



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Easter Blessings to All

Those who joined the Church one year ago

Pages 8-9

'We're brothers'

Pope Francis, retired Pope Benedict meet

Page 3

Pastoral visit

Bishop Rhoades visits Saint Joseph High School

Page 10

Quiz Bowl champs

Saint Joseph team takes state title

Page 13

Newman Civic Fellow

USF student honored for humanitarian work

Page 14



CNS/ERICH LESSING, ART RESOURCE, NEW YORK

Three women at Christ's empty tomb and his appearance to Mary Magdalene is depicted in a 14th-century painting from Austria. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is March 31 in the Latin Church this year.

Recalling a love for the poor at Chrism Masses

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ushered in Holy Week with a Mass Palm Sunday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and celebration of Chrism Masses in both South Bend and Fort Wayne.

At the Chrism Mass, celebrated Monday in South Bend, and Tuesday in Fort Wayne, the bishop spoke of the renewed hope, in the last few weeks, for the New Evangelization.

"Our new Holy Father chose the name of the poor and humble saint of Assisi, St. Francis, the one called by Jesus to rebuild His Church," Bishop Rhoades said. "In these past 11 or 12 days, we have all learned of Pope Francis' simplicity of life as archbishop of Buenos Aires, as well as of his love and compassion for the poor of his former archdiocese."

Thinking of the poor, the pope thought of Francis of Assisi, the saint of poverty and peace. Pope Francis told journalists that he thought: "How I would like a Church which is poor and for

the poor!" And so he chose the name "Francis."

Bishop Rhoades noted, "The Lord, through Pope Francis, is calling us to follow Christ on the path of the Gospel, to be detached from earthly goods and generous in sharing these goods with others."

Speaking of the renewed hope for the Church, a renewed hope for the New Evangelization, Bishop Rhoades said, "But we must keep in mind that any genuine renewal requires conversion, as happened

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The Truth of Our Baptism



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4).

These words of Saint Paul are proclaimed in the Epistle at the Easter Vigil, the Mass during which the "elect" (catechumens) receive the sacrament of Baptism. They remind us that the Resurrection of Jesus is not just a past event. In the sacrament of Baptism, the resurrection is actualized in our lives as we are reborn of water and the Spirit. This new life is strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation and nourished by the Holy Eucharist. We rejoice with all the people of our diocese and throughout the world who receive the sacraments of initiation this Easter.

CHRISM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the life of Francis of Assisi."

"Any true renewal of the Church can be set in motion only through its members, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity truly living as the community of God's poor," Bishop Rhoades added. "This does not mean purely material poverty. It means that we are a people who trust in God's goodness, who seek first the kingdom of God, who find our true treasure in God and not in the things of this world."

"The truly poor Church is a humble community, animated by the goodness of Christ to serve others in self-giving love," he said.

The New Evangelization calls "all of us to listen anew to the word of God, to be deepened in our faith in Christ, which invigorates us and ignites within us and within the whole Church the dynamism needed for the New Evangelization," Bishop Rhoades said.

At the Chrism Mass, rich in meaning, priests publicly renew their promises and manifest their communion with the bishop.

Bishop Rhoades said, "To be authentic witnesses and ministers of the Gospel, we must strive to make the Church 'the home of the poor.'"

He said this begins with simplicity of life, interior detachment from wealth and possessions. It involves personal generosity toward those in need.

"We have heard often about the Church's preferential option for the poor," Bishop Rhoades said. "This must not be a mere platitude or slogan. It is something that must be lived and practiced. We must renounce all greed and reject whatever appears to be luxurious, living a simple life-style. If we are to preach Good News to the poor, we must first cultivate within ourselves the Gospel spirit of poverty, translated into our own sharing with those in need."

He recalled how the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches "the Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of

Most of us received the sacrament of Baptism as infants. Every year, however, at Easter, we are called to make the gift of Baptism our own, to enter more and more radically into the truth of our Baptism. We renew our baptismal promises. We re-affirm our Christian identity as members of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. In renewing our baptismal promises, we renew our commitment to follow Christ, to build our lives on him and for him, and to live his Gospel.

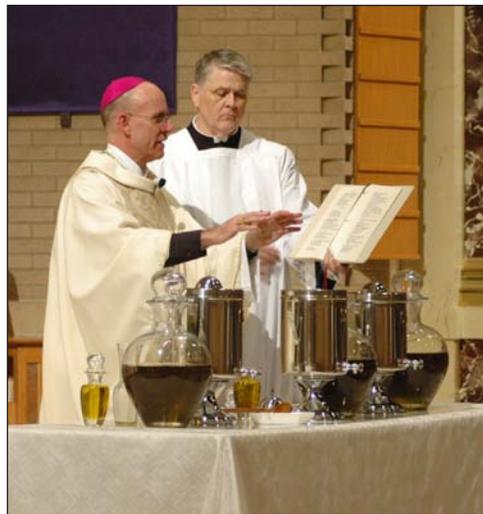
At Easter, we celebrate that something truly new has happened in human history, an event that has changed the state of humanity and the world. Jesus is risen from the dead! And so, we can put our trust in his teachings. Even more, we can put our trust in Jesus himself, in his person. He is not a distant figure from the past. He is present today. He is alive. He is always with us, with his light and his love. The great explosion of light that is the Resurrection reveals the definitive victory of love, joy, and life over evil, suffering, and death.

"The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross' (CCC 638).

In this Year of Faith, we have been invited to rediscover and study the fundamental content of the faith as contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. #638 to #658 of the *Catechism* treat the Resurrection of Jesus as an historical and transcendent event and a work of the Holy Trinity. It explains the meaning and saving significance of the Resurrection. I recommend this section for your reading during the season of Easter. Or, if you want to delve even more into the theology of the Resurrection, I recommend the rich reflections of our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, in chapter 9 of *Jesus of Nazareth – Part Two*.

Of course, the Year of Faith is not only about study of the content of our faith, but also living and practicing that faith each day. Believing in the Resurrection of Jesus, we cannot keep the joy of our faith to ourselves. We must pass it on to others. This is the task of evangelization. It was their encounter with the Risen Lord, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, that inspired the first disciples to go forth on mission to bring Christ to others. This is the perennial mission of the Church. It is our mission today. Each of us has a contribution to make to the new evangelization by witnessing to the Gospel with joy.

May the Risen Christ be with you!
Happy Easter!



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and consecrates the Holy Chrism oil during the Chrism Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend on Monday, March 25.

Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, His brethren."

At the Mass, Bishop Rhoades blessed the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and consecrated the Holy Chrism oil.

On Sunday, Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass began with a procession of the faithful gathering for a blessing of palms on the plaza area on the cathedral.

Bishop Rhoades recalled in his homily how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a colt, a young donkey. Bishop Rhoades spoke of the significance of this and how it related to the Old Testament prophecy in the book of Zechariah that a king would come to Jerusalem, humbly riding a colt, to establish a dominion of peace.

"By acting out Zechariah's prophecy, Jesus wants to convey that He is entering Jerusalem as a king, but a king who is not establishing his reign by force of arms," Bishop Rhoades said. "He enters Jerusalem as a king who brings



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses palms on the plaza of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Palm Sunday, March 24.

peace."

The people, he said, recognized Jesus' kingship. "On this day, as we begin Holy Week, we also profess the Kingship of Jesus Christ," Bishop Rhoades said.

He added, "Our Christian life is truly an ascent, a climb, so to speak, to the true heights of being human. Jesus walks before us towards the heights. He shows us the way. He is the way. He leads us to the healthy air of the heights, to what is great and pure."

"Rather than floundering in the depths of sin and falsehood and self-centeredness, when we follow Jesus, we are led to truth and goodness and life," Bishop Rhoades said. "He leads us to love. He leads us to the Father. He leads us to the definitive Jerusalem, to salvation, to perfect happiness."

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the faithful to participate in the liturgies of Holy Week, to "to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection through prayer."

Pope on Palm Sunday: Christ's passion leads to joy

BY FRANCIS X ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis celebrated his first Palm Sunday Mass as pope March 24, telling an overflow crowd in St. Peter's Square that Christ's death on the cross is a source of eternal consolation and joy.

"A Christian can never be sad. Never give way to discouragement," the pope said in his homily, assuring listeners that with Jesus, "We are never alone, even at difficult moments, even at difficult moments when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them."

As he has done with striking frequency since his election March 13, Pope Francis warned against the action of the devil, who he said comes to discourage believers in times of trouble, "often disguised as an angel who insidiously tells us his word. Do not listen to him."

Recalling Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, acclaimed as a king only days before His crucifixion, the pope stressed the otherworldly nature of Christ's reign.

"Jesus does not enter the Holy City to receive the honors reserved to earthly kings, to the powerful, to rulers; He enters to be scourged, insulted and abused," Pope Francis said. "His royal throne is the wood of the cross."

"Jesus takes upon Himself the evil, the filth, the sin of the world, including our own sin," the pope said, "and He cleanses it, He cleanses it with His blood, with the mercy and the love of God."

"Christ's cross embraced with love does not lead to sadness, but to joy," he said.

Pope Francis characteristically strayed from his prepared text in a personal aside when deploring the sin of greed, adding that money is something "no one can bring with him. My grandmother would say to us children, 'No shroud has pockets.'"

Noting that "for 28 years Palm Sunday has been World Youth Day," the pope told young people in the congregation that "you bring us the joy of faith, and you tell us that we must live the faith with a young heart, always, even at the age of 70 or 80."

Pope Francis confirmed that he would attend the July 2013 World Youth Day celebrations in Rio de Janeiro, saying, "I will see you in that great city in Brazil." Though the announcement was widely expected, it drew applause from the crowd in the square and the avenue beyond.

Before the Mass, young people carrying woven palm fronds led a procession that included bishops, cardinals and Pope Francis in the popemobile. They processed to the ancient Egyptian obelisk in the center of the square, where the pope blessed palm and olive branches held up by members of the congregation.



CNS PHOTOS/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis carries woven palm fronds as he walks in procession at the start of Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 24.



Pope Francis uses incense as he begins Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 24.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 31 — Easter Sunday Masses at Allen County Jail, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, April 3, 5:15 p.m. — Mass with Presentation of Evangelium Vitae Medal, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Thursday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. — Knights of Columbus Appreciation Dinner for Priests and Religious, Reed Road, Fort Wayne
- Friday, April 5, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
- Saturday, April 6, to Friday, April 12 — Co-Chair of Meeting of International Catholic-Reformed Theological Dialogue, Inn at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hour across the diocese

- First Friday, April 5, at St. Patrick, South Bend, 12:45-3 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has holy hours all Fridays from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- St. Gaspar del Bufalo Church in Rome City has 15 minutes of Eucharistic Adoration after all three weekend Masses during Lent with Confessions heard at that time as well. They pray for the intentions related to the U.S. Bishop's Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
- Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30 -5 p.m.) every Saturday of Adoration and Exposition prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
- St. Patrick, Walkerton will host Adoration from 8:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on April 4, for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.

