Bishop Rhoades opens annual Fortnight for Freedom in diocese

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — “Thank you for coming to Mass this morning as we begin the Church’s nationwide Fortnight for Freedom, two weeks of prayer, education and action in support of religious liberty,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as he opened the second annual Fortnight in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The Mass was celebrated at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 22, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. Cathedral Associate Pastor Father Jan Klimczyk was the concelebrant.

Fortnight for Freedom is taking place in the diocese until July 4 and consists of national and local efforts to educate Americans on challenges to religious liberty both at home and abroad.

As with last year’s fortnight, the event began with a special Mass and will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 4, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. The faithful are encouraged to participate in the Masses and other special observances at parishes throughout the diocese.

“We begin this fortnight on the feast of two martyrs who died for refusing to deny their faith and violate their consciences,” Bishop Rhoades said. “St. John Fisher was the bishop of Rochester, England, and St. Thomas More was an attorney.

Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett will speak on the critical issue of religious freedom in America, “Why Religious Freedom Matters,” to local Catholics and others concerned with the erosion of religious freedom. The event, scheduled Wednesday, July 3, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, is free and open to the public.

The HHS Mandate is an open and flagrant attack on the First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion because it was a well known fact prior to the enactment of this mandate that the use of contraceptive and abortion inducing drugs and sterilization procedures was gravely contrary to the faith of Catholics and other people of faith, and still others with no particular faith. Forcible coercion by the government to pay for these drugs and procedures is a direct attack on religious liberty and conscience rights.

The American Catholic Bishops have categorically stated, “We cannot and will not comply” with the HHS mandate.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a Mass concluding the Fortnight for Freedom on July 4 at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

SOUTH BEND — The Aug. 1, 2013 deadline is rapidly approaching for religious institutions to comply with the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate. This regulation requires religious employers and employees to pay for contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion inducing drugs — one way or the other. In response to this and other threats to religious freedom, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has organized a Fortnight for Freedom, June 21 to July 4, a two-week period of prayer, sacrifice and citizen education for the cause of religious liberty.

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Professor Richard Garnett is an associate dean for Faculty Research and Professor of Law and a Concurrent Professor of Political Science at Notre Dame. The university website notes that he “teaches and writes about the freedoms of speech, association, and religion, and also about constitutional law more generally. He is a leading authority on questions and debates regarding the role of religious believers and beliefs in politics and society.”
The right to religious freedom

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is an excerpt from the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the opening of the Fortnight for Freedom Mass on July 22, the Memorial of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The courageous witness of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More are examples for us today. We ask for their intercession as we strive to defend religious liberty in our country and throughout the world. Though in our country today we do not face the cruelty and brutality that confronted Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher, we are facing challenges to our sacred religious freedom as well as governmental interference in the internal life of the Church.

The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services coerces religious believers to act against our most deeply held beliefs in violation of our Constitution, our laws, and our long tradition of religious liberty. That is why our diocese and several other Catholic institutions of our diocese and throughout our country are suing the federal government. The HHS mandate is unjust and unlawful.

This isn’t about the Catholic Church trying to force its beliefs on others. It is about the government trying to force its beliefs on the Catholic Church. It is a direct violation of our religious liberty to force the Church and its institutions, as well as individuals, business owners, insurers, etc. to violate our own teachings by facilitating and funding sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception.

The government’s proposed “accommodation,” rather than an “exemption” for our institutions like Catholic Charities, our hospitals, and universities, is still very unappealing. The program, for instance, offers to have insurers or other third parties impose the objectionable coverage, it still deprives us of the ability to provide health coverage to our employees that is consistent with our values and it disregards the conscience rights of both insurers and employees. However the funding is worked out, the simple offer of health coverage by a religious employer would become the trigger for ensuring that all our employees receive morally objectionable services in their health plans.

There are other threats to religious liberty in our nation. We have experienced discrimination against Catholic adoption and foster care services because, when placing children with couples, we make sure they enjoy the advantage of having a mother and a father who are married. We have seen discrimination against our USCBC Migration and Refugee Services because we will not provide or refer for contraception and abortion. Some states have tried to make it criminal for us to provide Christian charity and pastoral care to undocumented immigrants. I could give other examples. One of the most troubling threats to religious liberty is that which is arising from the redefinition of marriage.

The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue. It has its roots in the growing secularism of our culture, a secularism that seeks to marginalize the Church from culture and society.

During the Fortnight for Freedom, we also remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world who suffer attacks on their religious liberty; in many cases, they suffer violence and open persecution. We pray especially for Christians in Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan and Nigeria. We pray not only for Christians, but for people of any faith whose liberty is assaulted or denied. Ongoing and escalating attacks against religious believers occur throughout the world.

The right to religious freedom is founded upon the intrinsic dignity of the human person. This is an issue of justice since the human person has a right to religious freedom. As Catholics, we must not waver in our defense of this sacred right. “What can we do?”, many ask me.

#1. Pray for the protection of religious liberty and increased respect for the role of faith in public life.
#2. Contact our legislators, urging their support of H.R. 940, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act.
#3. Educate yourselves and your family, friends, and neighbors on this issue. Many educational resources are available on the USCCB website and the special website www.Fortnight4Freedom.org

We must all be united in our support of religious liberty. May Saints John Fisher and Thomas More intercede for us, that this Fortnight for Freedom in our diocese and throughout our country will further this noble cause.
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades encourages St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel parishioners

Priest removed from ministry

FORT WAYNE — On June 10, Father Thomas O’Hara, Gcn., superior of the United States Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, informed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades that a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor had been received against Holy Cross Father Cornelius Ryan, Administrator of St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel, and former pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend. The abuse took place approximately 20 years ago in Uganda, where Father Ryan then served. In accord with the Church’s norms, Father Ryan was immediately removed as parish administrator.

At the end of a Mass Bishop Rhoades celebrated at St. Joseph Church-Hessen Cassel, on June 22, he assured the parishioners that in the course of the investigation of cases of alleged sexual abuse, the Church works diligently to discover the truth. He stated that “our concern for the safety and welfare of children must always be primary.”

The bishop informed the parishioners that the Congregation of Holy Cross, which received the allegation against Father Ryan, has been conducting the required investigation. He shared with the parishioners that when Father O’Hara presented the allegations to Father Ryan, “he immediately and freely admitted the allegations made.”

