Habemus Papam!

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA AND CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, the leader of a large urban archdiocese in Latin America, was elected the 266th pope and took the name Francis. He is the first pope in history to come from the Western Hemisphere and the first non-European to be elected in almost 1,300 years. The Jesuit was also the first member of his order to be elected pope, and the first member of any religious order to be elected in nearly two centuries.

The election March 13 came on the second day of the conclave, on the conclave’s fifth ballot. It was a surprisingly quick conclusion to a conclave that began with many plausible candidates and no clear favorite.

The new pope was chosen by at least two-thirds of the 115 cardinals from 48 countries, who cast their ballots in secret in the Sistine Chapel.

His election was announced in Latin from the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, to a massive crowd under the rain in the square below and millions watching around the world.
Habemus Papam - We have a pope

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Mass for Pope Francis in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 18th.

Last Wednesday, March 13th, after the white smoke came forth from the chimney above the roof of the Sistine Chapel, the world’s attention focused on the balcony, the loggia, of Saint Peter’s Basilica. Millions awaited with great anticipation the announcement and the appearance of our new pope. I was in a room in the Archbishop Noll Center with many of our diocesan employees and members of the local media.

The excitement grew during the hour of waiting. Finally, the doors opened and Cardinal Tauran said the traditional words: Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: habemus papam. “I announce to you great joy; we have a Pope.” The crowd in Saint Peter’s Square cheered with jubilation as the Cardinal revealed the identity of the new successor of Saint Peter: Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio and his chosen name of Francis. And then Pope Francis came out on the balcony for the first time. It was indeed a moment of great joy, not only for these huge crowds in Saint Peter’s Square, but for people around the world.

I think most of us were very surprised since Cardinal Bergoglio was not one of the top names that had been circulating in the news about the possible new pontiff. There was great joy in the fact that we have the first Pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit Pope, and the first Pope to choose the name Francis.

Cardinal Bergoglio’s choice of Saint Francis of Assisi as his namesake gave me the greatest joy. Describing the birth of St. Francis, the great Italian poet Dante Alighieri wrote that ‘a sun was born into the world.’ Saint Francis was truly a giant in the world of Christian holiness who played a great role in the renewal of the Church in his day. He was a living icon of Christ. His ideal in life was ‘to be like Jesus, to contemplate Christ in the Gospel, to love him intensely and to imitate his virtues.” Describing the birth of St. Francis, the great Italian poet Dante Alighieri wrote that ‘a sun was born into the world.’ Saint Francis was truly a giant in the world of Christian holiness who played a great role in the renewal of the Church in his day. He was a living icon of Christ. His ideal in life was ‘to be like Jesus, to contemplate Christ in the Gospel, to love him intensely and to imitate his virtues.” (Benedict XVI). In the life and words of Saint Francis, we see the fulfillment of the first Beatitude: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’

When Jesus conferred the primacy on Saint Peter, he first asked him three times: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” When Peter affirmed his love, our Lord commanded him to feed and tend his sheep. Peter and his successors are empowered by the Lord to feed the Church with the word of God, to teach the Gospel with authority, and to shepherd and lead the people of God.

By the will of Christ, Peter and his successors have been placed over the apostles and their successors, the bishops, as the visible source and foundation of our unity of faith and communion. Jesus founded the Church and established the papal primacy to serve the Church’s unity in faith and love throughout the world. It is Christ’s will that the successor of Peter exercises his authority in a spirit of humble service and with the aim of preserving the Church’s unity. This universal pastoral mission of the Pope is a very heavy responsibility and entails a profound participation in the mystery of the cross. That is why it is so important that we pray for our new Pope, that he will have the strength from the Lord to carry the cross and to fulfill his tremendous responsibilities faithfully and well.

On the loggia of Saint Peter’s last Wednesday, Pope Francis said to the immense throng of people: “pray for me.” His words were addressed to all of us. So this evening, at this holy Mass, we pray for Pope Francis. May Jesus, the eternal Shepherd, bless his Vicar on earth! May Mary, the Mother of the Church, and Saint Francis of Assisi intercede for Pope Francis that he may be a good and holy shepherd after the heart of Christ!
Pope begins ministry with biblical symbols, signs of universal ministry

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although attempts were made to simplify the ceremony, Pope Francis officially inaugurated his ministry as pope and bishop of Rome in a liturgy filled with biblical symbolism and signs of the universality of his mission.

But before the solemn rites began March 19, Pope Francis — known for choosing public transport over chauffeur-driven limousines — took his first spin in the popemobile, blessing the tens of thousands of people who arrived in St. Peter's Square as early as 4 a.m. to pray with him. He waved and, at one point, gave a thumbs up to the faithful. He also kissed three babies held up to him by the chief of Vatican security, Domenico Gianni, and other officers.

But he climbed out of the open jeep used as a popemobile to kiss a severely disabled man.

Before entering St. Peter’s Square, he addressed by satellite thousands of his fellow Argentines gathered in Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, where he had been archbishop before his election as pope. He thanked the people for their prayers and told them: “I have a favor to ask. I want to ask that we all walk together, caring for one another — caring for life. Care for the family, care for nature, care for children, care for the aged. Let there be no hatred, no fighting, put aside envy and don’t gossip about anyone.”

As the Mass began, tens of thousands of pilgrims, faithful and tourists continued to arrive, filling St. Peter’s Square and crowding around the large video screens placed along the boulevard leading to the square.

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The by the time of Communion, the Vatican said there were between 150,000 and 200,000 people present.

In his homily, Pope Francis asked prayers that he would be able to protect the Church like St. Joseph protected Mary and Jesus, “discriminately, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand.”

He said in the Gospels, St. Joseph “can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions.”

But more than anything, he said, the Church’s patron saint teaches Christians that the core concern of their lives must be Christ.

“I ask you to protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation,” Pope Francis said.

He called for special efforts to protect “God’s plan inscribed in nature” and to protect one another, especially children, the aged, the poor and the sick.

Although according to Church law he officially became pope the minute he accepted his election in March 19, Pope Francis received important symbols of his office just before the inauguration Mass — the Book of the Gospels, the ring of the fisherman, St. Peter, and the pallium, a woolen band worn around the shoulders to evoke a shepherd carrying a sheep.

With members of the College of Cardinals dressed in gold gathered before the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica and brass players sounding a fanfare, the rites began at the tomb of St. Peter. Pope Francis venerated the mortal remains of his predecessor as head of the Church and was joined there by the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

Procession behind the Eastern church leaders and the cardinals, Pope Francis — wearing a simple, modestly white cassock and his black shoes — came out into St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who had announced Pope Francis, page 5

The new pope also delivered his first homily as pope. When one does not confess Christ, he said, “one confesses the worldliness of the devil.”

“The pope spoke at Mass March 14 in the Sistine Chapel, site of the conclave that had elected him the previous day. Pope Francis consecrated the Mass with the 114 other cardinal electors who had taken part in the conclave.

Following the cardinal electors in a procession, all of them wearing gold vestments to signify joy, the pope entered the chapel as a choir sang in Latin a verse from Mt 16:18, which begins “tu es petrus” (you are Peter).