Pope Francis meets retired Pope Benedict, says 'we're brothers'

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — With a warm embrace, a helping hand, shared prayer, a long discussion and lunch together, Pope Francis spent several hours with retired Pope Benedict XVI March 23 at the papal summer villa.

Pope Francis gave Pope Benedict an icon of Mary and Jesus that the Russian Orthodox delegation to his inauguration had given him just a few days earlier. "They told me this was Our Lady of Humility. If I may say, I thought of you," Pope Francis said. Pope Benedict, obviously moved, grasped his successor's hands.

Pope Francis told Pope Benedict, "You gave us so many examples of humility and tenderness."

The meeting took place in Castel Gandolfo, where Pope Benedict is staying while a Vatican monastery is being remodeled as a residence for him.

The retired pope moved with much greater difficulty than he did

a month ago. Walking with a cane, he took smaller and slower steps.

When the two went into the chapel of the papal villa to pray, Pope Benedict indicated that Pope Francis should take the front pew, but Pope Francis, reaching out to help his predecessor walk, said, "We're brothers," and they knelt side by side.

Traveling by helicopter from the Vatican, Pope Francis arrived shortly after noon. While the two have spoken by telephone at least twice, this was their first meeting since Pope Francis' March 13 election.

Pope Benedict, wearing a quilted white jacket over a simple white cassock — without a short cape or white sash — was driven to the garden heliport to greet his successor.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the two rode in the same car to the villa. Pope Francis sat on

USCCB: New proposed rules on mandate still violate religious freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New proposed regulations governing the contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act continue to violate basic principles of religious freedom, said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In comments filed March 20 with the Department of Health and Human Services, the USCCB raised a series of concerns, among them being that the new proposals keep in place “an unjust and unlawful mandate” regarding the provision of contraceptive and other pregnancy services and that the rules provide no exemption, or accommodation, for “most stakeholders in the health insurance process, such as individual employees and for-profit employers,” who are morally opposed to such coverage.

Other objections raised in the comments include:

- An “unreasonable and unlawfully narrow” exemption for some nonprofit religious organizations, primarily houses of worship.
- Limited accommodation for religious employers that continues to require those employers falling outside of the government’s definition to “fund or facilitate objectionable coverage.”

The comments state that the concerns being raised are the same as those addressed when the rules governing the Affordable Care Act were first proposed in 2011.

The 24-page statement was filed during the 60-day comment period established by the Health and Human Services after it introduced the new proposed rules Feb. 1. The

deadline for comments is April 8.

The comments were filed on behalf of the USCCB by Anthony R. Picarello, associate general secretary and general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel.

The rules are expected to be finalized this summer. Institutions are required to provide coverage by August.

The USCCB position is built around a series of legal arguments stemming largely from decisions in earlier court cases.

The document said that the contraceptive mandate remains unchanged and presented the USCCB position again that it should be rescinded.

“Contraceptives and sterilization procedures, unlike other mandated ‘preventive services,’ do not ‘prevent’ disease,” the document said. “Instead they disrupt the healthy functioning of the human reproductive system.”

The USCCB argued that the contraceptive mandate requires the coverage of abortifacients drugs and devices in violation of various aspects of the Affordable Care Act dealing with abortion coverage and the non-pre-emption of state law as well as other laws. Such concerns are separate from religious freedom issues, the comments said.

The document also contended the new proposed rules offer no exemption, or accommodation, for “the overwhelming majority” of individuals and institutions who object to contraceptive coverage on

religious or moral grounds.

“Those without exemption or accommodation include conscientiously-opposed individuals, for-profit employers (whether secular or religious), nonprofit employers that are not explicitly religious organizations (even in cases where their objection is religious in nature), insurers and third-party administrators. Respect for their consciences demands some adequate legal protection, but under the current proposed regulation they have none,” the USCCB told the government.

The document acknowledged that the religious employer exemption in the new proposed rules was “improved slightly” in one area, but was “worsened” in another.

The first version of proposed rules exempted only religious organizations whose main purpose is the inculcation of faith and who employ and serve members of the faith. A later accommodation said the contraceptive mandate could be met by nonexempt organizations through third-party insurers.

Under the new proposed rules for exempt religious organizations HHS eliminated standards governing inculcation of the faith and who the organization serves, which the USCCB welcomed.

The USCCB raised concerns, however, that the new proposed rules exclude from the definition of religious employer various organizations that “undeniably are ‘religious’ and undeniably ‘employ’ people, such as Catholic hospitals, charities and schools.

“The government’s proposed definition of religious employer still reduces religious freedom to freedom of worship by limiting the exemption almost exclusively to houses of worship,” the USCCB argued.

The document also questioned the accommodation to nonprofit religious organizations in the rules that fall outside the definition of religious employer, saying the accommodation is based on a number of “questionable factual assumptions.”

“Even if all of those assumptions were sound, the accommodation still requires the objecting religious organization to fund or otherwise facilitate the morally objectionable coverage. Such organizations and their employees remain deprived of their right to live and work under a health plan consonant with their explicit religious beliefs and commitments,” the document said.

The USCCB also maintained that the contraceptive mandate “continues to represent an unprecedented (and now sustained) violation of religious liberty by the federal government.”

“As applied to individuals and organizations with a religious objection to contraceptive coverage, the mandate violates the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.”

The USCCB offered to work with the government to “reach a just and lawful resolution to these issues.”



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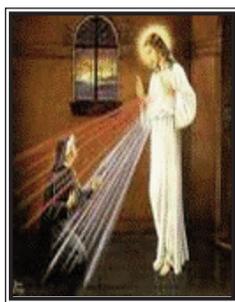
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As a religious broadcaster, Fort Wayne Catholic Radio Group (Redeemer Radio) has established a religious qualification for all employee positions. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures,

Redeemer Radio makes reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender, among those who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.

Expungement bill gives reformed offenders' new lease on life

INDIANAPOLIS — Should people who are convicted of a crime be marked for life even if they have served their sentence and reformed their lives? State Rep. Jud McMillin, (R-Brookfield) author of a bill to address the problem, believes some individuals deserve a second chance at living a productive life. And Church officials agree.

McMillin's bill, House Bill 1492, as proposed would allow expungement of some misdemeanor and nonviolent felony records after a 10 year period of no criminal activity.

The proposal passed the House 82-17. During a March 20, meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee, panel members heard testimony, but held the bill over another week to consider additional amendments.

McMillin, the bill's author said, "What the bill would allow is for certain felonies, excluding sexual offenses and felonies where people are harmed, to be expunged 10 years after the date of conviction. It does provide for prosecutors to reopen an expunged record for purposes of subsequent convictions."

McMillin said the bill was "the final step" in recognizing that

it might not be the best public policy to label people as felons for life, and not give them the opportunity to become productive members of society. "Especially when they have demonstrated that they have cleaned-up their act and are ready to get back to being tax paying members of society," said McMillin.

State Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero, said he worked for eight years with Rep. Bill Crawford to get a bill passed to seal the records of persons whom committed Class D felonies, or misdemeanor, nonsexual and non-violent offenders, and who had no further convictions. Eight years after they had completed all their sentencing, their records could be sealed.

Turner said he's had "countless individuals" contact him and Rep. Crawford to say "thank you" for giving them the opportunity to provide for their families. "These crimes should not be a life time sentence. We do have crimes that should be for life, but not these," said Turner. "These individuals have made a determined effort to put what's in the past, in the past, and provide for their families. I don't think we can ask any more of them."

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

State Rep. Matt Ubelhor, R-Bloomfield, said, "Having had the opportunity to hire many, many people throughout my career. I've turned down incredibly good people because a prior record was not revealed until it was time to do the (permanent) hiring and background check." No background check would be done for temporary workers.

Ubelhor, who had an accountant working for him as a temp for months and was ready to hire him. He couldn't hire him. Ubelhor said, "In tears, the 32-year old man told me 'Matt, I was 19-years-old and I drove the getaway car for one of my buddies who hit-up a 7-11 store.' Ubelhor said the man did 18-months in jail, then got a degree from Purdue, is married with two kids. He worked for Ubelhor as an accountant for \$15

an hour. "Best paying job he'd ever had, and he did a hell of a job, performed flawlessly, but I had to tell him, I'm not hiring you because you are not good enough. He did the crime, did the time, and paid the dime, and now still can't get past it," said Ubelhor. "This bill is remarkable for these kinds of individuals."

State Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville, raised concerns with House colleagues during the floor debate saying his position on the bill has been "very clear and consistent. The bill falls on the side of the offender and not on the side of victims or potential victims." Eberhart said he was not a callous person, that he hired a person who was a convicted felon, but did so with full disclosure, and was concerned that if criminal records were expunged businesses owners would not have that knowledge and should.

State Rep. Kevin Mahan, R-Hartford City, disagrees, saying that the bill does not prevent employers from calling the county jail finding out about arrest records, and employers do this all the time. "You want a jobs bill? This is a jobs bill," said Mahan. "An engineer, 45-years-old told me as a young person he got an

OWI (operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated). Less than five years later, while at Purdue, he got another one. That raises it to a Class D felony. He's spent the rest of his life paying for that mistake. He can't even chaperone at one of his kids' field trips." Another man told Mahan at age 24 he lifted a pack of smokes, a Class D felony. "He can't even get a job at McDonalds," said Mahan. "You want a jobs bill. This is a jobs bill."

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) executive director, who testified in support of the bill in the House and Senate said, "The persons addressed in this bill have repented, offered satisfaction for their crime and demonstrated good character and behavior. They deserve a second chance."

Web Resources

Indiana Catholic Conference
www.indianacc.org

To explore the ICC's electronic public policy tool and join the ICC legislative network go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org and click "Legislative Action Center."

FRANCIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the right — the spot reserved for the pope — and Pope Benedict sat on the left.

After their visit to the chapel, the two spent 45 minutes talking alone, Father Lombardi said. He would not release details of the conversation and would not explain what was in the large box and two large envelopes seen on the table between the two.

The two had lunch together at Castel Gandolfo, then reportedly went for a short walk. Pope Francis returned to the Vatican about two-and-a-half hours after he arrived.

Hundreds of people who were gathered in the main square outside the papal villa were left disappointed. They had hoped the two popes — one reigning, one emeritus — would come to the balcony together.