The bishop shared the following message he received from Father O’Hara on June 20: “Like many of your parishioners we were saddened by the allegations and were shocked by the admission they were true. No one wants to believe someone as beloved as Father Ryan is capable of committing sexual abuse, but we all must face what now is fact, and move toward comforting and reconciling with the victim of the abuse who needs our pastoral support and prayers. Father Ryan is very remorseful and understands the actions taken by you and I are justified. He is in need of our prayers as well.”

At the Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Bishop Rhoades expressed his love and support for the people of the parish, stating: “You are in my heart in a special way for I know of no other parish in our diocese that has had to undergo such a difficult trial as you are undergoing.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the parishioners’ perseverance in faith and hope, trusting in the Lord “who knows how to wipe the tears from our eyes.” He expressed confidence that through the suffering the parish community is enduring in union with the passion of Jesus, it will rise “with even greater faith, having embraced the cross with Jesus.” Bishop Rhoades said: “With God’s grace, we must resist the temptation to anger and despair, repel the devil’s desire for us to give up, to reject the cross, to succumb to bitterness. In the end, the cross is our hope. Christ is our hope, our only hope.”

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades quoted the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: “there is no area that cannot be touched by Christ’s power; there is no evil that cannot find a remedy in Him, no problem that is not resolved in Him.”

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POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

The bishop added that “in the midst of every adversity, even when the boat of the Church is ripped apart by storms, Jesus commands the waters. He stays in the boat of His Church and calms the storms. The same with our lives. We will not sink and drown if the Lord is with us. We must trust in Him, even in times of trial, following Him on the way of the cross.”

Bishop Rhoades announced that daily Masses would resume at St. Joseph Parish on June 25, with Father James Bromwich as celebrant. He expressed thanks to Father Bromwich and Msgr. Owen Campion also for celebrating weekend Masses. The bishop also expressed his gratitude to parish secretary and business manager, Michelle Rapricht, and all who are serving at the parish.

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

Sunday, June 30, 11 a.m. — Mass at Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne

Thursday, July 4, 9 a.m. — Fortnight for Freedom Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Sunday, July 7, 2 p.m. — Mass with Installation of Leadership Team of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Donaldson

Tuesday, July 9, 11:30 a.m. — Mass for Vision ND, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame

POPE GREETS WOMAN WITH DISABILITY AFTER MASS AT VATICAN

Pope Francis greets a woman as he meets with people who have disabilities following Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican June 16. The Year of Faith Mass concluded a weekend of “Gospel of Life” events calling attention to care for the aged, the sick, the unborn and those with disabilities.
Doerflinger analyzes 40 years of pro-life efforts since Roe v. Wade decision

BY ANN CAREY

Notre Dame — In a June 19 lecture at the University of Notre Dame, the associate director of the U.S. Bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities analyzed 40 years of pro-life efforts since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand with its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Richard Doerflinger told participants in Notre Dame’s Vita Institute that in 1973, many people thought Roe v. Wade would resolve the abortion controversy.

“In fact, it was no resolution at all,” he continued, “for ‘Abortion itself remains perhaps the most unsolved of all modern public issues.’”

Roe v. Wade raised more questions than it answered about the status of unborn human beings — both inside and outside the context of abortion — Doerflinger said. The historic abortion decision also opened debate about the legal status of other vulnerable humans already born, including handicapped, elderly and terminally ill persons.

“In short, it (Roe v. Wade) has forced us to confront the question of whether human life in general has dignity and inherent value simply because it is human life, or whether life has a sliding scale of value and can be set aside or diminished, depending on the apparent usefulness or burdens of that life.”

The Roe v. Wade decision and the national debate on abortion have raised the question of “Who has a right to life (and who, therefore, has any human rights at all, and on what basis?)” Doerflinger said. Thus, Roe v. Wade has affected other important life issues, including the legal status of immigrants, society’s obligation to support the poor and needy, and whether there is a justification for capital punishment.

“As our Catholic teaching recognizes, the right to life may not be our supreme right — religious freedom is our supreme right because it allows us to have a relationship with God — but it is our most basic one, the one without which all other rights are meaningless,” he said.

Doerflinger discussed the history of Roe v. Wade and its related court decisions, saying that the Supreme Court has not backed down from the essence of its original ruling, but there has been plenty of activity around the abortion issue with some setbacks and some successes. Those successes have been “hard won,” he said, and “especially today are constantly in danger of being reversed.”

One area of success has been in conscience, giving health care personnel and institutions the right, without penalty or discrimination, to refuse to participate in procedures they consider immoral. Until two years ago, there was bipartisan agreement that such conscience protection was appropriate, Doerflinger said, but “that long tradition is under attack today, especially with the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as ‘Obamacare’ was passed in 2010.”

“Fund on conscience has become the center of some dozens of lawsuits,” he continued. “It is part of a new trend, beginning in the second half of President Obama’s first term, in which the federal government has turned sharply against the idea of conscience rights on abortion and similar topics for the first time since Roe was decided.”

Another area of pro-life success has been the federal funding of abortion, Doerflinger said. He cited the Hyde amendment, first passed by Congress in 1976, as “one of the great victories of the pro-life movement.” That legislation prevents funding of abortion in Medicaid, and he said that its basic policy has been replicated in every subsequent major federal health program.

“However, on funding as well as on conscience, decades of hard-won progress are now being contested,” Doerflinger said.

He explained that the Affordable Care Act “departs from a decades-long consensus about federal funding of abortion, in fact two ways.” First, it is its own appropriations bill, so it bypasses the usual appropriations bills covered by the Hyde Amendment.

Secondly, the act violates longstanding policy under Hyde that federal funds cannot be used to subsidize any part of a health plan that includes elective abortions, he said. Doerflinger also cited some progress in protecting unborn children outside the context of abortion, citing some federal and state laws that assist pregnant women and protect unborn children and recognize them as having certain legal standing. However, even with that legal standing, the unborn still are vulnerable to abortion.

“Now the courts have repeatedly and firmly said the law can treat (unborn children) as persons — unless it is a matter of abortion,” Doerflinger said. “This is a beautiful example of absolutely circular reasoning, and it demonstrates the intellectual poverty of the court’s decisions more than almost anything else.”