In one of the first signs of change from the previous pontificate, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at a temporary altar that allowed him to face the rest of the congregation. In recent years, Pope Benedict XVI had celebrated Mass in the Sistine Chapel at an altar fixed to the wall under Michelangelo’s fresco of the Last Judgment.

The new pope also delivered his homily standing at a lectern, not seated, as his predecessor usually did.

Without faith in Christ, Church is just ‘pitiful NGO’

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without faith in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, the Church is nothing more than a “pitiful NGO,” Pope Francis said in his first homily as pope.

“When we stop, the thing doesn’t go,” he said. Catholics must “walk always, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with that blamelessness that God asks of Abraham in his promissive.”

“Build with living stones, anointed by the Holy Spirit,” the pope said. “Confess Jesus. If we don’t do that, we will be a pitiful NGO (non-governmental organization).

He also compared building without faith to sand castles children construct on the beach, which are washed away by the next tide.

“Walk, build and confess without the cross means that we are not true disciples of the Lord,” he said. “We must confess the one cross, and in that way we will be a true Church.”

“I would like that all of us, following these days of grace, have the courage — the very courage — to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the cross of the Lord,” the pope said in conclusion; “to build the Church in the blood of the Lord, which is spilled on the cross; and to confess the only glory, Christ crucified.

In Italian without a written text or notes, Pope Francis spoke about three important kinds of movement that he said appeared in the Scripture readings at the Mass: walking, building and confessing.

“We are all a path,” he said. “When we stop, the thing doesn’t go.” He said Catholics must “walk always, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with that blamelessness that God asks of Abraham in his promissive.”

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“Walk, build and confess without the cross means that we are not true disciples of the Lord,” he said. “We must confess the one cross, and in that way we will be a true Church.”
Pope Francis explains why he chose St. Francis of Assisi’s name

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said that “as things got dangerous” in the conclave voting, he was sitting next to his “great friend,” Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes “who comforted me.”

When the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio went over the 77 votes needed to become pope, he said, Cardinal Hummes “hugged me, kissed me and said, ‘Don’t forget the poor.’”

Pope Francis told thousands of journalists March 16 that he took to heart the words of his friend and chose to be called after St. Francis of Assisi, “the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation,” the same created world “with which we don’t have such a good relationship.”

“How I would like a Church that is poor and that is for the poor,” he told the more than 5,000 journalists March 16 that he took personal thanks “to those who were able to observe and recount these events in the story of the Church from the most correct perspective in which they must be read, that of faith.”

The Church, he said, “is the people of God, the holy people of God, because it is journeying toward an encounter with Jesus Christ.”

“The Church without understanding its spiritual purpose, he said, “Christ is the pastor of the Church, but his presence passes through the freedom of human beings,” he said. “Among them, one is chosen to serve as his vicar on earth. But Christ is the center, the focal point.”

Thanking the reporters again for all their hard work, Pope Francis also asked them to continue trying “to discover the true nature of the Church and its journey through the world, with its virtues as well as its sins.”

Communications, he said, requires study, preparation and a special attention “to truth, goodness and beauty,” which is something the Church has in common with journalism.

He ended his talk by telling reporters he hoped they would grow in their knowledge of “the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the reality of the Church. I entrust you to the protection of Virgin Mary, star of the New Evangelization.”

After personally greeting dozens of journalists and representatives of the Vatican press office, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Vatican newspaper and Vatican Radio, the pope came back to the microphone.

“I know that many of you are not Catholic or are not believers, so I impart my heartfelt blessing to each of you silently, respecting your consciences, but knowing that each of you is a child of God. May God bless you,” he said.

U.S. cardinals describe Pope Francis as ideal choice for modern times

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two U.S. cardinals described Pope Francis as an ideal choice to lead the Church in the modern world.

“He is the perfect choice for this moment in the Church,” said Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl March 14.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told reporters March 13 that the pope met all of the cardinals’ qualifications.

He said they wanted to “choose the right man” who would be “a man of God, a man of good pastoral governance, with a sense of the Church universal and a good communicator.”

“He fills those bills,” he said.

He also said the pope’s nationality is a plus.

“Where he comes from is gravy, and we got a lot of good gravy with a man coming now from Latin America. You talk about a booster shot to the Church in the Americas. This is going to be a real blessing.”

The cardinals noted that the pope has a style that will appeal to many Catholics.

Cardinal Wuerl said the pope’s style reflects the Church’s emphasis on New Evangelization, “inviting people to take a look again at the Church’s Gospel message.”

“His invitation is not just by words but by personal witness,” he added, pointing out that the new pope, former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, had been “an active presence” among Catholics in his archdiocese, often making parish visits and attending Church events.

“He does this as pastor of souls,” he added, pointing out that this will “be a hallmark of his pontificate.”

Both U.S cardinals said the pope’s style was particularly obvious in the way he greeted the massive crowd assembled in St. Peter’s Square when he was first announced.

Cardinal Dolan said it was “magnificent” when the pope asked everyone in the square to pray in silence for him and the whole square was completely hushed. He also loved how the pope led everyone in praying the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, saying that was similar to something a father, a good teacher or a good catechist would do.

He said another aspect of the pope’s personality was revealed right before the pope was supposed to appear to the crowds.

Many people inside the apostolic palace wanted to speak with him first, but the pope had heard that it had been raining and said he should go to the balcony first because he didn’t want to keep the people waiting.

“That’s a very spontaneous, gracious remark to make,” the cardinal told reporters at the Pontifical North American College.

Cardinal Wuerl appreciated that the pope immediately greeted the crowd by saying good evening in Italian, which he said “pushed aside all formality.”

He noted that Pope Francis has “firmness in faith and gentleness in dealing with people.”

“Isn’t that what we look for in a bishop?” he said.

The cardinal said he worked with Cardinal Bergoglio on a synod council and found the then-cardinal to be “mild mannered, soft spoken and clear in thought.”

He said he enjoyed working with him because of his “great clarity” and also the pastoral experience he brought to discussions.

He said the former archbishop of Buenos Aires had not been afraid to speak up on issues defending the Church’s “counter-cultural message.”

He also said it was significant that the pope chose the name Francis, pointing out that St. Francis was “not a mild retiring person. He was demanding of himself and others ... but he did it in such a way that you couldn’t help but love him.”

Contributing to this story was Carol Glatz.
At first Angelus, Pope Francis says God never tires of forgiving

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Citing a distinguished German theologian and an anonymous elderly penitent from Argentina, Pope Francis told an overflow crowd in St. Peter’s Square never to despair of God’s mercy to sinners.

“The Lord never tires of forgiving,” the pope said March 17, before leading his listeners in praying the midday Angelus. “It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.”

Pope Francis, who was elected March 13, spoke from his window in the Apostolic Palace for the first time. Despite gray skies, a crowd easily numbering 150,000 turned out to see the pope for his first scheduled appearance in St. Peter’s Square since the night of his election.

He opened with an expression of what has already become his trademark informality, greeting listeners with a simple “buongiorno!”