Father Lombardi told reporters, "Remember that the retired pope had already expressed his unconditional reverence and obedience to his successor at his farewell meeting with the cardinals, Feb. 28, and certainly in this meeting — which was a moment of profound and elevated communion — he will have had the opportunity to renew this act of reverence and obedience to his successor."

He also said, "Certainly Pope Francis renewed his gratitude and that of the whole Church for Pope Benedict's ministry during his pontificate."



Pope Francis embraces emeritus Pope Benedict XVI at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, March 23. Pope Francis travelled by helicopter from the Vatican to Castel Gandolfo for a private meeting with the retired pontiff.

CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

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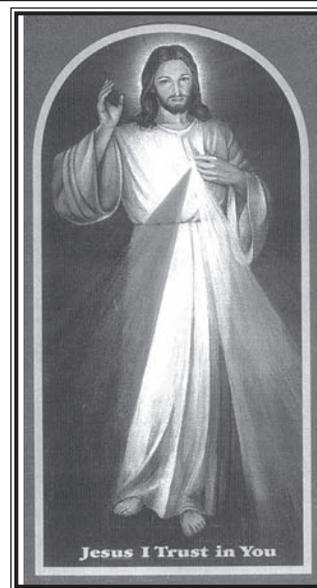
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Please pray for our Catholic church, our country,
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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
2:00 -2:45 PM Confessions... many priests available.

3:00 PM Mass
Prayer, Songs, and Divine Mercy Chaplet
Luncheon provided afterward by the parish.

Videos on Divine Mercy will be shown during luncheon.
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Divine Mercy Chaplet & Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday
March 29 and ends the following Saturday, April 6

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Colorado governor signs bill to legalize same-sex civil unions

DENVER (CNS) — Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper March 21 signed into law a civil unions bill for same-sex couples that Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila said “harms families, civil liberties and the natural rights of all Colorado’s children.” The measure was approved by the state House March 12 and went to Hickenlooper for his signature. The Senate had passed it in February. The new law takes effect May 1 and gives same-sex couples many of the rights and responsibilities of marriage. “(It) is the beginning of an effort to redefine the family in Colorado and to undermine the right of all children to have a mother and a father. Civil unions are not about equality, tolerance or fairness,” the archbishop said. “They create an alternate reality in which all institutions can be self-defined. Make no mistake: Civil unions are the first step to redefining marriage and to radically redefining the concept of civil rights,” he said in a statement released when the House passed the bill. “Civil rights are about protecting individuals and institutions from tyranny or oppression, not providing legal endorsement to all conceivable social arrangements and constructs,” he said. Catholic Charities of the Denver Archdiocese also criticized the measure as it moved through the Legislature because it contains no religious liberty protections for agencies morally opposed to placing children for adoption with same-sex couples.

Religious liberty threats: no longer a unifying idea of what they are

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what now seem to have been heady days of the 1990s, Baptists, Catholics, the American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way were among the members of a philosophically diverse coalition that stood together in pursuit of a federal law protecting the free exercise of religion. Today, among those same organizations, there may be as many ideas about what the chief threats are to religious liberty as there once were members of the group that produced a single-minded legislative focus. “When the same words are used to describe conflicting or competing terms,” for how to apply the religious freedom protections of the First Amendment, “something is wrong,” said the Rev. Welton Gaddy, a Baptist minister who heads the Interfaith Alliance. He moderated the first panel of a March 18 conference, “Defining Religious Freedom in America,” with the observation that the “free exercise coalition is no more, amid controversies over many subjects.” As Wendy

NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS CARRY PALM BRANCHES DURING PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION IN JERUSALEM



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

Christian pilgrims carry palm branches during the traditional Palm Sunday procession March 24 on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. Also known as Passion Sunday, this first day of Holy Week commemorates Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion.

Kaminer, a civil liberties attorney and correspondent at theatlantic.com, noted during the conference sponsored by the Freedom Forum and Moment magazine, “it’s very easy to find consensus in general definitions” of religious freedom. “It becomes a benchmarking exercise,” agreed Mark Chopko, a partner and chair of the non-profits and religious institutions practice group at Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young. “We all agree on what the principles are.” But when it comes to practical application to contemporary situations, the consensus falls apart, panelists agreed.

Lawyer says judge’s order affects religious liberty of all Missourians

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — A federal judge’s decision to strike down portions of a Missouri law protecting conscience rights of those who object to coverage of con-

traceptives and abortifacients in their health plans attacks the conscience rights and religious liberty of all Missouri citizens, said the state’s Catholic conference. Judge Audrey Fleissig of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis issued her order March 14. The Missouri Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the state’s bishops, expressed dismay over her decision. Tyler McClay, the conference’s general counsel, said no one should be forced to pay for contraceptives, abortion drugs or sterilization procedures in their health plans. Elsewhere in the country, a federal judge in Michigan granted a preliminary injunction against enforcement of the federal contraceptive mandate in a suit brought against the Department of Health and Human Services by Tom Monaghan, founder and former owner of Domino’s Pizza, and his property management company. In Minnesota, the state Catholic

conference filed a friend-of-court brief with the appeals court in support of Catholic employers who are challenging the HHS mandate and “to stand in solidarity with (the) appellants, who are bravely contesting the legality of an unwise and unjust policy.”

North Dakota lawmakers OK bill defining life starts at conception

BISMARCK, N.D. (CNS) — A personhood bill that defines life as starting at conception passed the North Dakota House March 22 in a 57-35 vote. The state Senate in February approved the measure to outlaw abortion in the state. The House’s action now sends it to the desk of Gov. Jack Dalrymple for his signature. The Associated Press said he has not indicated whether he will sign it. Passage of the personhood bill follows

the Senate’s passage March 15 of a bill to ban abortions for the purpose of sex selection or genetic abnormality and another bill to ban abortion after the detection of a fetal heartbeat, which could be as early as six weeks. Those bills already were approved by the House and also have been sent to Dalrymple. In a statement about the fetal heartbeat and sex-selection bills, the North Dakota Catholic Conference urged the governor to sign the measures. By late in the day March 22, the conference had not yet issued a statement on the personhood bill. After a failed attempt to strip the genetic abnormality portion from H.B. 1305, the Senate passed the bill 27-15. H.B. 1456, the fetal heartbeat bill, passed, 26-17, with no debate. The bill to prohibit abortions when the heartbeat of the unborn child is detected “does raise some new legal questions,” but the questions are without merit, said Christopher T. Dodson, executive director of the Catholic conference. “Currently, the U.S. Supreme Court only allows states to protect unborn life after the point of viability, which is when an unborn child can survive outside the womb,” he said in March 12 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Pope Francis to diplomats: Moral relativism endangers peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Moral relativism “endangers the coexistence of peoples,” Pope Francis told diplomats March 22, and said a common ethics based on human nature is an indispensable condition for world peace. The pope made his remarks to the Vatican diplomatic corps in the Apostolic Palace’s Sala Regia, the vast “royal hall” where popes traditionally received Catholic monarchs. Recalling the love of the poor practiced by his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, the pope lamented both material poverty and the “spiritual poverty of our time, which afflicts the so-called richer countries particularly seriously. It is what my much-loved predecessor, Benedict XVI, called the ‘dictatorship of relativism,’ which makes everyone his own criterion and endangers the coexistence of peoples. Francis of Assisi tells us we should work to build peace,” Pope Francis said. “But there is no peace without truth! There cannot be true peace if everyone is his own criterion, if everyone can always claim exclusively his own rights, without at the same time caring for the good of others, of everyone, on the basis of the nature that unites every human being on this earth.” The pope paid tribute the Church’s charitable and social services around the world, and acknowledged his particular responsibility for peacemaking, noting that his title of pontiff means a “builder of bridges with God and between people.”

University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College unite to observe World Down Syndrome Day

NOTRE DAME — The communities of the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College united on Thursday, March 21, in celebration of World Down Syndrome Day.

World Down Syndrome Day is annually observed on March 21 to symbolize a third copy of the 21st chromosome found in people with Down syndrome. The day publicly celebrates the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

To commemorate World Down Syndrome Day, a Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of Notre Dame, followed by a reception in the atrium of Vincent Hall, located on the campus of Holy Cross.

"It's an honor and delight to help offer hospitality to the wonderful families that will experience World Down Syndrome Day with us," said Joyce Johnstone, Ph.D., the Ryan Director of Educational Outreach in Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives and one of the leaders in this second annual partnership among faculty and staff members. "Along with Holy Cross College, we at Notre Dame look forward to joining these families in prayer and in a celebration of solidarity and love."

"World Down Syndrome Day is a reminder of the value of life — all life," Tina Holland, Ph.D., executive vice president/provost at Holy Cross College stated. "Let us be mindful of the courage, contributions and significant voice of those with Down syndrome as we unite on World Down Syndrome Day in celebration, recognition and to foster global awareness."

Sponsorship of this free event is provided by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and the Jacques Maritain Center.

March 21 marked the eighth anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day, however it has the distinction of being the first time World Down Syndrome Day that was officially observed by the United Nations.

Wall build to be rocked by Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — Habitat for Humanity has announced the launching of its sixth Rock the House Build. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County, Rock the House Student Build is an annual student-led, student-built house.

Since 2008, nearly 1,000 college and high school students have raised \$210,000, and constructed five new homes in St. Joseph County.

On March 23, Holy Cross College student-volunteers built the walls for the entire Rock the House home, which is located at 802 7th St., in Mishawaka. The students constructed the walls at

AROUND THE DIOCESE

LIVING WAY OF THE CROSS AT ALBION PARISH



PROVIDED BY SUSAN CURTIS

Following the reenactment of the Last Supper by the younger children, Blessed Sacrament Youth Group presented a powerful rendition of the Way of the Cross. Pictured are Gabe Curtis as Jesus and Erik Mawhorter and Connor McCoy as soldiers.

the Habitat Warehouse, located at 920 E. McKinley, which was formerly the Mishawaka ReStore. The Mishawaka ReStore has been relocated to 5225 Grape Rd., and is open for business.

This build is unique because the Holy Cross students built every wall for the home in less than three hours, and they accomplished this feat using only hammers and nails.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County has been building simple, decent and affordable homes in partnership with hardworking, low-income families since 1986. More than 150 Habitat homes have been built in St. Joseph County. Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County offers low-income families of the community a chance to achieve homeownership through investing hundreds of hours in financial training and homeownership classes, on Habitat worksites, and eventually in the building of their own homes. Partner families then purchase their homes with 0 percent interest mortgages.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry.

For more information on how to donate or volunteer, email volunteercare@habitat-for-humanity.org or visit www.habitat-for-humanity.org.