Doerflinger said that the challenge now is to persist in working for respect of all human life by trying to limit and regulate abortion, by giving pregnant women more positive solutions, by preventing the rationale of Roe from endangering other classes of vulnerable people, and by working to have the Supreme Court admit that Roe v. Wade was an attack on the most fundamental liberty of all.

“It is my hope and my conviction that a future world will look upon our society’s lack of respect for the unborn child, as well as the handicapped and terminally ill, as a massive blind spot, an aberration in a society striving in other ways to be good, just as slavery or racial discrimination or the low status of women were the blind spots of an earlier time,” Doerflinger concluded.

The Notre Dame Vita Institute is a two-week summer program of formation for young pro-life leaders that is cosponsored by the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture. In 2011, Doerflinger was awarded the first Evangelium Vitae Medal that is given annually by the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life.
Religious liberty attacked in Pakistan

Dying to defend the suffering rights of the people

Shahbaz Bhatti, the first Catholic to serve as Minister for Minorities Affairs in Pakistan’s government, knew he was living on borrowed time when he came to Washington in February 2011. He was invited to talk with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about his work to promote interfaith harmony.

As he spoke about religious freedom in Pakistan, he was clearly under considerable pressure. In media interviews, he was asked about death threats he had received. He calmly replied: “I would prefer to die for my principles and for the justice of my community rather than to compromise on these threats.”

Despite the danger, Bhatti chose to return to Pakistan to continue his struggle to ensure the safety and rights of religious minorities, but his fight was cut short. On March 2, 2011, Bhatti was gunned down, a terrorist group claimed credit, calling Bhatti a “known blasphemer.”

Shahbaz Bhatti had a long career of speaking up for minorities. Appointed minister in 2008, Bhatti made it his mission to work for the “oppressed, down-trodden and marginalized” in Pakistani society. Among the measures he promoted to support religious minorities were:

- a national campaign to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding
- laws to ban hate speech, reserving some Senate seats and government jobs for minorities; and
- repeal of laws discriminating against minorities, including revisions to the blasphemy law.

It was that last effort — revisions to the blasphemy law often used with impunity to accuse someone of having insulted or defamed the Prophet Muhammad, the Quran or Islam — that earned him the enmity of hardline Islamic militants and ultimately led to his death. He was not the only prominent Pakistani to die defending religious freedom. In January 2011, Salmaan Taseer, Governor of Punjab Province and a Muslim, was assassinated by his own bodyguard because Taseer had advocated changes in Pakistan’s harsh blasphemy laws.

If such prominent figures are killed for their support for religious freedom, think of the plight of ordinary Pakistani Christians and other minorities who live in constant fear of religiously motivated violence. Attacks against Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus, and Sikhs are ongoing, many are killed and wounded.

Churches and mosques, homes and businesses are burned, and livelihoods destroyed. Blasphemy laws make it easy to denounce minorities, often to gain economic or personal advantage.

Among the measures he promoted to support religious minorities were:

- changes in Pakistan’s blasphemy laws that would allow religious minorities to defend their rights.
- revisions to the blasphemy law that would protect minorities from prosecution.
- the establishment of a blasphemy commission to investigate allegations of blasphemy.

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The UC Hastings student CLS chapter welcomed all members of the university community to participate in its activities but required its officers and voting members — who spoke on its behalf, voted on its policies and programs, and led its Bible studies — to share and abide by the group’s core beliefs. These beliefs included being Christian and abstaining from sexual activity outside of marriage.

UC Hastings became the only group ever denied RSO status at UC Hastings.

CLS then sued, claiming that UC Hastings violated its constitutionally protected rights of free speech, expressive association, free exercise of religion and equal protection of the laws. Unfortunately, CLS was denied relief by the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, because of the specific nature of the policy at UC Hastings, which allegedly required student groups to accept all students, regardless of their status or beliefs. The court concluded that public universities may over-ride a religious student group’s right to determine its leadership only if it denies that right to all student groups.

The decision in CLS v. Martinez, 561 U.S. — (2010) could have a damaging effect on the religious liberty of all students attending public colleges and universities. The decision puts many other student groups across the country at risk and leaves room for absurd scenarios, such as requiring CLS to host atheist teaching sessions in its Bible studies.

Recently, a similar policy at private Vanderbilt University forced the school’s Catholic student group off campus because Vanderbilt Catholic requires that its leaders be Catholic (although it allows anyone to be a member of the group).

If the most cherished freedom truly under threat? Among many current challenges, such extreme “nondiscrimination” policies deprive students of the right to exercise freely and fully their religious beliefs. Religious liberty is not only about the ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray on the job at home. It includes the ability to gather with other members of the faith outside of church and reinforce beliefs within a group setting. Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans, including students on campus, suffer.
DWENGER GRAD PRAYS DURING OPENING MASS FOR FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM AT BALTIMORE BASILICA

Christopher Jozvich, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, and Bishop Dwenger High School graduate, prays the Our Father during the opening Mass for the annual Fortnight for Freedom observance June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Baltimore. The campaign, initiated by the U.S. bishops in 2012, calls for a two-week period of prayer, education and action on preserving religious freedom in the U.S. The observance ends July 4, Independence Day.

Obama administration drops fight to limit age restrictions on Plan B

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic officials expressed disappointment with the June 10 announcement that the federal government will comply with a judge’s ruling to allow girls of any age to buy the morning-after pill without a prescription. The decision reversed recent course of action by the federal government. On May 1, the Justice Department announced that it would appeal a ruling by a federal judge in early April that said the Food and Drug Administration must make emergency contraceptives available to all ages by May 6. In a June 11 email to Catholic News Service, “Many studies have shown that wider access to ‘emergency contraception’ among young people does not reduce pregnancy or abortion rates, but can contribute to higher rates of sexually transmitted disease. No public health consideration justifies the unregulated distribution of such drugs to children.”