Commenting on the day’s Gospel reading (Jn 8:1-11), Pope Francis noted that Jesus addresses a woman caught in adultery, not with words of scorn or condemnation, “but only words of love, of mercy, which invite her to conversion:

‘Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.’

Pope Francis referred to a book on the subject of mercy by German Cardinal Walter Kasper, retired president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, whom he described as a “superb theologian.”

“But don’t think I’m advertising my cardinals’ books. That’s not it,” the pope said in the sort of spontaneous aside that listeners have already come to expect from him.

“This book has done me so much good,” Pope Francis said, apparently referring to a work published in 2012 under the German title “Barmherzigkeit” (Mercy).

“Cardinal Kasper said that to feel mercy, this word changes everything,” the pope said. “A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

The Argentine pope also recalled an encounter more than 20 years ago with an elderly woman in Buenos Aires, who told him: “If the Lord did not forgive all, the world would not exist.”

Pope Francis said he had wanted to ask her if she had studied at Rome’s prestigious Pontifical Gregorian University, because her words reflected “the wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit: interior wisdom regarding the mercy of God.”

Following the Angelus, the pope offered a particular greeting to the Holy Spirit: interior wisdom regarding the mercy of God. “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

Pope Francis cited a verse from the Gospel reading (Jn 8:11), in which he said “reinforces my spiritual tie with this land, where — as you know — my family origins lie.”

Earlier that morning, Pope Francis exchanged a sign of peace with Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and with Cardinals Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and also attended the Mass along with delegations from 12 other Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches, 10 Anglican and Protestant communities and three international Christian organizations, including the World Council of Churches.

After the Lord’s prayer, Pope Francis exchanged a sign of peace with Patriarch Bartholomew and with Cardinals Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, who attended the Mass along with delegations from 12 other Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches, 10 Anglican and Protestant communities and three international Christian organizations, including the World Council of Churches.

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the Jewish community of Rome and several international Jewish organizations sent representatives to the ceremony, as did Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain and Hindu communities and organizations.

Also present were representatives of 132 governments, led by the presidents of Italy and Argentina, the reigning royalties of six countries — including Belgium’s king and queen — and 31 heads of state.

Vice President Joe Biden led the U.S. delegation, while David Lloyd Johnston, governor general, led the Canadian delegation.

FRANCIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Pope Francis greeted a boy after celebrating Mass at St. Anne’s Parish within the Vatican March 17. The new pope greeted every person leaving the small church and then walked over to meet people waiting around St. Anne’s Gate.

FRANCIS

continued from page 3

The seal of Peter the fisherman,” Cardinal Sodano told the pope he was called, as bishop of Rome, to preside over the Church with charity. He prayed the pope would have the gentleness and strength to preserve, through your ministry, all those who believe in Christ in unity and fellowship.”

Six cardinals, representing the entire College of Cardinals, publicly pledged obedience to the pope.

While many Christians acknowledge the special role of the bishop of Rome as the one who presides over the entire Christian community in love, the way the papacy has been exercised over the centuries is one of the key factors in the ongoing division of Christians.

For the first time since the Great Schism of 1054 split the main Christian community into East and West, the ecumenical patriarch attended the installation Mass. Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, first among equals of the Eastern Orthodox, sat in a place of honor near the papal altar.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC
INDIANAPOLIS — Education reformers rocked the Statehouse in Indianapolis at a March 11 rally.

Music pounded. Students performed. Gov. Mike Pence and lawmakers revved-up a crowd of over 2,000 rally participants — mostly students, who chanted, “Ed Reform Rocks!”

Keynote speaker, former Indiana Pacer, Jalen Rose, engaged an already pumped crowd saying, “I know you guys have seen a lot of YouTube videos, with the music that plays something called the ‘Harlem Shake,’ right? So for fun, because I like to make education fun, … I want us to break out into something we’re gonna call the ‘Education Shake.’”

At the count of three, an ignited crowd instinctively whipped-out cell phones to video him. Rose brought down the house doing the “Education Shake.”

Rose, who started a charter school in his hometown of Detroit, gave a “shout out” to parents thanking them. Rose told students, “There are people in our country that don’t have people who love them. They don’t have people walking them up to school in the morning or putting them on the back and telling them that it’s gonna be okay,” he said. “I had a great mom, and a support group and it means a lot to young men and young women today. So, thank you parents!”

Rose gave “shout outs” to teachers calling them the “most important people.” Saying teachers had to be not only “educators, but ‘counselors and babysitters.’”

He told students, “I’m gonna tell you a secret. If you don’t succeed at school, it’s gonna be very tough to succeed in life. … So it’s very important that you take advantage of the opportunity.

“Indiana is at the forefront of change in the educational paradigm. I’m here to take notes, to pay homage and give you guys congratulations for all the great work you have done as legislators, parents, teachers, as students. I want to take this back to the state of Michigan,” said Rose.

“It is unfortunate that in our society that the education you get is based on the zip code you live in. … I ask you to do one thing. You may think you have only one voice, but collectively that voice is very huge,” said Rose. “How do you get your voices heard? Don’t ask … demand quality schools.”

Gov. Mike Pence revved-up the crowd saying, “Welcome to your Statehouse. We are here to stand with these beautiful children with these colleagues in the General Assembly with all of you today. Education reform does rock in Indiana. … We know we have made progress, but for the sake of the kids we are going to demand great schools in every community serving every child in the state of Indiana.”

Senate President Pro Tem David C. Long (R-Fort Wayne) told rally participants that “school choice creates competition,” which “creates better schools.”

House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) said, “This is more fun and energy in this building than I’ve seen for 30 years. In 2011, when we were successful in getting choice legislation passed, I don’t think any of us knew that we would have 9,400 folks make that decision this year to be in a school of their choice.”

Mike Obergfell, a social studies teacher from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, who brought 17 students and two teachers to the rally, said, “We came to show our support for education reform and how it has benefited our students. We should stand and support good things like the expansion of educational opportunities” especially for those with limited means.

“Parents have a duty and right to educate their children in schools they feel best meet their needs—that includes Catholic schools,” Obergfell said. “It’s pretty hard not to be energized when you’re surrounded by 2,000 kids! I think it sent a good message to our legislators.”

Bishop Dwenger High School has 59 students who are using a choice scholarship, which is approximately 3.8 percent of the student body.

Mike Pepa, a teacher’s assistant from the Charter School of the Dunes in Gary said he loved the “energy and enthusiasm” of the rally. Pepa called the event a “great learning experience” for the group of students he brought to the rally.

Gene Koch, a seventh grade teacher of Lutheran South Unity School in Fort Wayne, who brought a group of 45 students to the rally said, “I love this. It is such a positive feeling that kids and their parents have a choice in education. It is nice to see that Indiana is really pushing for more reforms.”

Lindsey Brown, executive director of School Choice Indiana, who helped organize the event, said the goal of the rally was to “show lawmakers our appreciation for the reforms they have made,” and “celebrate” all the successes, and “an opportunity for the students to learn about the legislative process.”