Notre Dame, Catholic Charities USA join forces to reduce poverty

NOTRE DAME — An innovative partnership between the University of Notre Dame, the nation's preeminent Catholic university, and Catholic Charities USA, one of this country's most influential social service networks, was announced recently. The formation of the collaboration, called the Alliance, was driven by the two institutions' common belief that helping those in need is a core element of the Catholic faith.

"I'm so proud of Notre Dame's partnership with Catholic Charities USA," said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame. "By bringing together one of our nation's preeminent social service networks with a great Catholic university, we are able to live out our mission of putting learning in service to justice by addressing the root causes of poverty in our country."

Taking a multifaceted approach, the Alliance will strive to reduce poverty in America through rigorous academic research and evaluation of anti-poverty programs, a focus on methods to increase entrepreneurship in implementation of poverty relief services and efforts to unite skilled workers from the academic and service provider arenas to ensure enhanced quality of service delivery. In addition, the Alliance will seek to inform, through advocacy and educational outreach, the development

of policies that will change the way poverty issues are addressed in the United States.

A key component of the Alliance is Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), the first domestic poverty lab in the United States. Leveraging the experience of academic experts with a national network of social services providers, LEO will offer researchers and practitioners an opportunity to come together, research and implement scalable best practices across the Catholic Charities network and the social service sector at large.

"We have a moral commitment to not only serve the poor, but to determine the most effective and efficient models for doing so," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. "Through programs like LEO, the alliance will provide guidance to not only social service providers across the country regarding best practices for poverty relief programs, but will allow us to educate our nation's policymakers on outcomes of the research enabling them to, in time, alter the way we address poverty as a nation."

The four core focus areas of the Alliance include:

- **Academic:** Generating solutions through research by the university's Lab for Economic Development.
- **Business:** Applying the problem-solving acumen of the university's Mendoza College of Business to the social service field.
- **Church in Action:** Utilizing the university's Career Center, Alumni Association and Center for Social

Concerns to connect its vast network of talent and experience to CCUSA's local agencies across the country.

- **Policy Development and Advocacy:** Leading initiatives that will inform the development of poverty-reduction solutions and policies through advocacy and educational outreach.

FAME artist teaches students at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School

FORT WAYNE — A visiting artist came to teach the fifth- and sixth-grade students at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School all about shadow puppets on March 14.

Janice Furtner, a paper-cutting artist and fine arts instructor, gave a presentation on shadow puppets, an art form of the Southeast Asian countries of Indonesia and Thailand. Janice Furtner and T. Imscher, FAME executive director, helped to put on a shadow puppet play that Furtner wrote called "Westward" for the students.

Classic shadow puppets are made of buffalo hide, intricately cut out, with the arms of the puppets manipulated with sticks. Furtner told the students some of the history of shadow puppets in Southeast Asia. The fifth- and sixth-graders then created paper and stick versions of a shadow puppet.

The local fine arts organization FAME teams up with artists whose work corresponds with that year's cultural theme, which in 2013 is Southeast Asia. These artists then visit a number of local art classrooms, including at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. The art teacher for the fifth through eighth graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School is Abby Dykhuizen.

Indiana Abolition Coalition plans meeting in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana Abolition Coalition, an organization that builds consensus to end the death penalty in Indiana through education, collaboration and activism, will hold a Fort Wayne area meeting on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the social hall of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House located at 5310 Old Mill Rd., Fort Wayne. The meeting will provide current information on the status of capital punishment in Indiana. Additional information is available by contacting Sarah Grey at (812) 376-8102 or sarahgrey@att.net.

Diocese sponsors SANKOFA Day of Reflection

The SANKOFA Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 16, at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, was sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and coordinated by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries.

Two young people answer God's call to a Catholic faith journey

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — Many of the decisions we make in life as children are made or influenced by our parents. That is why it is remarkable that two young men who responded to the call to become Catholic, did not come from this faith background.

In the fall of 2011, sixth grader Matt Forsey, and eighth grader Jack Buckley, both students at St. Pius X Catholic School, began their extraordinary faith journey, which led to receiving the sacraments of initiation at the 2012 Easter Vigil.

Matt is currently a seventh-grade student at St. Pius X, and Jack is now a freshman at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend.

Today's Catholic recently spoke with these young men, their parents, sponsors, the director of religious education and parish priest in recalling the milestones and memories of their catechetical process.

Matt Forsey

For Matt Forsey, the twice weekly Mass offered by St. Pius X School was a turning point in his journey to Catholicism. "I knew I wanted to become Catholic during the Eucharistic Prayer, watching the priest's reverence in the Transubstantiation of the Body and Blood of Christ," he recalls.

Eucharistic Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was another way for Matt to connect with Christ, he emphasized. Besides reciting the rosary, chaplets and other prayers during his visit at Eucharistic Adoration, Matt would read books such as "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis De Sales and "Divine Mercy in My Soul" by St. Faustina.

Since his Confirmation in the Catholic Church, Matt's frequent use of the sacrament of Reconciliation has been a source of strengthening his faith. When giving a stewardship talk at parish Masses, Matt attested to the power of regular Confession.

"Confession really is a gift from God. We get the sins we confess forgiven, the ones we forget forgiven, the guilt that we feel from doing something wrong removed, and the grace to stop sinning," Matt explains.

Jack Buckley

Toward the end of seventh grade at St. Pius X School, Jack Buckley attended Easter Mass with a friend and it had a lasting impact on the young man. "It was a beautiful Mass and seeing all of it made me want to be a part of it," Jack remembers.

Jack also recalls that the religious education director of St. Pius X, Dan Allen, was instrumental in discussions of the Catholic catechism. Because of Jack's football practice after school, Dan volunteered to stay after practice concluded and discuss with Jack what he had missed in class.



PROVIDED BY THE FORSEY FAMILY

Matt Forsey, left, and Jack Buckley pose at the 2012 Easter Vigil.



PROVIDED BY THE BUCKEY FAMILY

Msgr. Bill Schooler and Jack Buckley are all smiles at the 2012 Easter Vigil.

Says Dan, "Jack came to our classes eager to learn. He and I did stay late together after he arrived from football practice in the fall to discuss what he had missed during the regular class time. This never seemed like a burden for him, and he was truly engaged and interested in the process."

"Being my first year teaching the class, it was actually a pleasant surprise to have someone so engaged. While Jack did not always ask as many questions as some other students, he would listen attentively, and when he did speak, I could tell that he was prayerfully processing the lessons," Dan adds.

The sponsors

Both Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) sponsors of the two young men recall wonderful milestones of Jack and Matt's faith journey.

Mary O'Hannigan, who was Matt's sponsor, recalls his desire for learning about the Catholic faith.

"Matt's enthusiasm and heart for the Catholic faith is inspiring. He is always questioning, to the point that I was often tempted to swing by the rectory and pick up Father Bill or Father Terry for our

daily car rides home from school. Matt's curiosity about all things Catholic is insatiable. So I did my very best to answer his questions, but there were few times I would respond, 'I don't know. Let me find out and get back with you on that one!'" says Mary.

Preparing for the Triduum was a high point for both Matt and Mary.

"When we were approaching the Triduum, Matt was planning out his schedule to attend as many events as possible. Wanting to be a good sponsor and knowing he was eager to attend every event, we decided to attend most everything with him. This included the Good Friday service, which I have always avoided because I cry easily and didn't want to embarrass myself, or embarrass my family! So there we sat, in a packed church on Good Friday," Mary remembers.

She continues, "When it came time to approach the Crucifix, which was now lying on the altar instead of hanging above it, I was a wreck. Thankfully, my husband Joe always keeps tissue handy. It was powerful, joyful, sorrowful and there was Matt with our family. His parents have raised a fine son, and I am honored when people ask if he is ours."

Jack's sponsor, Kevin Danahey,

believes that Jack's faith journey began prior to RCIC.

"I truly believe Jack was called to attend St. Pius X Grade School and through his experiences in school, he was called further and deeper into the Church. Jack transferred to St. Pius X Grade School at an unusual time. He entered in the seventh grade. This was a challenge as most of the students in his grade had been together since the fifth grade. Making new friends and building new relationships might be intimidating for many young men, but Jack knew he was meant to be there," says Kevin.

Kevin recalls a story that Jack's mother Laura shared with him.

"On Jack's very first day of school at St. Pius, during morn-

saints and history of the Catholic Church."

Pam also recalls that on a recent trip to the Museum of Art in Chicago, Matt shared with his parents the Catholic symbolism in some of the paintings of famous artists. "There were people standing around us and they were listening as Matt spoke," Pam explains.

Laura and Scott Buckley are equally supportive in Jack's choice to become Catholic.

"We are encouraging Jack to use his faith in good times and bad. Faith is very important to our family," says Scott.

"We encourage him to be our spiritual guide in our house and Jack says the prayers at dinner in our home," Laura emphasizes. "It



PROVIDED BY THE FORSEY FAMILY

Matt Forsey, left, celebrates with Father Terry Coonan and Pam Forsey at the 2012 Easter Vigil.

ing drop off and as the students got out of their cars, they were greeted by some of the staff, including Principal Elaine Holmes. Since it was the first day, Father Bill Schooler happened to be out welcoming the students back for a new year. After Jack got out of the car, he walked up to Father Bill, and extended his hand to introduce himself. Instead of a handshake, Father Bill welcomed him with an embrace. Jack's mom Laura was deeply touched and from that very moment, she knew Jack was in the right place," Kevin notes.

Kevin adds, "His personal development and desire to grow deeper in his faith started from the first day in school and continued over his next two years. He thrived academically, in sports, and was the lead in the St. Pius musical in eighth grade. He also thrived spiritually during these two years and felt he wanted to be something more than a student, but something much greater, a member of our faith."

The parents

Jack and Pam Forsey say that they feel a connection to the Catholic Church through Matt's faith journey.

"When he was going through the RCIC process, one or both of us went every week last year," Pam says. "We have learned a lot about Catholicism in the process, because he is always telling us about the

is nice to see that Jack has taken this as a priority for himself," Scott adds.

The Parish

St. Pius X director of religious education Dan Allen and pastor Msgr. Bill Schooler both attest to seeing the wonderful growth in faith of these young men in the past two years.

"It seemed like the Holy Spirit blessed me in a special way sending Jack and Matt during my first year teaching the RCIC. It was such an inspiration to me, a lifelong Catholic, to meet two young men so ready, willing and eager to be Catholic," says Dan. "I keep them in my prayers still as they continue to develop and change, and they give me hope for the future of the Church, renewing my confidence that the Gospel of Christ still touches human hearts in every age."