Italian media report step toward Blessed John Paul’s canonization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although the process is not complete and is supposed to be secret at this point, Italian media are reporting that the canonization of Blessed John Paul II is another step closer. The Italian news agency ANSA and many Italian newspapers say Vatican sources confirmed June 18 that the theologians to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes affirmed that the description of prayers and events surrounding an alleged miracle provide evidence that the healing was accomplished through the intercession of the late pope. The congregation’s board of physicians had said in April that there was no natural, medical explanation for the healing, which apparently involves a woman from Latin America healed May 1, 2011, just hours after Blessed John Paul was beatified. Even if the news about the theological consultants is true, the cardinals who are members of the congregation still must vote on whether to recommend that the pope recognize the healing as a miracle. The papal decree is needed before a canonization date can be set.

Catholic, Baptist leaders seek passage of health care conscience act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and Southern Baptist leaders heading up their respective denominations’ efforts on religious liberty issues, have written to members of Congress seeking passage of the Health Care Conscience Rights Act. “As many people are being forced — and many others will soon be forced — to either follow what the government compels or suffer for their faith, now is the time to pass legislation that protects our God-given freedom,” said the June 21 letter, signed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, head of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, and the Rev. Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. One immediate concern they noted was the federal Health and Human Services mandate for nearly all private health plans to cover sterilization for women and all FDA-approved ‘contraceptive’ drugs and devices. Despite assurances to the contrary, HHS’s accommodations to protect the rights of religious freedom and conscience under the mandate remain inadequate,” they said. “Countless nonprofit and for-profit organizations must either obey the government’s mandate in violation of their beliefs, or follow their consciences and incur massive fines or the loss of their ministry. This is unacceptable.”

Adding St. Joseph’s name to Mass texts, popes share their devotion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and retired Pope Benedict XVI have a special devotion to St. Joseph and have assured that devotion regularly will be shared at Mass by Catholics around the world. In an April 11 letter to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said Pope Francis confirmed a decision originally made by Pope Benedict in 1965 to add St. Joseph permanently in the eucharistic prayers used at most Masses in the Latin rite. A decree signed May 1 by Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, congregation prefect, appointed Archbishop Arthur Roche, congregation secretary, said Pope Benedict had received petitions from Catholics around the world and approved adding after the name of the Virgin Mary, the words “with blessed Joseph, her spouse.” Blessed John XXIII had added the name of St. Joseph in the first Eucharistic Prayer, known as the Roman Canon, in the 1960s. The new decree inserts his name into Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV. A congregation official told Catholic News Service June 18 that national bishops’ conferences could set a date for the changes to begin if they believe that is not necessary, “but because it is a matter of only adding five words, priests can begin immediately.”

Cleanup underway as flash floods recede at Lourdes shrine

TOULOUSE, France (CNS) — Work crews rushed to clear mud and remove debris June 21 after a massive flood inundated sections of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, so that tourists could return to the popular pilgrimage site. Much of the shrine complex was under water for weeks, but much of the damage was not to the shrine. Floods and storms caused about $4 million in damage. No date for reopening has been set. It was the second time in eight months that the normally placid Gave de Pau River overflowed its banks, forcing officials to close the shrine.
Shepherds United announces traditional marriage rally on July 1

FORT WAYNE — Shepherds United, the local clergy group of nearly 140 pastors centered around life, marriage and religious liberty, will hold a traditional marriage rally on July 1 at noon on the Allen County Courthouse lawn. The rally is expected to be only days after the United States Supreme Court rules on two marriage cases. The rally will feature local clergy members speaking on the Biblical, societal and religious liberty implications of governmental attempts to redefine marriage and include a reaction to the Supreme Court decision on marriage cases.

“Regardless of the court’s decision, we as shepherds in the City of Churches are conscience-bound to proclaim marriage as the union of one man and one woman,” stated Dr. Peter Scaer, foundational member of Shepherds United. “Marriage is the foundation of the family, and is the only institution that binds a man and woman to their children,” he said, adding, “We are called not to popularity, but to truth. We believe the July 1 marriage rally will give us an opportunity to let the community know that we will continue to teach marriage in truth and love according to the word of our Lord.”

The rally is open all and is expected to last less than an hour. More details are available at www.shepherdunited.org.

USF offering accelerated business degree through College of Adult Learning

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis is offering an accelerated bachelor of science in business administration (BSBA) this fall semester through its College of Adult Learning.

The BSBA is designed for adults who have previously attended college and wish to complete a business degree to advance a career, begin a new one or experience personal enrichment. Courses are offered in a five-week format, with one meeting per week, supplemented with outside and online educational opportunities. By taking three courses, or nine hours, each semester, students can complete the degree in six semesters, including summers. A number of master's degree choices can be pursued upon completion of the bachelor's degree.

The program is an option for students preferring a more class-room-based approach to learning. They will learn a broad spectrum of business concepts and theories, coupled with a general education curriculum consistent with the Catholic, liberal arts tradition to cover a broad range of knowledge disciplines.

Each student is assigned a full-time academic adviser to provide tools and support to pave the way to success and degree completion.

The accelerated degree is competitively priced per credit hour, with no additional fees. Financial aid is available, and can supplement employer education benefits. More information is available at sf.edu/financialaid.

Students can schedule an appointment online at adultlearning@sf.edu. More information on the accelerated BSBA through the College of Adult Learning is available at sf.edu/adult or by calling (260) 399-7777 or (800) 729-4732.

Hannah’s House honors dads

MISHAWAKA — Hannah’s House, a Catholic/Christian nonprofit maternity home providing care, a safe home and life skills training for homeless, pregnant women honored dads this year at its annual Blessing Bloom breakfast. Dr. Ulisses Cavcolo, president of Physicians Holistic Alliance, was the visionary speaker and focused on the role of a father. A testimony was given by a former resident and her husband as they looked at the positive impact of being a family unit for their daughter.

Hannah’s House provides months-long support for dads who are involved in its “Dads 101” program where programming and discussion impact the family they are creating. The overall goal is to help educate and train these families to get them out of poverty and homelessness for good. Hannah’s House residents currently can reside in the home during their pregnancy and for a two-month stay after having their babies. If the father of the baby chooses to be involved they are more than encouraged along with building healthy relationships. These moms and dads grow together in the areas of parenting and physical, emotional, social and spiritual health. Educating these men and women to eventually become independent of the assistance is the ultimate goal of ending this cycle of poverty.