Gov. Mike Pence with First Lady Karen Pence revs-up rally participants when he says, “Ed reform does rock in Indiana” at a March 11, Education reform rally at the Statehouse. The rally drew over 2,000 participants from across the state.

Web Resources
Indiana Catholic Conference www.indianaccc.org

To explore the ICC’s electronic public policy tool and join the ICC legislative network go to the ICC Web page at www.indiana- nace.org and click “Legislative Action Center.”
PHJC Ministry Center changes name

DONALDSON — The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Ministry Center will now be called The Center at Donaldson. The Poor Handmaid Leadership decided to simplify the name that refers to all of their ministries located in Donaldson.

Ninety years ago the Poor Handmaids moved from Fort Wayne to Donaldson and built a new motherhouse. Over the years, a variety of ministries developed at and from the motherhouse offering opportunities for living and learning opportunities.

These opportunities include Earthworks, summer camps where children have fun while learning to care for the environment, Ancilla College classes for people of all ages, beautiful state of the art facilities at Landerswood Retreat and Conference Center, used by retreatants from around the world.

At The Center at Donaldson, visitors can also purchase natural beef from Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm, and loved ones are cared for at Catherine Kasper Hospice, the only faith-based Continuing Care Retirement Community in Marshall County. The MoonTree Studios, the newest of the ministries, presents a variety of art experiences.

USF announces new dance degrees through Fort Wayne Ballet collaboration

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) has collaborated with the Fort Wayne Ballet to offer four-year and two-year programs in dance through the university’s Fort Wayne Ballet Conservatory at the University of Saint Francis. It is the region’s only four-year degree of its type.

The bachelor of fine arts in dance and associate of arts in dance will prepare students for professional dance careers while delivering a sound liberal arts core curriculum for a well-rounded education. The degrees feature study of a full range of dance styles — classical ballet, contemporary dance, jazz, tap, character and repertoire — along with dance history and theory, pedagogy and choreography. The dance technique core, supplemented by an intense curriculum, positions students to perform in a professional dance company, attend graduate school in dance, teach in a public or private dance school or choreograph.

Dance courses will be held at the new facilities of Fort Wayne Ballet at Auer Arts Center. Fort Wayne Ballet instructors will be the faculty members.

Academic courses will be taken in the USF School of Creative Arts (SOCA), a creative, collaborative learning environment known for highly competent graduates in a broad spectrum of media, arts and business professions. The program will provide the studio rigor of the dance professional and the academic environment of a small private, Midwestern institution to give students a full and balanced collegiate experience.

Student-led dance marathon to raise funds for Riley Hospital

NOTRE DAME — The eighth annual Saint Mary’s College Dance Marathon will kick off at noon on Saturday, March 23, in the Angela Athletic Facility. The 12-hour student-led event raises funds for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, where sick children from around the state find care.

The community is invited to attend the marathon, which will feature music, games, crafts, and other entertainment. Monetary donations are encouraged. About 300 people are expected to come to the marathon and party their socks off for the cause. Dance Marathon falls on the same weekend as Lil Stib’s Weekend, giving the siblings of Saint Mary’s students a chance to learn about the cause and participate in the fun.

Participants of Dance Marathon raise most of the funds through sponsors by pledging to stay on their feet for 12 hours and through local business support. Saint Mary’s students, as well as University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College students, take part. Throughout the event, local Riley families will stop by, sometimes sharing their stories.

The marathon is the big finish after a year of fundraisers. This year Saint Mary’s students organized a concert, a 5K run/walk, coupon book and apparel sales, and Give Back Nights at local restaurants where a percentage of sales benefit Riley. There are also mini-marathons held by students at local high schools including Marian High School and Bremen School. The totals from all of these fundraisers are rolled into the Dance Marathon total, which is announced at the end of the night.

The stage play invites the viewer to look honestly at our nation’s past and our moral responsibility to each other, while examining the fundamental lessons of compassion, justice, integrity and courage. The universality of the message makes it relevant across generations.

Admission is $15 for the general public and $12 for seniors and children under age 10. Group discounts are available. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating.

Applications being accepted for Providence Associates


Providence Associates are women and men (at least 18 years of age) of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence. They may have known the sisters for a long time or have just recently heard about the sisters. Associates are drawn to this relationship with the Sisters of Providence for many reasons, but primarily, they wish to deepen their spiritual life and they see themselves as being called to respond to the Providence vision through their own particular way of life.

There are a number of ways for associates to participate in the life and mission of the Sisters of Providence.

As the associate becomes more familiar with the mission of the congregation through the period of discernment and reflection, she or he will discuss participation with the companion and the director. Some suggested ways for associates to participate in the life and mission are mutual and intentional prayer; appropriate community gatherings, reflection and prayer groups; Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs; social justice activities; eco-justice projects; and/or other Sisters of Providence ministries.

Participation as an associate is an individual’s response to the call depending on one’s particular gifts, interest and ability. The associate makes a commitment for one year. Applications for the next fiscal year will be accepted through June 30. For those who would like to know more about Providence Associates, contact Debbie Dillow, assistant director of Providence Associates, at (317) 994-6821 or visit www.ProvidenceAssociates.org.

Retreat planned for persons with disabilities in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — The Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne is sponsoring a spring retreat, “God’s Good Earth,” for persons with disabilities on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the St Vincent Spiritual Center. It will be a day filled with learning, singing and growing in the Lord, as well as some surprises. Lunch will be provided and, of course, there’s free, however in order to ensure a spot, organizers request that registrations be mailed or called in no later than Monday, April 8. Registration forms are available by calling the church office at (260) 489-3537, or email at dschuerler@saintv.org, or by visiting the parish website at www.saintv.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

HELMKE HONORED WITH ‘FATHER TOM O’CONNOR LIGHT OF CHRIST AWARD’

Paul Helmke received the 2013 Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award at a noon ceremony March 13 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, along with Andrea S. Thomas, chairperson of the event, presented the award. Helmke, who is professor of practice at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Bloomington, was mayor of Fort Wayne from 1988-2000, and served as president and CEO of the Brady Campaign to Stop Gun Violence from 2006-2011. He was selected by the committee for his leadership in public policy and nonviolence. Sponsored by St. Mary Parish and the diocese, the award was created seven years ago in memory of Father Thomas P. O’Connor. Msgr. Robert Schulte and Andrea Thomas present Paul Helmke, left, the 2013 award.

‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ planned as USF spring play

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at the University of Saint Francis will stage “To Kill a Mockingbird,” directed by Brad Beauchamp, on Fridays through Sundays, April 5-7 and 12-14, at the USF Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne.

Fridays and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

The dramatization of Harper Lee’s book provides a compelling look at justice and the human spirit, as told through the eyes of a young girl learning the ambiguities and realities of adulthood.

The stage play invites the viewer to look honestly at our nation’s past and our moral responsibility to each other, while examining the fundamental lessons of compassion, justice, integrity and courage. The universality of the message makes it relevant across generations.