And "Father" Bill, as he is affectionately referred to by his congregation, concludes, "When we opened our Catholic school, we had hoped that the school would help with evangelizing. Although the vast majority of our students are Catholic, those few who are not Catholic come to Mass and take religion classes. It was the contact with the Eucharist that first drew Jack and Matt, along with the catechesis they received in class. I am very proud of those young men!"

Getting stronger in faith every day

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — For Rachel Dahlman, RCIA was a family affair. It all began with a conversation with her sister, Camille Martin. The two sisters were raised in a loving home by parents who had believed in God but didn't follow any formal religion.

Now that they were both married and living their own lives, they were searching for their own path. Martin found it when she attended a local Catholic Church. Soon after, she discussed the idea of officially joining the faith to her sister.

Rachel Dahlman says that first conversation was a bit surprising, but she also admits she was intrigued. While she did not attend church growing up, her husband, Derek, did. She remembers him talking about the peace and comfort he found there as a child.

Peace was something Derek Dahlman could certainly use in his life. As a member of the National Guard, he served three tours of active duty, two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Rachel says she thought going back to church could help him heal from those experiences.

So while Rachel Dahlman was open to the idea, she did have a few reservations. She says that much of what she knew of the Catholic church came from the media, which didn't always paint a flattering picture. She claims she didn't really know what to expect from Mass and was a bit apprehensive at first. However, once she began attending St. Jude in Fort Wayne, she says perceptions quickly changed, "I saw what the Church really is."

"Right away I felt a sense

of community," she explains. "Everyone was very supportive. I feel like I have a family there."

So, last year, with her sister, brother-in-law and husband by her side, Dahlman began the formal Rite of Christian Initiation at St. Jude Parish.

Dahlman said she felt at home from the beginning, due in a large part to Father Tom Shoemaker.

"Father Tom put all of us at ease right away," she says. "He has an openness and more relaxed way that made us feel accepted."

Dahlman's new Church family found sponsors for her and her husband.

"Tony and Jerri Hayes volunteered to be our sponsors. I think it's great that people volunteer to do that for people who don't already know someone in the Church," she says. "There were so many people who helped us along the way."

Dahlman enjoyed the RCIA classes where she learned about the history of the Church and the reasons behind Catholic beliefs. As the months passed, she began to look forward to the Easter Vigil.

A year later, she describes that night as "beautiful." She was especially touched by all the people who filled the church to welcome the newest members.

"Someone told me to remember to look back as we walked toward the church with candles in hand. Since I was getting baptized, I was at the front of the line. I can remember taking a moment to look back and



RACHEL DAHLMAN

seeing all those lights coming into the church. It was a beautiful sight."

Dahlman's faith journey didn't end with that walk. Last month she participated in a Christ Renews His Parish (also known as CRHP) weekend at St. Jude. She says that experience really brought her fully into the Catholic faith.

She explains, "With RCIA, I learned the background of the faith. But through CRHP, I saw how that faith relates to my everyday life."

She strongly encourages anyone who has gone through RCIA to go on a Christ Renews His Parish weekend, as well.

This year, Dahlman and her family will be attending the Easter Vigil once again. This time her 12-year-old stepson, Noah, will be welcomed into the Church.

"Because my husband and I had such a good experience, we wanted to share that with Noah," she says.

Again she's looking forward to the evening, but this time she has a whole new perspective and says she can't wait to see it from the other side as one of the people who make new members feel welcome.

Much has changed in the last year for Rachel Dahlman. She now attends Mass weekly, which she says helps put everything into perspective.

She also says she is now calmer and more at ease, because her new faith has taught her that things will get better.

Celebrating one year as an official member of the Catholic Church, Rachel Dahlman explains that her faith isn't something that suddenly happened all at once, "It's a learning process, but every day my faith is getting stronger."

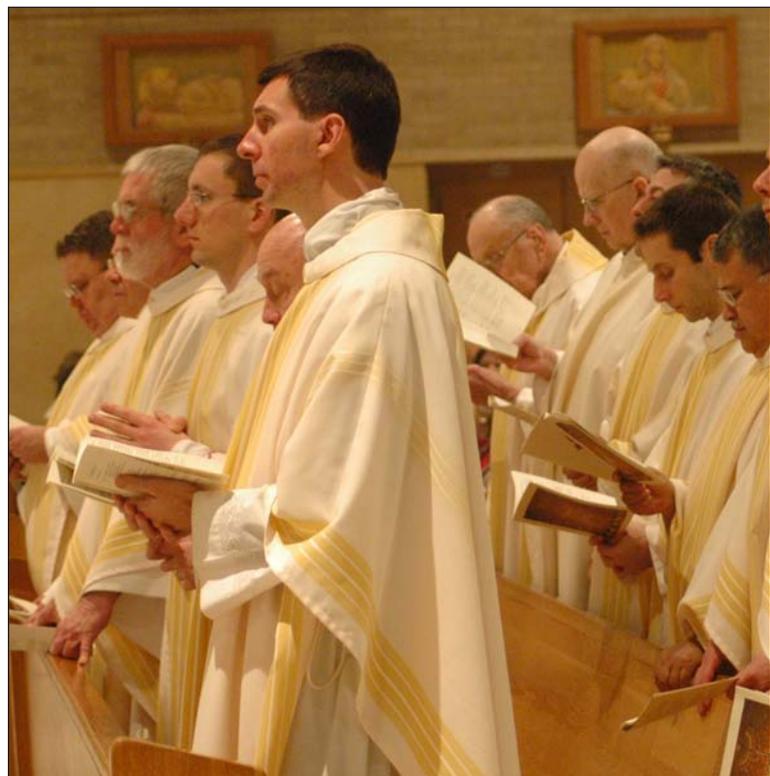
ST. JUDE PARISH HOLDS RETREAT BASED ON DIARY OF EGERIA



PROVIDED BY FATHER TOM SHOEMAKER

St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne held a parish retreat, "Pilgrims on a Journey," on March 23. Using the diary of Egeria, they followed the description of a fifth-century pilgrim and recreated a pilgrimage to Bethany on the day before Palm Sunday. The day included Mass, talks by Marilyn Fech and Jason Garrett of Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools, group discussion time, quiet time, witness talks and praise music led by teens of the parish.

PRIESTS RENEW THEIR PROMISES



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

At St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, priests from the South Bend region of the diocese publicly renew their promises and manifest their communion with the bishop during the Chrism Mass on March 25.

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Bishop Rhoades visits Saint Joseph High School on feast day

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — “Every year I look forward to coming here to Saint Joseph High School to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during his recent celebration at the new high school.

The visit began with Mass in the new gymnasium with over 1,000 students, visitors, faculty, staff and parents. Bishop Rhoades started his homily talking about the new chapel and inviting the students to visit the new worship space.

“Joseph is such a great example of faith and faith in God’s word,” said Bishop Rhoades to the crowd. At the end of the Gospel it says that Joseph woke up and did what the angel told him to do and he believed even though he did not understand.

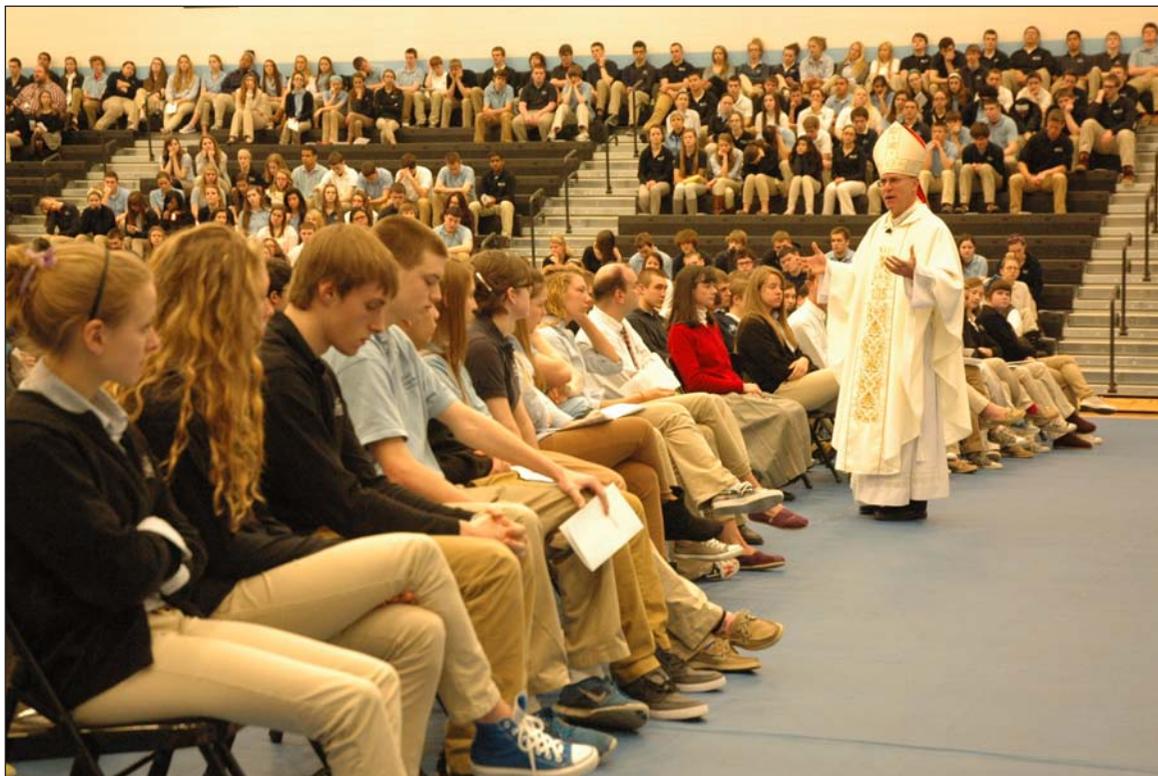
Before heading to the high school, Bishop Rhoades had the chance to watch a portion of the first Mass of Pope Francis.

“What a great day for the pope to begin his ministry on the feast of St. Joseph,” said Bishop Rhoades. He was impressed with the homily and the pope’s love for the people.

“The pope talked about Joseph’s great faith and of his vocation to be the protector and guardian of Mary and Jesus,” said Bishop Rhoades. It is this role that makes him the perfect patron saint of the universal Church and someone to look up to and pray to for protection.

Bishop Rhoades noted the pope’s homily focused on the importance of our vocation as Christians to protect others and the world around us. He cited examples of how the Church has a duty to protect people, parents have the duty to protect their children and when parents get older the children become the protectors.

“We also have to protect our-



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with students of Saint Joseph High School on March 19 as part of a pastoral visit.

selves from hatred, envy and pride. Evil intentions come from the heart and we have to protect ourselves from this evil,” said Bishop Rhoades.