Hannah’s House, located at 518 W. Fourth St., Mishawaka, opened its doors as a maternity home for homeless women in 1993, and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Since then Hannah’s House has provided over 500 expectant mothers with a safe home, emotional support, and life skills training as it relates to their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. In May, Hannah’s House dedicated a second home at 505 W. Fourth St. in order to expand the number of women and children served in our community.

St. Aloysius Gator Gold Outing held

YODER — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus are organizing the 10th annual Gator Golf Outing to be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, at the Timber Ridge Golf Club in Bluffton. Registration for the Florida scramble starts at 7 a.m. with shotgun start at 8 a.m. Lunch and awards will follow golf. Many fun activities are once again being planned headed by a hole-in-one prize, door prizes, free beverages on the course, individual hole prizes, cash prizes for top teams, goofy bugs, free use of the driving range and raffles. The cost is $75 per person ($300/team) and hole sponsorships are also available for $100, with proceeds benefitting Bi-County Services of Adams and Wells County, the Gibault School, Special Olympics, Right to Life, seminarians, and other charities. The outing is open to both men and women. Since the inaugural outing in 2003, over $50,000 has been raised.

Reserve a team by contacting Don Wills at (260) 602-2290 or by mailing back the brochure found in the back of St. Aloysius Church with a check included. Single players seeking a team, will be placed in a foursome.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul receives donations

ANGOLA — The St. Francis of Assisi Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Angola has been the surprise recipient of several large donations recently.

At the recommendation of Conventual Franciscan Father Fred Pasche, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, the St. Anthony Church Altar and Rosary Society donated a check for $1,000 along with several items that were meant for their annual rummage sale that clients of the St. Vincent de Paul Society needed. St. Anthony’s Bread, the charitable arm of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Angola, donated $500 also via Father Pasche, with the agreement that anyone who calls the church needing help will be forwarded to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for assistance.

The Zeta Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa Sorority donated $100 as part of their continuing philanthropic efforts. And finally, the society received the entire contents of a lake cottage that was recently sold. The contents of the cottage will either go to clients who were formerly homeless and are now housed thanks to the efforts of the society and it’s partners in the community, or were sold to raise funds.

The St. Francis of Assisi Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Angola is a Catholic lay organization that acts in a non-denominational capacity to put an end to poverty in Steuben County. Its motto is, “Wherever there’s a need, we’ll be there.”
AND THE best part is, it’s all covered.

― Mark, President/CEO

"I think people are most surprised at the depth of Center for Hospice Care services. It’s much more than they thought it was, including home visits by nurses, social workers, spiritual care, medication delivery and other choices.

"And the best part is, it’s all covered under Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance. And nobody is ever turned away due to a lack of insurance or inability to pay."

To learn more or self-refer, call anytime. 1-800-HOSPICE or CenterForHospice.org

Services from Center for Hospice Care are typically covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. ©2013 Center for Hospice Care

First Mary Virginia Merrick Award recipient brings legacy to South Bend Christ Child Chapter

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — As the first recipient of the South Bend Christ Child Society’s Mary Virginia Merrick Award, Marjorie Bycraft’s history with the society predates her initiation as a new member of the chapter in 1975. It was through her mother Jewel Kenney Lane, an active member of a Chicago area chapter, that Bycraft saw the fruits of the organization’s impact on clothing needy children.

“I remember her going to prepare the Christmas gifts to be delivered to 900-1,000 needy children in Chicago through Madonna Center on Chicago’s near west side. Interestingly, those gifts included much of what we give today: new clothing, sweaters, dresses, shoes, stockings, pants, underwear, snowsuits, mittens, a book, a toy. Of course, they also gave the infant layettes that all Christ Child chapters are required to give,” Bycraft recalls.

At the South Bend Christ Child Spring Mass and Luncheon, Bycraft was recognized for her service by chapter President Kathy Seidl with the new biannual award that Seidl describes as “for members who have given their time and talents unselfishly to Christ Child over the years.”

Among the criteria for the award are inspiration and example for others to participate in or support the work and mission of Christ Child Society, visibility at Christ Child Society events in the form of attendance, advocacy and promotion, general support of the society by virtue of giving the gifts of time, work or financial resources, and outstanding service to the work of the society as a volunteer or officer of the board of directors.

The following nominating letter submitted by a chapter member outlined Bycraft’s many contributions to Christ Child. “Over the years she has gone above and beyond with being the purchaser of clothes during the time that our chapter was going through so many changes about what to give out, how much can we afford, what children need and where are the best places to shop. On top of that she and her husband stored much of the inventory and had it shipped to Jack Post to save us postage on many deliveries and then delivered the goods to the center. She has been president and served on the board and on many committees. She is an example of ‘above and beyond.’”

Another nomination letter added, “She and her husband have been responsible for the Knights of Malta grants given to our chapter. Marjorie continues to volunteer at the center regularly and we would not be as efficient today without her tireless efforts of the past.”

Bycraft has seen many changes with the South Bend chapter over the years. “Christ Child has seen tremendous growth in the years that I have been a member. We now serve over 4,000 children each year. It is much more efficient since we moved to the St. Patrick School building five years ago. However, along with that growth, our financial needs have grown as well. No longer can we clothe the children with bazaars and garage sales. We now have more lucrative fundraisers to help underwrite our costs,” she says.

The impact of the Christ Child Society on the South Bend community extends beyond the distribution of new clothing. Bycraft explains, “The new winter clothing provided to those families assists the parents financially, but also gives the children a sense of pride in themselves, consequent¬ly, we hope, they will do better academically and socially. The center is located well and creates a Catholic presence along with Sister Maura Brannick’s Chapin Street Clinic and the Catholic churches on the near west side of South Bend.”

In addition to the members who have become a part of the chapter through friends, Bycraft hopes to get the word out to others about Christ Child Society’s service so that others may become part of this worthy organization. “It is wonderful to be a part of an organization that is your ‘heart,’ an organization to which it is a joy to give your time and effort. Through the years, I have always known where I would be on a Wednesday morning, and looked forward to spending that time with good friends serving those who needed our assistance.”

She concludes, “I have always been proud of the fact that Christ Child is an all-volunteer organization without even one paid employee. The amazing work it does year after year happens because of close to 600 members who give their time, talents and treasures. Each part is important to the Catholic outreach that Christ Child has here in South Bend.”