Admission is $15 for the general public and $12 for seniors and children under age 10. Group discounts are available. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating.
NOTRE DAME — Welcoming Pope Francis, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated his first public Mass for the pope with the musical accompaniment of the Pueri Cantores (“young choristers”) choir. The Mass served as a means to offer thanksgiving for the election and to pray for the ministry of the new successor of St. Peter, the first pope.

About 400 youth singers from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participated in the special choral Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on Friday, March 15.

Ranging from age 10 through high school, all the Pueri Cantores singers are students who attend Catholic schools or who are homeschooled in the diocese. Participants gain an appreciation for a classical repertoire of sacred music spanning 1,500 years — from Gregorian chant, to the Renaissance, to masterworks of the 20th century.

Paul French, music director of the esteemed William Ferris Chorale and also music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Chicago, conducted the choir.

At the beginning of Mass, Bishop Rhoades greeted the congregation saying, “What a great joy it is to gather here in the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart, here at the University of Notre Dame for this Pueri Cantores Mass to give praise to God in song. St. Augustine said that he who sings praises twice, so today during this Mass, we’re praying twice.”

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades said, “I love celebrating Mass here in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The Mass I celebrate with you here every year, the children and young people of the diocese, who sing so beautifully, is my favorite. I can’t think of a better congregation that I’d like to be with than the young people of the diocese to celebrate my first Mass for the new pope.”

Bishop Rhoades commented that the College of Cardinals surprised the whole world by the man they announced would be the new pope. He asked the children about the three “firsts” of the new pope. Hands shot up in the air and the correct answers were that the pope is the first Francis, that he is the first Jesuit, and that he is the first pope from the Americas.

Bishop Rhoades illustrated the importance of this, explaining that the first missionaries came here about 525 years ago, and now finally we have a bishop of Rome from the Americas.

He said, “I chose the Gospel today because it’s one you can choose for the election of a new pope and it’s one of my favorites. It took place after the Resurrection, and Jesus was on the shore of Galilee and had a charcoal fire. He asked Peter ‘Do you love me?’ three times in this Gospel, and Peter said ‘yes’ three times. Jesus was really giving Peter a great mission. Jesus promised Peter, ‘You are my rock on which I will build my Church, and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.’”

“Jesus is commissioning Peter to tend the sheep and be the representative of Jesus, otherwise known as the vicar,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Now in the Church the pope is the vicar of Christ.”

“And now Pope Francis is number 266,” Bishop Rhoades said. “They all have the same job that Peter had, to feed the sheep with the Word of God, the Truth of the Gospel. I’m sure Francis will be a great teacher and will do a good job of feeding and guiding us. It’s so important to have a leader so that we have unity in the Church.”

“There are 1.2 billion Catholics in the world,” he continued. “We are kept together because Jesus gave us a leader. In receiving Jesus, the Body of Christ, we show our expression of unity and we become one body.”

“We pray that Pope Francis will be a faithful vicar, and like St. Peter, his heart will be filled with the love of Christ,” Bishop Rhoades said. “May the Lord Jesus Christ give Pope Francis His abundant love and grace.”

Attending the Mass was Jan Schmidt, executive director of the American Federation Pueri Cantores. She explained that the U.S. has the third largest number of members in the world. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has the largest choir in the U.S.

According to Schmidt, “Pueri Cantores is all about the kids and their leadership in the Church. It’s a way they can lead as kids. The hope and belief is that they will carry this sacred music with them their whole life.”

“This choir brings to the Church a higher level of sacred music and liturgy blended with the spoken word.” Schmidt said. “Having the choral festival in a Cathedral or Basilica is also an opportunity many children rarely get.

And the children love the opportunity. Lauren Salela, a sixth grader from St. Pius X, Granger, said, “The church is pretty and it’s so cool to sing in four parts with so many people. The whole experience is amazing.”

Her friend Kassidy Meiszberg said, “It’s an honor to be picked as one of the singers.” Darcy Williams, a fifth grader from Huntington Catholic, said, “The rehearsal is challenging but I’m sure the Mass will be great. Everything has been cool so far.”

Bishop Luers’ parent Jenny Andorfer observed that for the children “it’s a grueling day, and challenging music especially for the young kids, but when it all comes together in the Mass, it’s emotional, beautiful and moving.”

This event was sponsored by The American Federation Pueri Cantores. Pueri Cantores (which is Latin for “young choristers” or “young singers”) is the official children’s choral organization of the Catholic Church, founded internationally in 1944 and started in the United States in 1953. Currently, there are 250-300 U.S. choirs with membership from 72 Catholic dioceses. For more information go to www.pchoirs.org.
First English-language biography of Pope Francis by renowned Church historian

HUNTINGTON — With the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires as successor to Benedict XVI, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing is releasing the first English-language biography of the newest leader of the global Catholic Church.

Written by the author of the first English-language biography of Benedict XVI, Dr. Matthew Bunson — senior correspondent for Our Sunday Visitor, acclaimed church historian, and author of over 45 books — Pope Francis (Our Sunday Visitor, 2013) is based on years of Bunson’s research and observation of Cardinal Bergoglio among the College of Cardinals, as well as of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The book puts forth a comprehensive analysis of the incredible final days of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, the interregnum; the crises, challenges, and opportunities facing Pope Francis; and a look at the future of Catholicism.

Among the unique features of the book:

• Analysis of the events surrounding Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation;
• Analysis of why the College of Cardinals chose Cardinal Bergoglio;
• Complete biography of Pope Francis, including family history, his work as a priest and bishop, and his time as Cardinal;
• Texts and speeches given by Pope Francis from the moment of his election to Installation as Pope;
• Discussion of Pope Francis’s coat of arms;
• Comprehensive look at what lies ahead for Pope Francis as he leads the Church.

Using research conducted in five languages into the lives and ministries of the world’s leading Cardinals, their backgrounds, writings and homilies, Pope Francis shows why Cardinal Bergoglio was ultimately elected as the Church’s 266th pope.

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BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Everyone who attended the SANKOFA day of reflection on Saturday, March 16, went away with a feeling of peace, joy and anticipation for Easter Sunday and beyond.

“We are all going through troubles in our lives, but we know and are very encouraged that God will help us through it,” said Tania Wilson, a high school member of St. Augustine’s Parish.

“We should not doubt that He has our back,” noted Gabriell Jones, also a member of the parish and a Marian High School student who was one of 45 people of all ages who attended the conference at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend.

The day of reflection began with an inspiring drum and tambourine procession to the main conference room led by tambourine player Annie Tardy of St. Augustine Church and African drum leader James Riley from St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. The procession brought clapping, smiles and dancing.

“We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, trusting in His holy Word. He’s never failed me yet. Oh can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith. Don’t be discouraged when trouble’s in your life. He’ll bear your burdens and remove all misery and strife.” The chorus and part of the verse are from lyrics by Albert A. Goodson, and they inspired the theme of the SANKOFA, “Be Not Discouraged, We’ve Come This Far By Faith!”

The first keynote speaker, the ever-smiling and dynamic young black priest Father Chris Rhodes of Louisville, Ky., brought laughter and sometimes thought-provoking reflection to the room with the story of his journey into the priesthood in his address, “A Call to Holiness: Black Catholic Faith and Vocations.”