At the end of his homily, Bishop Rhoades told the crowd, “My prayer is that this community reigns Christ’s love in the wider community of South Bend.”

“Listening to bishop’s homily was inspiring and connected our school community to the homily given by Pope Francis at his installation earlier in the day in Rome,” said Principal Susan Richter. “Bishop’s homily told the story of St. Joseph, the patron saint of the universal Church and our patron saint. I will always remember the message Bishop Rhoades shared with our school — illustrating how we are one Church, bound together in prayer and worship. Bishop is

always masterful at teaching the faith to his flock.”

After Mass the students were invited to participate in a question-and-answer session. Many questions started with a hug, ended with a hug and covered a variety of different topics.

“Who do you think will win in basketball?” asked Tim McNamara. Bishop Rhoades responded Gonzaga and a wager was made between the two men with an agreement that if Bishop Rhoades won McNamara would wash his car, and if McNamara won, Bishop Rhoades would pay for a meal at a good restaurant of choice.

“What is your favorite Bible passage,” inquired Dominic Kucela.

“My favorite Bible passage is the Letter of St. Paul to the

Romans, Chapter 8. I especially like the end of the passage that says ‘Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,’” said Bishop Rhoades.

The bishop had the chance to spend the afternoon with students talking about their studies, watch them enjoy the new building and

get the chance to know the community.

“A memorable moment was later in the day when bishop spoke with seven of our students who had recently lost a parent. Bishop consoled these young people and prayed with them. His prayer was powerful. He promised to continue prayer for the deceased parents and families. He explained that he has a chapel in his home, and that he would take the list given to him by the students and remember them and their families in his intentions and prayers. This simple pastoral act speaks volumes of bishop’s love for the young people in his diocese,” said Richter.

Bishop Rhoades was presented with gifts during his visit, including a book at St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a painting of St. Kateri and a piece of Saint Joseph High School spirit wear with the new school logo.

“My hope is that Bishop Rhoades believes that Saint Joe students are faith-filled young people committed to serving others in need, as well as being academically excellent. I hope bishop enjoyed his day at Saint Joseph High School. He seemed to appreciate and delight in his conversations during his visit to a theology class, with our student leaders during lunch, and later when the students took bishop on a short tour of the new school. Bishop Rhoades was able to witness our mission being fulfilled; our students being educated in heart and mind,” said Richter.



Student leaders assemble for a photo with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. At left, Bishop Rhoades offers a blessing on a Saint Joseph student.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits a theology class at Saint Joseph High School during his pastoral visit March 19.



UR (University of Relativism)

I spoke about relativism a few weeks ago at a college in the heart of the northeast, one renowned for its commitment to socially progressive values and “open-mindedness.” I’ll leave out the name of the college because, frankly, my experience there could have applied to any vast number of colleges.

I didn’t feel the warm embrace of their open-mindedness, of course. When a group is committed to seeing all opinions as equally valid, orthodoxy rarely seems to enjoy the status of “equally valid opinion.”

One transgendered student posted on a community board that because I represent a worldview that is to blame for the fact that 45 percent of transsexuals attempt suicide, I should not be allowed to speak on campus. He was voicing a gross-oversimplification of the issue of trans-suicides. Sadly, his oversimplification not only fails to help his community,

it would have people with a natural law approach to sexual ethics and gender identity labeled a “threat to society.” Other students voiced their opposition to any college funds paying for my “hate speech.”

The diversity dean decided to cut funding in half. She cited a lack of available funds as the reason. I can only hope she was being honest.

A handful of students showed up with the intent of verbally attacking rather than dialoguing, hoping to cause a scene worthy of the college paper. Thankfully, I think the outcome disappointed them!

The day before my presentation it was relayed to me through the campus minister that a faculty member sternly warned her that I was not to mention “the tyranny of relativism.” I could speak about relativism; just not about how it’s mandated by places like universities. How



REAL
LIFE
CATHOLIC

CHRISTOPHER STEFANICK

do you spell irony? (Thankfully she apologized to the campus minister for that attempt at censorship after the event.)

The cold welcome I received came as no surprise. A few months before my visit I was told about how the Christian group, InterVarsity, had been banned from the campus for removing a gay student from leadership. They had no issue with the student’s orientation. They said she could remain in

REAL, PAGE 12

This new Francis

I had an excellent vantage point for the presentation of Pope Francis to the world, for I was doing commentary for NBC News from a perch above St. Peter’s Square.

I will confess that my initial impression was negative, not because he was a relative surprise or because he wasn’t from the United States, but because, for more than a minute, he stood ramrod straight, hands at his side, and not smiling. I remember saying to his image on the TV monitor: “Do something!” Then — praise God — the new pope spoke, and he immediately won me over. Asking the people to bless him, bowing low to receive that blessing, promising to work for the evangelization of the city of Rome, pledging to beg the Mother of God to watch over his papacy, leading the people in the Hail Mary and Our Father, and yes even managing to smile a little — the new pope didn’t make a false move.

But what most impressed me was his first truly significant gesture, the choice of his papal name. Francis of Assisi (and it was confirmed that the pope was honoring the founder of the Franciscans and not his fellow Jesuit, Francis Xavier) was a friend of the poor. So close was his identification with “Lady Poverty” that he was referred to in his own time as “il poverello” (the little poor man).

By all accounts, Cardinal Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, has a similar feel for the spiritual value of poverty, taking the subway to work rather than a limousine, eschewing the trappings of power, living in a simple apartment rather than the episcopal palace, happily flying coach class to Rome, and passionately advocating for social justice on behalf of the underprivileged.

But there is another dimension to this identification with the poor man of Assisi. When Francis was just beginning his spiritual pilgrimage, he had an extraordinary encounter with Christ. While praying in the little church of San Damiano, the young man heard a voice coming from the crucifix: “Francis, rebuild my Church.”

At first, he thought that the Lord was indicating that some work needed to be done on a local church structure that had fallen into disrepair. But what became clear soon enough, both to Francis and others, was that this command of the Lord had a far wider valence. Precisely through his recovery of the radical heart of the Gospel, Francis would help to revitalize a Church that had been compromised by worldliness, ambition and clerical corruption.

This interpretation of the Lord’s words was most dramatically confirmed by a dream that Pope Innocent III had on the eve of meeting “il poverello.” The pope dreamt that a small man, dressed in a brown habit, was holding up the Church, which was about to collapse. When he saw Francis, he recognized him as the man from his

WORD
ON
FIRE



FATHER ROBERT BARRON

dream and resolved, on the spot, to sanction the Franciscan order.

For the past couple of decades, the Catholic Church has been living through not so much a dream as a nightmare. The first wave of the clerical sex abuse scandal broke in the early 1990s, shocking us with story after story of priests violating their vow of celibacy in the most egregious ways, and of bishops who, far too often, turned a blind eye to the outrages or covered them up. The second and even more devastating wave hit in the early 2000s, beginning in Boston and then spreading, it seemed, all across the country. There were thousands of victims, hundreds of guilty priests and negligent bishops, and over \$1 billion of Church money paid out in settlements. And just when the American crisis began to calm, the same awful pattern revealed itself in Europe, most terribly in intensely Catholic Ireland. And on top of all of this, the Vatican itself seems under a cloud of scandal. Charges of corruption, financial mismanagement, careerism and serious personal misbehavior are coming at the Roman Curia from all sides.

It seems to me impossible to deny that Jorge Mario Bergoglio was thinking of “il poverello’s” “Church rebuilding” project when he took the name of the saint of Assisi. And the program of this new Francis remains fundamentally the same as that of his spiritual forebear, namely, to re-energize the Church through a recovery of the radical Gospel. If you want to be my follower, said the Lord, then sell everything and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. That means that the true disciple has to become detached from his career, his own projects and plans, his will, his pleasure, his need to be first — in order to become a vehicle of God’s will, God’s purpose, God’s projects, God’s pleasure.

I believe that this new pope wants to put the winsome face of Francis of Assisi on the Church, and he wants to unleash the same reforming energy that “il poverello” unleashed eight centuries ago.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the rector/president of Mundelein Seminary. He is the creator of the award winning documentary series, “Catholicism.” Word on Fire will be releasing “The New Evangelization” documentary this year. Learn more at www.WordonFire.org.

Church celebrates the Risen Lord



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Jn. 2:1-9

The Church celebrates the Easter Vigil late in the evening on Holy Saturday. These readings are those read during Masses on Easter Sunday itself.

For its first reading on this extraordinary feast of Christian faith, the Church presents us with a passage from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is in effect a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel and Acts were the work of the same author. Beginning with the Ascension, Acts reports what life was like for the infant community of Christians in Jerusalem, and then it recalls the initial spread of Christianity.

Important in the early chapters of Acts is a series of sermons delivered by Peter. Always Peter spoke for the community and especially for the surviving Apostles. In this sermon, Peter briefly gives a synopsis of the life of Jesus. Sent by God, Jesus was crucified, the victim of human scheming. He rose after death. He commissioned the Apostles to continue the work of reconciling God and humanity. The Apostles learned from Jesus.

The Epistle to the Colossians, the second reading, places Christ at God’s right hand. It says that Christians already have “been raised” because they have taken

Christ into their hearts. Having given themselves to Jesus, they have died to earthly things and to earthly ideas. In the process, they have been drawn into the eternal life of the Risen Lord.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. It goes into some detail about the Resurrection and its aftermath. The first figure mentioned in the story is Mary Magdalene. She was a beloved figure in early Christianity, because she was so intensely a follower of Jesus. Indeed, according to John’s Gospel, she stood beneath the cross of Calvary rather than abandon the dying Lord. It was risky. She might have been construed to be an accomplice in treason against the Roman empire. Yet, despite the danger, and the Romans were unforgiving, she remained.

She went to the tomb before daybreak. Finding it empty, she hurried to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. (Tradition long has assumed this disciple to be John, although this disciple is never identified by name in this Gospel.)

Peter and the disciple then rushed to the tomb themselves. It was overwhelming, for them. Grasping what exactly had happened at the tomb was not easy. Love and faith made the process easier. The beloved disciple saw that the tomb was empty, and moreover, he believed that Jesus had risen.

Reflection

The Church excitedly tells us that the Lord lives. He rose from the dead. It is a proclamation of the greatest and central belief of the Church, namely that Jesus, the Son of God, overcame even death.

More than simply affirming once again the Church’s trust in the

Resurrection, actual and physical, of Christ, these readings call upon us to respond. Such was the message in Colossians, the second reading. Such is the important lesson in the references to Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They believed. They had faith. They believed, regardless of the costs. So must we.