Dottie Wallace, left, assists Marjorie Bycraft in folding shirts in the new clothing room of the South Bend Christ Child Society. Bycraft was the first recipient of the Mary Virginia Merrick award at the chapter.
St. Pius X Church holds ‘50 Hours of Prayer for Our 50 States’

GRANGER — St. Pius X Church will open its doors from 8 a.m. Tuesday, July 2, through 10 a.m. Thursday, July 4, for continuous prayer during the ‘50 Hours of Prayer for Our 50 States’ in defense of religious liberty. At 8 a.m. on July 2, Mass will be followed by Eucharistic Exposition in the church. A patriotic rosary will be recited at 9 a.m. An evening Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m., after which Eucharistic Exposition will resume. A family holy hour with benediction will be at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, July 3, Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. with a patriotic rosary recited at 9 a.m. Evening prayer with benediction will be held at 7 p.m. with Eucharistic exposition continuing through the night.

Prayer will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, with a patriotic rosary and Benediction. An Independence Day Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. The ‘50 Hours of Prayer for Our 50 States’ will conclude at 10 a.m.

Sign up for Exposition will take place in back of St. Pius X Church or online at www.stpius.net/50hoursofprayer. St. Pius X Church is located at 52553 Fir Rd., Granger.
Gerontology Institute collaboration benefits elderly

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — What began as a general inquiry from a college president to a staff member has become the start of a better understanding for the care needed in the area of aging adults. Known as the Michiana Gerontology Institute of Holy Cross, it is a group that brings organizations and people together to provide intergenerational outreach and education to improve the lives of elderly through service and awareness.

“The idea started with Holy Cross Brother Richard Holman, past president of Holy Cross College,” said Pat Adams, a board advisor for the group. “I met with places like Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Madison Center and REAL Services and Memorial Hospital, Saint Joseph. The idea was that competitors come to meetings and that we try to support each other. “It’s all about the elderly and how the professionals are trained to take care of people.”

Meetings were set at Holy Cross College and as the number of people and organizations grew, goals and objectives were necessary. Malana Maher brought members of Michiana Consortium of Gerontology and her long-time marketing efforts, which doubled the size of the group. The agencies meshed and created the newly formed Michiana Gerontology Institute of Holy Cross that includes members in healthcare, higher education, law, local government and senior living facilities. Through collaboration between existing services and an annual conference on aging, the institute will inform and educate the community on the growing population of seniors.

“Aging is a topic or issue that has been difficult to explain throughout the ages,” said member Rosemary Cox. “Aging is a developmental time in life. I think we can open doors for each other.”

“When we get together we don’t wear our institutional hats,” said Adams. “We try to support each other and each others’ events.”

Members come together not just to be better at their job but because they have a genuine interest in the elderly community. “It’s been an eye opening experience,” said Brother Alonso, whose background is science. He appreciates the chance to bring his science education and the mission of his order of helping others in need together in such a positive way.

“I feel very passionate about helping people later in life,” said Cox. As she gets on in years she hopes people will teach her how to prepare.

Missionary physician joins team at Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine

MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) has welcomed Dr. Janice Peterson to the Saint Joseph Physician Network and the Marshall County community. Dr. Peterson began seeing patients at Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine on June 18.

Dr. Peterson graduated from the University of Notre Dame and received her medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. It was then that she started her medical career with SRIMC in the Family Medicine Residency Program. As a resident, she’s no surprise that Dr. Peterson and several colleagues were the driving force behind the now robust Global Health Track within the residency program, which gives doctors in training the opportunity to practice in different parts of the world.

Post-graduation and after one year practicing with her father, well-known local physician Dr. Ronald Peterson, she traveled to Ethiopia, Africa, where she provided care for those who needed it most for more than seven years. In addition to Ethiopia, Dr. Peterson practiced in Burundi, Central Africa. Along the way she studied in Rome and received her master’s degree in the science of marriage in the family. Nearly 20 years, several foreign languages, and a world of unforgettable experiences later, Dr. Peterson is pleased to be back in Plymouth and near her family.

A family medicine physician, Dr. Peterson looks forward to providing comprehensive and preventative care for individuals of all ages. She is now accepting new patients. Plymouth Family & Internal Medicine is located at 2349 Lake Ave, Suite 100, in Plymouth. Contact the office directly at (574) 948-5100.

KNIGHTS COLLECT OLD FLAGS FOR CEREMONIAL BURNING

Every year the Knights of Columbus at the Fort Wayne Reed Road location collect worn-out flags from the city and surrounding community and then dispose of the flags in a reverent, ceremonial burning. Pictured are the Knights before this year’s ceremony on Flag Day, Friday, June 14, with Msgr. Bernard Galic, and two tables of more than 600 old flags about to be burned.
Changing roles for chaplains

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the U.S. military undergoing dramatic changes — in mission, as troops withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan, and in social structure with the open admission of gays, extension of combat roles to women, and focus on how sexual assault is handled — the Marine chief of chaplains finds her job ever-evolving as well.

The Rev. Margaret Kibben, a Presbyterian minister who is a rear admiral and Navy deputy chief of chaplains, supervises the deployment of 290 Marine chaplains and shares responsibility for the 840 Navy chaplains. She told Catholic News Service that chaplains have important roles to play as the military adapts to changing roles.

“Our primary role is to ensure free expression of religion,” Rev. Kibben said. So, regardless of how religious beliefs form someone’s thinking about issues such as gays serving in the military, it’s up to chaplains to ensure that “you don’t feel your faith is threatened.”

In an interview during a military women’s leadership symposium outside Washington, Rev. Kibben explained that as the Defense Department opened up positions to women, “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach to gays serving in the military and began openly allowing it, chaplains were among the first to receive training in how the change would affect their work.

“There was a lot of walking through details,” she said, about what chaplains might be asked to do in ministry.

She said that across the entire military chaplain corps, “less than a handful” of chaplains decided that they could not continue to serve in a military that openly allowed homosexuals to serve. “And some of those were not openly gay, but in the process of considering whether to come in.”

With the recent upsurge over the rate of cases of sexual assault within the military, Rev. Kibben said there has been training about what a chaplain’s role might be in interacting with victims of assault, perpetrators and others who are aware of incidents.