The talk was followed by the celebratory performance from the Indiana University South Bend dance group that included African drumming.

“Faith is a part of your life everyday. In Scripture, we hear that faith is the substance of things unseen. Faith allows you to imagine something greater,” Father Rhodes said.

He presented a video on YouTube that showed the ministry of a priest in an Ethiopian community. The simple and poor lives of the Ethiopians are immersed in faith.

Father Rhodes asked everyone to watch and to think about what it means to them to be black and Catholic.

“What is faith?” he asked to all after showing the video, which brought different answers from the group.

“Faith is a community experience. Faith was a community experience (there, in video),” said Tania Wilson, a high school student.

“Faith is obviously universal,” said Cheryl Ashe.

Recalling how he was not a Catholic from the start but was inspired by his grandmother’s daily walk of faith, Father Rhodes shared many interesting details. His grandmother had a Last Supper picture on the wall in her kitchen area, and she “didn’t mind being so poor, but it was so inconvenient.” She regularly sang a song that spoke of always going to Jesus, no matter what time of day no matter what happened in life that brought audience members to sing along, “In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.”

Father Rhodes didn’t become a priest until later in life, fighting the call the whole way, finally succumbing to the voice that came through loud and clear during a visit to Kroger one day when a woman thought he was someone else and kept yelling the words, “Pastor, Pastor!”

Bringing laughter to the room, Father Rhodes said that day he talked to God in his head responding to the “sign” from God. “I thought ‘You’d give me clouds, visions of angels and heaven!’ he noted. “He thought about what he would give up — ‘no wife, no kids, no money!’ But now he knows he is where he was supposed to be.

“Don’t be afraid to give your children the vision. Accentuate the positives you want them to see.”

FATHER CHRIS RHOODES

Starting off the conference on a moving start, participants filed into the conference center at the church following Annie Tardy of St. Augustine, South Bend, on tambourine and James Riley on the African drum from St. Matthew Cathedral moving with the music.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Father Chris Rhodes from Louisville, Ky., asked members of the audience to share what they thought faith meant as part of his talk on “A Call to Holiness: Black Catholic Faith and Vocations.” Answering him was Tiana Wilson, a high school student member of St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, while sitting next to her were, from left, Tania Wilson and Gabriell Jones.

“Overall we are doing a good job of that,” Summers said. “However, many of our African-American children in our Catholic schools are caught in the middle between surviving and thriving. Someone (yesterday) said we are getting minority children in the seat, but we are not ensuring that they are feeling welcomed. Our children are facing societal problems and they don’t have teachers in our schools who look like them. We need more African-American teachers in our schools. Our teachers and the children coming to us need to be better prepared for the journey they are facing.”

While the discussion during the conference went well, she noted, “We need to return to the discussion table. As someone said (yesterday), we need to first discover the cause and then work towards a solution that will lead us to cultivate our children allowing them to excel in an academic environment where they feel valued, affirmed, welcomed and heard — so that they can go from surviving to thriving.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass to conclude the conference.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades also recalled the famous words of Jesus from Scripture, taught by Jesus in different words at different times: “Let the one among you who has sin cast the first stone.”

“If you want to avoid judgment, stop passing judgment” and “why look at the speck in your brother’s eye when you miss the plank in your own?” the bishop said.

“Jesus is calling us to be honest and to be humble,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Humble in recognizing that we are sinners in need of God’s mercy.”

He suggests that those who have not gone to Confession go before Easter and experience the full joy of Easter.
Sacred place to pray for life, the unborn

Bishop Rhoades blesses, dedicates Women's Care Center Chapel

by Diane Freeby

FORT WAYNE — It’s fitting that a Women’s Care Center idea conceived nine months ago joyfully came to fruition amidst prayer and a celebration of the Holy Eucharist Saturday morning at the Notre Dame Avenue location.

“What a beautiful chapel!” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, referring to the sacred space he dedicated and blessed. “You who work or volunteer at this place are called to be instruments of the Lord, providing refuge to women — the refuge of love and compassion and support.”

A small space designed for one or two people to kneel in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and for about 12 to gather for Mass, was packed beyond that for the first Mass on March 16.

A small wooden altar was built from old pews from St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend by a parishioner. Because of the chapel’s small size, Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Eucharist with his back to the people, reminiscent of the Latin rite. But he directly addressed the Women’s Care Center family gathered before him as he reflected in his homily on Psalm 7.

“The psalmist prayed to God to save and rescue him, lest he become like a lion’s prey, torn to pieces, with no one to rescue him,” recalled Bishop Rhoades. “He was innocent and asked God to let the malice of the wicked come to an end. I thought how this prayer of the innocent psalmist could be the prayer of the innocent unborn if they had the capacity to pray.”

“But we do have the capacity to pray and we have the capacity to rescue the innocent,” Bishop Rhoades added. “Of course, this is part of the mission of the Women’s Care Center whose work indeed rescues so many innocent babies from being torn to pieces like lion’s prey. And now this center will have this chapel, a sacred place to pray with the psalmist, to pray for life, to pray for the unborn.”

Ann Manion, volunteer president of Women’s Care Center, and longtime supporter Kitty Fulneckey helped dress the altar after Bishop Rhoades sprinkled the chapel with holy water before later incensing the altar itself.

Manion spearheaded the chapel project along with foundation director Bobby Williams.

“I think this will bring amazing blessings for us,” said Manion. “I plan to visit this chapel every day and I know a lot of the counselors will, Bobby Williams. It’s just great to have the Holy Spirit with us as we minister to these women. This is the most trafficked center of any in Indiana. About 25 percent of the pregnant women in St. Joseph County come to the Notre Dame Avenue location for some reason. We serve more abortion-minded women here than at any other center. It just seems really appropriate to have this extra help.”

Williams thanked Bishop Rhoades for approving their petition to build the chapel. In addition to Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, Williams thanked Kathy Miller for making the altar cloth, Brian MacMichael and Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick for their guidance, and chapel custodian Tim Fulneckey and his wife Kitty, referring to them as “Mr. and Mrs. Women’s Care Center.”

“On behalf of Ann Manion, myself, Ellen Sommer — our 20 year counselor at Women’s Care Center — on behalf of the over 20,000 women we see, who make over 87,000 visits to one of our centers, thank you Bishop Rhoades for being our good shepherd and being on our board … we love you! Thank you very much!”

Sommer, who serves as director of counseling, oversees training for all newly hired counselors at the 22 Women’s Care Center locations now scattered throughout seven states. She says it’s important for those on the front lines to be nourished spiritually.

“I’m feeling very blessed,” smiled Sommer. “I think this chapel is so beautiful to have here at the Women’s Care Center. Staff can go in there to pray and spend time with the Eucharist and we can feel confident that God will help us in our work here to reach out to these moms and babies, to help them choose life. I’m feeling very blessed and very humbled to be present at the Mass today.”