We must be open to God ourselves. Limited and bruised by sin, we must be healed and strengthened to receive the grace of faith. Hopefully, Lenten penances these past weeks have healed and strengthened us and made within us this openness.

In the meantime, the Church shares with us the testimony of Peter and the Apostles, not just bystanders as the mission of Jesus occurred, but rather the Lord’s especially commissioned agents, especially trained students, and especially empowered representatives, to tell us about our own salvation. Their testimony, so guarded by the Church, is our avenue to knowing and meeting the Risen Christ.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-32 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2a, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1, 14-15 16ab-21 Mk 16:9-15

Facing the effects of same-sex parenting

In March, 2013, the British paper *The Independent* ran an article entitled, "Children in gay adoptions at no disadvantage: Research confirms same-sex couples are just as good at parenting as heterosexuals." The article, based on a study at Cambridge University, concluded there was "no evidence" to support the claim that children's masculine or feminine tendencies were affected by having gay or lesbian parents, nor were the quality of their family relationships significantly different.

The studied outcomes, however, were limited to children four to eight years of age, so that any later effects, as they passed through puberty, for example, and "came of age," were not included. Common sense, however, begs the question: how capable would two men be at helping their adopted daughter with very female matters pertaining to growing up and maturing physically? For daughters this is often an issue requiring ongoing support, communication and sharing. It's not something men can just read up on in a book; it can be a delicate, personal matter, closely connected to a young woman's sense of self-identity, and it's reasonable to conclude that there are real advantages to the empathy shared between a mother and her daughter.

Although *The Independent* claims this was the first study to look at how children in non-traditional families fared when compared with heterosexual households, at least two other major studies addressing the question were published during 2012, one by Mark Regnerus, a sociologist at the University of Texas at Austin, and the other by Loren Marks, a researcher at Louisiana State University. Both studies presented compelling evidence countering the claim that a child's psychosocial growth is equally supported in lesbian and gay environments as it would be in heterosexual parenting environments.

Common sense, instead of common clichés, ought to serve as our starting point in discussions

about adopting children. One of the clichés we hear is that adopting children is really just a matter of the "rights of parents." As Phoebe Wilson noted in an article in the *New Woman*: "If adoption is going to be debated as a 'right,' then the rights of the child (innocent and defenseless) are the rights that must prevail. Adoption exists for the benefit of the child, not for the couple who adopts him." Same-sex couples who seek to adopt a child can doubtless be motivated by the best of intentions and by genuine compassion for the plight of an orphan. Yet Wilson goes on to explain the deeper reasons that need to motivate adoption:

"A child in need of adoption is a child who is in extraordinary and abnormal circumstances: he is a child without parents. Adoption seeks to 'create,' from a social and legal point of view, a relationship similar to what would be natural for the child, meaning a family relationship: mother, father, child. This relationship would not be, for example, two fathers and a mother, or three women, or a single man because this does not exist in the natural biological filiation. The love and affection of one, two or five people isn't enough. In order for a child to develop into a well balanced and fully mature person, he needs the presence of a father and a mother."

In recent years, adults who were raised by same-sex couples have started to recount and write about some of their childhood experiences. Robert Oscar Lopez, who has described himself as a "bisexual Latino intellectual, raised by a lesbian, who experienced poverty in the Bronx as a young adult," now works as a professor at California State University. He described the notable challenges he faced growing up:

"Quite simply, growing up with gay parents was very difficult. . . . When your home life is so drastically different from everyone around you, in



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

a fundamental way striking at basic physical relations, you grow up weird. . . . My peers learned all the unwritten rules of decorum and body language in their homes; they understood what was appropriate to say in certain settings and what wasn't; they learned both traditionally masculine and traditionally feminine social mechanisms... I had no male figure at all to follow, and my mother and her partner were both unlike traditional fathers or traditional mothers. . . . (Being) strange is hard; it takes a mental toll, makes it harder to find friends, interferes with professional growth, and sometimes leads one down a sodden path to self-medication in the form of alcoholism, drugs, gambling, antisocial behavior and irresponsible sex. The children of same-sex couples have a tough road ahead of them — I know, because I have been there."

A compassionate society seeks to help and assist orphaned children, but no reasonable society intentionally deprives those children of a mother or a father. That is, however, what placing them into a same-sex home invariably does.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

She disagreed with Hindus but spent her life in their service!

Following my talk, one student who embodied the zeitgeist on campus peppered me with questions that had little to do with my presentation. I could almost hear him debating with an invisible person (a Christian dad, perhaps? or maybe just his conscience) whose fetters he was trying to throw off.

"Who are you to say that I can't do anything I want to sexually as long as I find it fulfilling? If I want threesomes or a different person every day, who are you to say I shouldn't?"

To answer that question and several others, I appealed to natural law. Sadly, that went over many of their heads. "What's that?" said the students whose hours per dollar in the classroom exceed that of most people in history.

During Adoration, which was

offered to the Catholic students following my talk, there was a naked ski happening outside the chapel. (I wish I were taking poetic license here.)

Wherever natural law is overturned the most unnatural of societies arise. And it takes a very strong government (be it a campus or a nation) and vigilant community to suppress the notion that there is objective truth, or the desire to conform to natural law. A sort of tyranny is required to keep common sense in check. Without adequate pruning, this young generation might just turn back the clock to a time when right and wrong were called by their true names.

Of course, the type of tyranny required to suppress orthodoxy in the United States wouldn't have us thrown in prison — yet — but it would certainly have us pushed to the margins of society where our ideas are no longer heard.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 31, 2013
Luke 24:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Easter Sunday: the visit of the women to Jesus' tomb. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST DAY	WEEK	SPICES
THE STONE	DID NOT FIND	BODY
TWO MEN	BOWED	FACES
GROUND	LIVING	THE DEAD
HE IS NOT HERE	GALILEE	CRUCIFIED
ELEVEN	MAGDALENE	JOANNA
JAMES	PETER	CLOTHS

FIRST MORNING

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

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Not much is known about this hermit who is considered by some historians to be the founder of the order of Carmelite friars. Various legends had him born in Limoges, France, educated at the University of Paris, and participating in the Crusades in Turkey. What is known is that he directed a group of Frankish hermits living on Mount Carmel in Palestine in the second half of the 12th century. The existence on Mount Carmel of a church and hermitage in the spiritual tradition of the prophet Elijah is documented from 1163 on. After Berthold's death, the hermits were led by another Frenchman, St. Brocard; Carmelite houses became well-established throughout Europe by 1300.

Berthold

died c. 1195
March 29



REAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

leadership as long as she would agree not to promote an actively gay lifestyle. She declined. As a result she was invited to remain a member of InterVarsity but was told that she couldn't remain a leader. Apparently, that kind of "intolerance" was intolerable on the campus.

Of course, anyone who knows the actual definition of tolerance is aware that a disagreement needs to occur for tolerance to even be possible. You don't tolerate a beautiful sunny day. You tolerate a cold rainy day. InterVarsity wasn't guilty of intolerance any more than Mother Teresa was guilty of intolerance.

Perhaps that's worse for our cause than prison.

Despite all roadblocks the campus visit was a blessed one. Faculty that had been fearful of my presentation were pleasantly surprised that it brought about healthy dialogue, and I think more than a few students who expected a papist ogre were disarmed by a presenter who obviously didn't hate those he disagreed with.

It's precisely the label of "hater" or "bigot" slapped on all who ascribe to an objective truth that would exclude Catholics, among other religions from the most important debates of our day. It's a sophomoric way to avoid listening to those you disagree with but it seems to be working well. Just label them and they'll go away. The labeling has gone so far that many Catholics are afraid to even say what their religion is on the average campus.

The director of equity and diversity at a New Jersey campus (which is not the campus visit described in this article) did an extensive study on her campus to find out which groups felt excluded for their views. Virtually everyone reported feeling welcome and included on campus and in the classroom except one group: the Christians.

"When the Catholics in New Jersey (where 41 percent of people are Catholic) are afraid to let people know who they are," she said, "we have a problem."

I couldn't agree with her more.

Speaker and author Christopher Stefanick is director of youth outreach for YDisciple. Visit him at www.RealLifeCatholic.com.

Sports

IT'S THE LION'S SHARE FOR HOLY CROSS COLLEGE SOCCER STANDOUT ALEX CLARKE Holy Cross College at Notre Dame has announced that sophomore soccer standout, Alexander Clarke (of Liverpool, England), has successfully tried out for a spot on the roster of USL (United Soccer League) team St. Louis Lions FC. A co-captain for the Saints, Clarke joined the Holy Cross College men's soccer program from the Sporting Futures USA Program in the summer of 2011, and was selected from hundreds of players looking for a spot in the 24-man roster. The USL Premier Development League is a summer season option for top collegiate players and will allow Clarke to compete from mid-May until the end of July.

Saints' wrestlers finish a successful season

BY PHILIP HILGER

FORT WAYNE — The Saints' wrestling team just completed a very successful season finishing with a record of 8-2. The Saints' team is composed of fifth-through eighth-grade students from Fort Wayne area Catholic schools, and homeschooled students. This team was coached by the knowledgeable trio of Gary Weilbaker, Shawn McArdle and Daniel Nix.

The season started and ended with a tough loss against Maple Creek and Garrett respectfully, but the Saints dominated in their other meets and tournaments. The meets included first-time victories over Leo and Whitko to go with wins over Blackhawk, Imagine (twice), Holy Cross, Concordia, and St. Peters.

The season included a victory at the Concordia Middle School Team Tournament, a sixth-place finish at the Carroll Tournament, and several top five finishers at the Concordia Lutheran School Tournament.

The team was led by a strong,



PROVIDED BY PHILIP HILGER

The Saints' Wrestling Team took first place at the Concordia Middle School Tournament.

hard-working group of eighth graders. The wrestlers were Isaac Cornewell (St. Charles), Benjamin Hake (St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne) Max Joley (St. Jude, Fort Wayne) Andrew Kawka (St. Vincent de Paul), Stephen Nix (home-school), Peter Winkeljohn (St. Vincent de Paul) and Billy Wright (St. Vincent de Paul).

Wrestling is a demanding sport that requires the individual to be well conditioned, strong

and maintain a precise technique. It is a unique sport in that it accommodates any size or build. Practices were held three times a week in the Bishop Dwenger wrestling room.

Practices included situational drills, strength and conditioning exercises, lessons and live wrestling.

Wrestling is a sport that teaches individuals life lessons that they will take with them to high school, college and further. These include self-discipline, hard work, perseverance, dedication, respect and good sportsmanship. Before and after each match a wrestler will shake the hands of their opponents and coaches. Throughout the season, individuals suffer a tearful loss only to be consoled with a pat on the back, hug or handshake by the individual with whom they just finished wrestling against.