“The chaplains are incredibly committed to helping deal with sexual assault,” she said, but they need guidance, for example, on what kind of conversations are protected and when they are obligated to advise.

God plans eternal life for all who love him

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lk 9:51-62

The first reading for this weekend’s liturgy is from the First Book of Kings. While the focus, at least in terms of the books’ titles, is upon the kings of Israel, prophetic activity is not a major role. Such is the case in this weekend’s reading. The king is not mentioned in this selection. Rather, the chief figures are the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

As the Hebrew people gradually were formed into the nation of Israel, and as Moses and his lieutenants passed from the scene in the natural course of events, figures emerged to summon people to religious fidelity.

They were the men whom generations of Jews and then Christians have called the prophets. The English definition of “prophet” is too narrow. Most often, English-speaking persons associate prophecy with predicting the future. Another broader definition is the fulness of the life of these Old Testament prophets, was that they spoke for God, proclaimed God’s law, and called Israel to be holy to religious devotion. Although the prophets, of whom we have records, and we have records of only a few, often faced rebuke and even outright hostility from the Hebrew people, as a class they were admired and venerated. In this reading the prophet Elijah calls Elisha to follow, and to succeed him in the prophetic mission. In response, Elisha followed Elijah, forsaking everything familiar.

For the second reading, the Church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Galatians. The theme of this reading is freedom. It expresses Paul’s, as well as the classic Christian understanding, of freedom. Popular conversation will suggest that persons who are truly free live lives of utter abandon. The more outrageous and extreme the description of freedom, the greater the freedom.

Christian wisdom has another opinion. Yielding to instincts and unmanageable feelings is not a sign of freedom but of slavery. The person who has the perception to see the outcome of certain behavior, and the strength to subordinate actions to an accepted goal, seen as a higher motive, is the person who is free.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. Even today the route from Galilee to Jerusalem passes through Samaria. (Much of Samaria is included in that contested part of the region frequently mentioned today in news reports as the West Bank.)

At the time of Jesus, pious Jews universally despised Samarians. Centuries before Christ, when many Jews had died after repeated conquests of their land rather than tolerate the conquerors’ paganism, many in Samaria not only had tolerated the conquerors and their paganism, but they had intermarried with them.

This was more than a matter of religious conflict. The Samarians had defiled the pure ethnic line of the chosen people. Jesus spoke with Samaritans, a gesture that caused many Jewish eyebrows to lift. Hearing the disciples’ complaints that He mingled with Samaritans, Jesus reminded them that the kingdom was not of this world. In God’s kingdom, ethnic and old scores mean nothing.

Reflection

The message this weekend is about the plan of God to give eternal life to all people, who sincerely seek this life, through Christ. First Kings sets the stage. From the oldest periods of history, God reached out to people. He spoke through the prophets long ago. They came, generation after generation, to call people to God, sent by God that they live in genuine peace, at peace with God.

Christ came as the Son of God, bringing the wisdom and strength that make people truly free. Essential to this wisdom is the realization that the kingdom of God is not of this world. It is available to any, and to all, who truly love the Lord. This world will end. Eternal life will not end, so our eyes must be on our eternal destiny.

READINGS

Monday: Gn 8:16-33 Ps 103:1-4, 8:11 Mt 18:18-22
Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29 Ps 262-3, 9:12 Mt 22:27
Wednesday: Eph 219-22 Ps 117:1-2, Jn 24-29
Thursday: Gn 22:1-19 Ps 115:1-6, 8:9 Mt 9:1-8
Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29 Ps 135:1-6 Mt 9:14-17

The hunger of the heart

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

My first thought when I think of the word hunger is to get something to eat. Food and hunger just seem to go together. It is true we have all been hungry for food at some time or another but eating does not satisfy all our hungers. We also have spiritual hungers that need to be satisfied if we are to become mature adults.

In the Lord’s Prayer, they ask, “Our Father, we ask God to give us this our daily bread. Jesus was not talking about food but about satisfying the spiritual hungers or desires that every human being experiences in life.

One deep spiritual hunger or desire of every person is to believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose. It is that deep longing inside that cannot be fully satisfied with possessions or superficial relationships. How sad for those whose need for meaning in their lives is never met, who never discover God’s love or who try to find happiness by acquiring more and more money or “things.” Even sadder are those who think life ends when the last breath is taken, or the ones who despair and end their lives because they believe there is nothing to live for.

Another hunger we have is for community. Not being what is meant to be alone. We need the help of others to become the person God wants us to be. Human growth and maturity happen in an atmosphere of belonging and acceptance. We also see this in the Church. We live our Christian identity within the context of community. Christians belong to the community of the Church.

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the Body of Christ. A person’s faith cannot grow without the support of other believers. That is why the Church does not baptize infants when the parents are not practicing Catholics because there would be no Christian community to nurture the child’s faith.

Every person also hunger to be listened to and really heard. When someone really hears you and takes you seriously we are affirmed. When we sense we are not heard we can feel discounted or that our words and even ourselves do not matter. On the other side, we, too, must learn how to be good listeners so we can help satisfy this hunger in others. It is a skill that is sorely needed in our world today and there are unfortunately too few people who really know how to listen. As a result, many will pay for this service.

Prayer: We also can help alleviate this hunger to be listened to. Christians believe in a personal God who is involved in each person’s life. We believe God cares about each of us individually. He listens to us and knows the desires of our hearts.

Each of us also longs to be appreciated and loved. Almost every day we see what happens when people have not experienced real love in their lives. Often they are the ones who get into trouble or cause harm to others. Many have difficulty loving others because they never experienced love in their own lives. Often those deprived of love cease to love themselves and suffer from low self-esteem.

As Christians who are called to love, we have the responsibility to help satisfy this deep hunger that we all share. Christ revealed God’s love and gave us that same mission. The world should be a more loving place because of the way Christians live.

A helpful daily exercise is to ask yourself if there was a little more love in the world that day because of you.

Lastly, we hunger for acceptance. It is wonderful to be accepted for who we are, not for what we do. We all need to matter and be loved by someone. Those who are not ever accepted by others suffer a great deal. Maybe you or I were a great teacher or great leader, but being invited to a school party or to an office function or know others who seem alone and always on the outside, no one who could be really good and mindful of these people and think about including them in your social life.