Manion says they will celebrate Mass at the chapel at least twice a month, with plans to bring in various groups. She invites anyone who would like to come for Mass to email her at manionann1@hotmail.com. Board members Msgr. Heintz, Msgr. Bill Schooler of St. Pius X in Granger and Father Bill Sullivan of St. Thomas in Elkhart are among the priests committed to celebrating Mass at the Women’s Care Center.

“I pray that having Our Lord here in this chapel will bring many more abundant blessings to this center,” added Bishop Rhoades during the final blessing. “Let us continue to pray for and work for the Gospel of life.”
MONROEVILLE — A Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville, was celebrated last year on March 18 by the late Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy to begin a centennial year celebration of the parish school, named in honor of St. Joseph. At a luncheon after Mass, Bishop D’Arcy said, “You have been an inspiration to the whole diocese. This community has refused to believe that the town of Monroeville is a dying town. This is an extraordinary event.”

This past Sunday, March 17, a closing Mass of centennial year celebration was celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. And although the Mass was held on the feast of St. Patrick, the two Sunday dates were chosen since they were closest to the feast of St. Joseph on March 19.

The theme of the year-long commemoration was “Celebrating the Past, Building for the Future.” At the beginning of the Mass, Bishop Rhoades said there was much to celebrate: the centenary of St. Joseph School, of course, the election of a new pope and, as evidenced by so many in the congregation wearing green, the feast of St. Patrick.

Back in the 1840s, he related, there were priests who would come to the area to celebrate Mass in the homes of families who were of French, German and Irish origin. Turning to Father Lourdino Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose, Bishop Rhoades jokingly asked, “There’s a little bit of Irish in you, isn’t there?”

Citing St. Rose of Lima as “one of the truly historic parishes of our diocese,” Bishop Rhoades began his homily by pointing out that the parish was established by our first bishop, Bishop John Luers, in 1868, just 11 years after the diocese was established.

“Today as we celebrate the closing of this year-long centennial of St. Joseph School, it is good to give thanks to God for the many generations who received a solid Catholic education here in Monroeville,” Bishop Rhoades continued.

“We think back when the (present) school was established 100 years ago,” he said. “The bishop at that time was Bishop Herman Alfording.”

It was a time when communities were growing rapidly because of immigration throughout the northern half of Indiana, which comprised the diocese.

“I think it’s good today, and as you have, I’m sure, throughout this centennial year, to renew our commitment to the important and holy mission of Catholic education here in Monroeville,” Bishop Rhoades emphasized. “And the future looks so bright, especially with the purchase of the new school. I know it hasn’t been the easiest process, but thanks be to God, it’s coming to fruition. And I’m really grateful for your strong support of St. Joseph School. I’m grateful to Father Lourdino; to the principal, Stan Liponoga; and to Carolyn Kirkendall — thank you so much,” he continued. “There are many reasons why many children will continue to receive a strong Catholic education at St. Joseph’s School.”


“When asked about the transition from the previous principal’s position of 27 years to the current administration, Liponoga said, “It has been exciting! The first year of an administrator is an educational year. This year I have learned the great spirituality of our students, staff, parents and parishioners (and) the great love and support St. Joseph School and St. Rose Parish has for this community,” said Liponoga.

“Each student and teacher has the highest expectations for each student, and we continue to raise the bar.”

“We have 82 students this school year, and our current classroom capacity is 126 students. Therefore, our goal is the additional seats to pass along our Christian values, Catholic identity and high academics to more students,” he related.

“There have been Nostalgia Days throughout the past year — multi-year reunions of classes that celebrate the memories of the past, present and future of St. Joseph School,” said Liponoga.

“St. Joseph School is undergoing a major revitalization this year,” he continued. “We are in the process of purchasing a beautiful new facility.”

“We are on a mission to provide an excellent education not only to the Catholic students in Monroeville but to all students in Monroeville,” he said. “The possibility of relocating is very high,” he concluded.

There are various accounts of when the first school was erected, possibly as early as 1898, and named St. Rose Academy. The present school building was built in 1911 and has been remodeled numerous times.

The school was renamed in honor of St. Joseph by Father Charles Marr, pastor from 1909-22, in thanksgiving for prayers answered in defraying debt incurred by remodeling the educational facility. The School Sisters of St. Francis staffed the school when it opened in 1912 and continued their educational and spiritual guidance until 1972 when the school began to be staffed solely by lay teachers and lay personnel.
Sow the seeds of Vatican II

Passion Narrative reveals depth of the Lord’s giving of Self

The SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Palm Sunday
Lk 22:14-23:56

The Church this weekend leads us to the climax of Lent, the observance of Holy Week, by offering the impressive liturgy of Palm Sunday.

Recalling the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, for Luke the apex of the entire ministry of the Lord since in Jerusalem the Crucifixion and Resurrection will occur, these readings bring us to the heart of the Church’s teaching regarding salvation. Jesus is Lord and Savior.

When the palms are blessed, and the solemn procession, ideallly all of in the congregation forms, the Church offers us a reading from Luke. This reading recalls the plans for the arrival of Jesus in the Holy City as well as the arrival itself.

An element of inevitability, of Providence, surrounds the event. Jesus tells Pharisees who object to it all that even if the disciples deterred in giving us salvation if the awfulness of the crucifixion. We are flawed by our own sin.

Readings from Third-Isaiah and Philippians further focus our minds upon Jesus. He is Lord! Finally, magnificently, the Passion Narrative reveals the depth of the Lord’s giving of Self despite the intrigue of the trial and the awfulness of the crucifixion. We are flawed by our own sin.

Figuratively, because of our sins, we stand with the enemies of Christ. God never gives us a perfect, uncompromising, unending love. He will not be deterred in giving us salvation simply we love in return.

Reflection

Few sections of the Scriptures are as powerful as the four Passion Narratives presented to us in the successive Gospels. Luke’s Passion Narrative is definitely among these in its capacity to teach us and to call us to Christ.

On Palm Sunday, the crown of the Liturgy of the Word is the awesome proclamation of the Passion of Jesus as understood by St. Luke. The Church takes us most movingly to the Lord’s entry into Jerusalem. He is destined to redeem the world. Salvation had to come. Such was God’s will and God’s love. Some cooperated, some did not, but burdened by their ignorance or pride.

The readings from Third-Isaiah and Philippians further focus our minds upon Jesus. He is Lord! Finally, magnificently, the Passion Narrative reveals the depth of the Lord’s giving of Self despite the intrigue of the trial and the awfulness of the crucifixion. We are flawed by our own sin.