The team concluded the season with the Bishop Dwenger CYO Wrestling Camp, which is open to first- through eighth-grade students at any level of skill and experience. The camp culminated with two first-place finishers at the CYO tournament in Mishawaka that included wrestlers from all over the diocese.

SAINT JOSEPH QUIZ BOWL TEAM TAKES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Joseph High School won the Traditional Quiz Bowl State Championship on March 16. Saint Joseph defeated Harrison in the final by a score of 300-285 to finish with a perfect record for the day. This is the first traditional state championship for Saint Joseph High School, having finished as runner-up four previous times. In addition to this state championship, Saint Joseph High School also won the Freshman/Sophomore State Championship on Feb. 23 and the Rotary State Championship on March 2. Pictured with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades are from left, front row, Ben Dillon, Quiz Bowl coach/moderator, and team members Micaela Powers, Chris Agostino, Nolan Liu, Joey Sawyer and Anna Martin; back row, Dan True, Davide Behr, Wilson Barrett and Nick Wawrykow. Sophie Desch was not available for the photo.

Notre Dame to join ACC beginning in 2013-14 seasons

BY DENNIS BROWN

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame will join the Atlantic Coast Conference for athletic competition in all sports except football and hockey beginning with the 2013-14 seasons.

Notre Dame has been a member of the Big East Conference in most

sports since 1995. The University announced Sept. 13 it would leave the Big East to join the ACC.

With the departure of the seven current non-football institutions — DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, St. John's, Seton Hall and Villanova — effective July 1, Notre Dame and the Big East jointly agreed that it would be best for Notre Dame to depart at the same time.

While the vast majority of Notre Dame athletic teams will begin ACC play in 2013-14, the Irish football program remains independent. Beginning in 2014 Notre Dame will play five football games per season against ACC programs.

The Notre Dame hockey team, currently a member of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association in the final season for that league, joins Hockey East starting in 2013-14.

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The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

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Scrip Welcome!

USF's Amanda Pedro named Newman Civic Fellow

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis (USF) senior nursing major Amanda Pedro has been named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact in recognition of her demonstrated investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities.

Campus Compact is the only national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement. It promotes public and community service that develops students' citizenship skills, helps campuses forge effective community partnerships and provides resources and training for faculty seeking to integrate civic and community-based learning into the curriculum.

Newman Civic Fellows are nominated by college and university presidents to acknowledge their motivation and ability in public leadership. USF President Sister M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, nominated Pedro on the basis of her pivotal role in raising funds for the construction of the first permanent residential home for the orphans at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage in Haiti.

In 2011, Pedro, a successful student-athlete, responded to an invitation to travel to Haiti with Formula for Life, a student philanthropic group at USF. Since 2009, this group has coordinated a campus 5K run/walk to raise money to provide nutritional support to Haitian children.



PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

Amanda Pedro was named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for her fundraising efforts for a Haitian orphanage. Pedro is also a graduate of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne.

Upon returning to USF, Pedro became a Formula for Life leader, and her passion and compassion for the children of Haiti has motivated the community to respond generously. The April 2012 Formula for Life 5K run/walk

was the most successful to date, with \$11,000 raised.

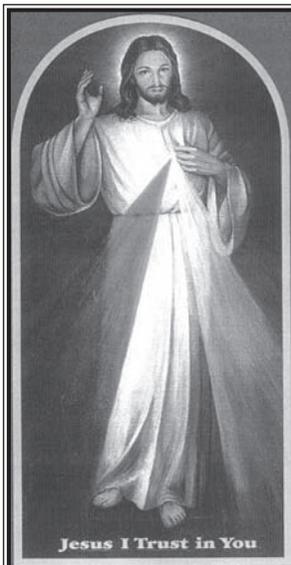
Pedro returned to Haiti with the Formula for Life faculty adviser and another student team member to present Father Andre of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage the money raised through the event. During the visit, she heard Father Andre recount an incident in which a baby girl was turned away

because the living space could not accommodate her. After he explained his vision to expand the orphanage from a small rental to a permanent campus on 15 acres of farmland, Pedro told her Formula for Life adviser, "We are going to get father on his new land. We are the ones who are supposed to do it."

Within six months, the construction campaign led by

Pedro, who is a Bishop Luers High School graduate, and other Formula for Life members garnered over \$75,000 in monetary contributions and in-kind construction donations for the orphanage-building project. She remained committed to her mission upon her return to Indiana, despite the distance and the distractions in the life of a U.S. college student.

"Amanda is an excellent student, a talented athlete and true campus leader," President Sister Kriss said. "She communicated the orphans' plight, reminded us of our blessings, and created the momentum for a campaign to build an earthquake- and hurricane-resistant home for those children. It will be interesting to see what her future holds and how she shapes her nursing career and advocacy for Haitian children into a life plan. Asked about her role in the orphanage project following graduation, she replied, 'You know — I'm not done yet.'"



Join Us!
NOVENA
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Good Friday
to Saturday, April 6
3 PM
in St. Jude Church
FORT WAYNE
Starts Good Friday, March 29

13th Worldwide Mercy Sunday

April 7, 2013 Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion

3:00 PM:

Exposition and Confessions: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

- **Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **Homilist Deacon Jim Tighe**
- **Presider Father Robert D'Souza**

St. Jude Church Randallia Drive at East State Blvd., Fort Wayne

www.stjudefw.org/adoration

*Recommend Reconciliation
 prior to Divine Mercy Sunday*



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The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, Indiana seeks a full-time Conference Service Coordinator. This position is responsible for supporting, training, recruiting and developing St. Vincent de Paul Society Conferences at Parishes in the northern part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In addition, the Coordinator will oversee the Assistance office and support the Director of Programs. The preferred candidate will possess working knowledge of the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church and possess a Bachelor's Degree or relevant experience. For a full job description, and to apply, please visit our website:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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: fhogan@diocesefwsb.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.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 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.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, April 5, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speakers from Catholics on a Mission. Refreshments provided by Fox and Fox Frame Service.

St. Vincent de Paul to Stuff-A-Truck

South Bend — St. Vincent de Paul and the University Park Mall are partnering to Stuff-A-Truck at the mall on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drop off donations at the SVdP truck in the UP Mall parking lot (Grape Road side). All donors will receive a raffle ticket for a UP Mall gift certificate. Contact Christy Rowing (574) 234-6000 ext. 12110 for information.

Luncheon card party

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary's Sacred Heart, Saint Anne and Rosary Societies will have a luncheon card party Sunday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at the Our Lady of Hungary School auditorium, 735 W. Calvert St.

Doors open at noon. Donation \$5 at the door. Bring your own cards.

Dyngus Day celebration

Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a Dyngus Day celebration Monday, April 1, from 5-10 p.m. in the auxiliary gym, 52553 Fir Rd. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-18 and includes dinner and entertainment by the Will Smaka Polka band.

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.

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 tick-

ets may be purchased by calling (574) 273-1484 by April 3. Bring your own cards or dice.

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.

Trivia night planned

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will hold a Trivia Night, Saturday, April 13, in the activity center. Doors open at 6 p.m., game begins at 7 p.m. Ten rounds of trivia. Cost is \$100 for a table of 10 adults 21 and over. Bring your own food and snacks, beverages will be available for purchase. Pre-registration is required to Pam McLaughlin at (260) 489-6931 or pam.mclaughlin100@yahoo.com for a registration form.

TV MASS SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

2013	Feast Day	Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WFFT-TV, Ch. 55	South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16
April 7	Second Sunday of Easter	Rev. Sam Cunningham St. Patrick Fort Wayne	Rev. Leroy Clementich, CSC Notre Dame
April 14	Third Sunday of Easter	Rev. Jacob Meyer St. Charles Borromeo Fort Wayne	Rev. Michael Mathews, CSC Holy Cross/St. Stanislaus South Bend
April 21	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Rev. Patrick Joseph St. Mary of the Assumption Decatur	Rev. Jacob Runyon St. Matthew Cathedral South Bend
April 28	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Rev. Ben Muhlenkamp St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fort Wayne	Rev. Anthony Steinacher St. John the Evangelist Goshen

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Joseph F. Gremaux, 85, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart

Lawrence R. Briggs, 60, St. Thomas

Edward L. Ginter, 92, St. Vincent de Paul

James G. Billmeyer, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Jean C. Becker, 79, St. Jude

Lou Ann Beauchamp Butler, 77, Our Lady of Good Hope

Joseph John Mlakar, St. Vincent de Paul

Patricia A. Summers, St. Charles

Dorothy M. Anderson, 95, St. Peter

Richard A. Sordelet, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Reppard A. Starnes, 89, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jeanne E. Schouweiler, 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Stephan P. Lauer, Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne

Dennis F. Reith, 73, St. Peter

Kathleen Herber, 93, St. Mary

Alberta Mary Hine, 95, St. Therese

Phyllis Ann Lauer, 79, St. Jude

Granger

Marilyn Becker, 76, St. Pius X

Dorothy H. Smith, 87, St. Pius X

Huntington

Sister Carolyn Ortega, OLVN, 94, Victory Noll

Sister Barbera McCord, OLVN, 94, Victory Noll

Loretta Manoski, 95, St. Mary

Mishwaka

Marlene Dewey, 69, Queen of Peace

Daniel A. Thornton, St. Bavo

Fred Buda, 92, St. Joseph

Howard John Hull Jr., 60, St. Joseph

Dales G. Owens, 73, St. Bavo

South Bend

Thomas A. Becker, 88, Christ the King

Dolores L. Finnigan, 92, Holy Cross

Ronald J. Flowers, 70, Christ the King

Lucille M. Gaffney, 86, Holy Cross

Gertrude D. Gaza, 55, Christ the King

Eleanor B. Gentry, 96, St. Anthony de Padua

John P. Gesellschaft, 27, St. Joseph

Chester W. Ruszkowski, Jr., 70, Holy Family

Emercine A. Shubert, 85, Holy Family

Betty T. Spehar, 86, St. Patrick

Frederic Winkler Syburg, 88, Little Flower

Sophie A. Wiczorek, 95, St. Casimir

Stanley H. Zablocki, 89, St. Anthony de Padua

Joan A. Zwierzynski, 76, St. John the Baptist

Frances Lea Stanish, 86, St. Joseph

Gertrude M. Reiter, 99, St. Casimir

Eugene D. Turczynski, 74, Holy Family

Waterloo

Donald L. Clark, 79, St. Michael the Archangel

Sister Estelle Scully, 86, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne.

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