, in the church, for gifts of ministries through which, by our power, we serve other unto salvation so that, carrying out the truth in charity, we may through all things grow unto him who is our head.” — Lumen Gentium 7.

In yet another predominate document from the Second Vatican Council, the church again refers to the passage in Ephesians in its teaching on peace as the fruit of love, saying, “All Christians are earnestly to speak the truth in charity and join with all peace-loving people in pleading for peace and trying to bring it about.” — Gaudium et Spes 78.

The top portion of the bish-
See inside back cover for explanation of Bishop Rhoades coat of arms shown above.