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Readings
Tuesday: Is 40:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17 Jn 15:23-31, 33-36
Wednesday: Is 50:4-16a Ps 69:6-10, 21b-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25
Friday: Is 5:13-14 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Heb 4:14-16 Ps 57:9 in 181-1942
Saturday: Gn 1:1-2 Rom 6:3-11 Lk 24:1-12

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

MELISSA WHEELER

Saint of the Week

Cuthbert

C. 634-687
March 20

Cuthbert likely was a Northumbrian Englishman, orphaned as a child. He tended sheep and fought the Mercians, then became a monk at Melrose Abbey, and later its abbot. In 664 he accompanied St. Eata to Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, off the northeastern coast of England, and later undertook long journeys on horseback or foot, ministering to Christians scattered around northern England and helping his monks accept Roman liturgical customs. After living as a contemplative for nine years on a remote islet, he was elected bishop of Hexham in 684. But he exchanged sees with Eata, becoming bishop of Lindisfarne. According to Bede’s history, Cuthbert was a holy, patient, practical leader, a miracle-worker beloved by all. He is a patron of sailors and of Northumbria.
Meeting Pope Francis

ROME — When Pope Francis stepped out onto the central loggia of St. Peter’s on the morning of March 13, I thought of the man I had met in his Buenos Aires office 10 months before: Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., who was looking forward to laying down the burden of leadership and devoting himself to prayer, reflection and study. Now, because Benedict XVI decided to renounce the Chair of Peter and do what Cardinal Bergoglio wanted to do, the old-school Argentine Jesuit is now Benedict’s successor. His acceptance of the cross that is the pasacy was an act of humble obedience by a man who had bent his will to the will for over a half-century.

What kind of man is he? Some impressions from an hour’s conversation last May:

A man of God. The new pope struck me then as someone who lived from the inside out: a man with a life rich in the new basis of his public life; a leader whose decisions grew from prayer and discernment, not calculation.

A man of profound humility. I had long been interested in getting to know then-Cardinal Bergoglio, but I had the hardest time getting him to talk about his life and experiences. I didn’t detect shyness in this, or false modesty, but a true evangelical humility. Pope Francis will not have the effervescence of a John Paul II; but like the Polish pope who created him cardinal, Jorge Bergoglio has spent his life saying, “Not Look at me,” but rather, “Look to Jesus Christ.”

A man of keen and realistic intelligence. Pope Francis is not the university professor that John Paul II and Benedict XVI had been in their pre-papal lives. And while that model of preparing-for-the-papacy served the Church well for 35 years, it’s not the only possible model. Now, rather than a professor who learned how to be a legislator, the Church has been given a pastor who has long experience of being a pastor. Nonetheless, I was struck that May by Bergoglio’s sharp mind, his familiarity with issues throughout the world Church, and his prudence in judging people and situations. He was, for example, completely realistic and honest about the Church’s situation in Latin America. Rather than complaining about the evangelical Protestant “sheep-stealing,” as more than a few Latin American churchmen do, the archbishop spoke with insight and conviction about the imperative of Catholic rediscovering the power of the Gospel through personal conversion to Jesus Christ.

A man of the New Evangelization. The new pope played a significant role in shaping the Latin American bishops’ 2007 “Aparecida Document,” which embraced the New Evangelization and put it at the center of the Church’s life. In our conversation, the man who would become pope made clear his understanding that a kept Church — “kept” in the sense of legal establishment, cultural habit, or both — had no future in the 21st century West, given the acids of secularism. Pope Francis is a man, I conclude, who intends to go on evangelical offense: it will be all Gospel, all proposal, all evangelism, all the time.

A man of reform. We spoke of the Latin American edition of my book, “The Courage To Be Catholic,” for which he thanked me. And in discussing Vatican affairs, then-Cardinal Bergoglio displayed a shrewd, but not cynical, grasp of just what was wrong with the Church’s central bureaucratic machinery, and why. Thus I think we can expect the new pope to lead the Church in a purification and renewal of the episcopate, the priesthood, the religious, and the Curia, because he understands that scandal, corruption, and incompetence are impediments to the Gospel-centered mission I describe in “Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21st Century Church” (Basic Books).

A man of freedom rightly understood. In addition to Pope Francis’s lifetime commitment to the poor I’d also note his commitment to human rights and democracy, both of which are under severe pressure in Argentina.

The new pope knows the fragility of democratic self-governance, and will work to shore up democratic foundations across the West.

Habemus papam. Thanks be to God.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

SCRIEPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 24, 2013


Following is a word search based on the shortened Gospel reading for Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.
WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhtag@dioresfwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Legion of Mary ACIES Ceremony
South Bend — The Legion of Mary will have and ACIES ceremony Sunday, March 24, at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 2114 E. Jefferson Blvd. Active and auxiliary members are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the service in the meeting room. Call Elsie Billsitz (574) 259-6215 for information.

Easter Candy and Bake Sale
Fort Wayne — The Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barholm St. will have an Easter Candy and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 23, from 4-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to noon in the gym.

Lenten supper planned
Huntington — Sr. Peter and Paul Parish will have a Lenten supper prepared by Dan’s Fish Fry on Friday, March 22, in the Rieder Auditorium, 860 Cherry St. Fish along with macaroni and cheese will be featured on the menu and served from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are $8, children ages 6-12 are $5. Carry out dinners available.

Fish fry
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 22, from 4-7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Tickets for adults are $9, children 6-12 $5, and preschool 5 and under $1. Carry-out and cheese pizza meals available.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus 6521, 61533 S. Ironwood Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 29, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Terrance Coonan will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

Lenten Fish Fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council 11276 will have a Fish Fry Friday, March 22, from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Adult meals are $9, children ages 6-11 are $6 and children $5 and under free. Carry-out will beavailable at adult meal price only.

Rummage sale
Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish will have a rummage sale Friday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 6, from 9-11:30 a.m. Bag sale starts on Friday at 3 p.m.

’Alladin Jr.’ performed
South Bend — Christ the King Drama Club will perform Disney’s “Alladin Jr.” on April 26 and 27. To support the production, the club will be having a Hacenda Give Back Day in the gymnasium. Tickets for adults are $6 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out will be available.

St. Hedwig plans card party
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Rosary Society will have a card party Sunday, April 7, in the memorial center. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Donation of $5 includes lunch. Presale only tickets may be purchased by calling (574) 273-1484 by April 3. Bring your own cards or dice.

‘Fiddler on the Roof’ performed
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers Performing Arts Department will present “Fiddler on the Roof” Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10. Call (260) 456-1261 x 3114 for information.

Knights plan card party, tournament
Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and euchre tournament Saturday, April 13, in the school basement. Tournament fee is $5 and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverages by free will donation.

Portage Rd. location. Art students will have been art on display.

St. Hedwig plans card party
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Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar.
Vatican releases popal coat of arms, motto by English doctor of Church

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis’ papal motto is based on the Gospel account of “The Call of St. Matthew,” the tax collector, in a homily given by St. Bede the Venerable in A.D. 705.

The pope decided to keep his episcopal motto and coat of arms for his pontificate with just a few minor adjustments in line with a papal emblem. For example, the blazon adds the bishop’s miter and the keys of St. Peter.

Something Pope Francis seems to have changed is to have removed the pallium, the woolen stole symbolizing a bishop’s authority, to the elements surrounding the shield. The pallium, a new element Pope Benedict added to his coat of arms in 2005, is a five-pointed star and the buds of a spikemead flower, which represent respectively Mary and St. Joseph, according to Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

The papal motto, like his episcopal one, is the Latin phrase “Iesu Christo servus servorum Dei,” which means “because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him” or more simply, “having mercy, he calls him.”

The phrase comes from a homily by St. Bede — an English eighth-century Christian writer and doctor of the Church.