 Invite you to reflect on your greatest hunger right now and ask the Lord to satisfy it.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department.
Perversions and purposes in sexuality

Many of us have probably heard single women talking among themselves about men, where one of them ends up saying, “That guy, he’s just a pervert — he’s only interested in sex.” When women detect that a man’s focus has become the pursuit of pleasure and that unbridled sex has become an end in itself, they tend instinctively to back away. Women often intuitively understand that sex can’t be reduced to mere pleasure without hurting both individuals involved, and negating other important goods, like love, family, children and marriage.

It becomes a “perversion” when we attempt to redirect sex into something of our own specifications, refocusing it into a form of worldly pleasure-seeking and self-satisfaction. Sigmund Freud, whom no one could accuse of prudery, recognized the basic meaning of a perversion in the sexual realm when he declared, “The common characteristic of all perversions... is that they have abandoned reproduction as their aim. We term sexual activity perverse when it has renounced the aim of reproduction and follows the pursuit of pleasure as an independent goal.”

No age has ever sought to abandon the reproductive aim of sexual activity as much as our own. This is particularly manifest as our society yields to the seductive siren call of contraception, broadly encouraging the separation of sexual intimacy from procreation.

A 2013 Gallup poll reported that 91 percent believed birth control to be morally acceptable. Professor Robert George of Princeton University has noted that marriage is increasingly coming to be understood as “an emotional union for the sake of adult satisfaction that is served by mutually agreeable sexual play.”

Without the self-sacrificing dimension of sex (involving the authenticity of new life), individuals are left in the position of amably accepting of new life), individuals


defense requires that chaplains be college graduates, have theological training and be ordained, or the denominational equivalent. The Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, which determines the policy for how the Church participates in the chaplain corps, interprets the law as requiring that only priests may serve as chaplains. Some other countries, including Canada, allow permanent deacons to serve as chaplains.

Mrgr. Frank Pugliese, vicar general of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, said deacons cannot be chaplains because they “do not have the full care of souls,” meaning they cannot celebrate Mass or hear confessions. “So to put a deacon in the situation of being a priest, Mrgr. Pugliese said, is ‘we’re within a year or two of the fruits of that showing in our numbers.’

New Lt. Commander Jean Marie Sullivan, a special assistant to the chief of Navy operations, is an active Catholic who helped fill the gap left by the shortage of Catholic chaplains as a shipboard extraordinary minister of holy communion during her assignment on a frigate about a decade ago. She said she was trained to conduct Ash Wednesday services and carefully reserved the consecrated hosts in a locked safe in her quarters. On Ash Wednesday she obtained some ashes to use for a simple service, as well.

“I was surprised by how much I enjoyed it,” she said. “On a ship with 530 people, we’d have about five people each Sunday, then on Ash Wednesday it seemed like the whole ship showed up.”

Mrgr. Pugliese told CNS that policy changed “years ago... because of reported abuses of the Eucharist, the military, custody of the Eucharist is a very difficult thing.”

As she prepares to take command of her ship in a couple of years, Sullivan said part of her responsibility will include making sure the religious needs of her crew are met. Her current and recent assignments have kept her on land and out of command positions.

Now, she recognizes that part of her new job will entail making sure she and other Catholics have access to Mass and other religious activities while at sea.

Mrgr. Pugliese said there is a system of military personnel known as “Catholic representatives” who may conduct liturgies of the word in the absence of a priest, and who help make sure a Catholic chaplain is periodically available on a ship or that Catholic personnel can get to a Mass at a church near a posting.

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Sisters of the Holy Cross celebrate

NOTRE DAME — Thirteen Sisters of the Holy Cross will celebrate their jubilee years in Holy Cross on July 21, in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame. Seven of these 13 sisters have taught or ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at various times during their religious lives.

75-year jubilarians

Sister M. Julien Wilke taught music and directed choirs for most of her ministry life. She taught at the former Saint Mary’s Academy, 1951-1960, and at St. Joseph School in South Bend, 1963-1964. In 1971, she went to Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, and was the director of liturgy until 1996 when she was assigned to St. Bavo Church in Mishawaka. She also served as sacristan at Saint Mary’s College. Currently her main ministry is to pray for the Church and the world.

Sister M. Lourendes Kelly taught in three schools in the diocese from 1938 through 1947, including St. Joseph and Holy Cross in South Bend and St. Michael in Plymouth. In 1980 she retired at Saint Mary’s where she participates in the ministry of prayer for the Church and the world.

Sister Eva Mary Hooker is in higher education and has taught English and writing at the former Dunbarton College, Washington, D.C., and was on the faculty and served as associate dean at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame. For nearly 20 years, she was the academic vice president at Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minn. Currently, she is a professor of English and a writer in residence at Saint Mary’s College.

Sister Maureen Grady, formerly Sister Sheila Marie, nursed at Saint Joseph Hospital, South Bend, from 1969-1971, and did home health care for St. Joseph County in 1982. She left nursing and went into pastoral care and taught pastoral skills in Beirut, Lebanon. She worked at the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. She was also among the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who, at the request of Catholic Relief Services, went to Thailand to work with refugees. Before coming to Saint Mary’s College to work with student nurses, she was director of formation at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Sister M. John Margaret Dietzen taught at Holy Cross School in South Bend, from 1979-1980, and then served as principal, 1980-1983. She also taught at St. Monica School in Mishawaka, from 1988-1993. From 2001 to 2007 she provided a sister presence and directed the mission efforts at St. Paul’s Retirement Community, and from 2008 to 2010, she visited patients at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend. For the past three years she has served as the area coordinator for retired and semi-retired Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Sister Patricia McCabe, formerly Sister M. Ruthellen, was a campus minister at the University of Notre Dame in 1987 and then at Saint Mary’s College in 1988. Currently, she is a pastoral associate for religious education at St. Ann Catholic Church in West Palm Beach, Fla., where she has served since 2003.

Other sisters celebrating 50 years are Sisters Alma Mary Anderson, Maureen Rooney, Mary Louise Full, Judith Hallock and Marietta Umbo.

25-year jubilarian

Sister Agnes Rozario from Bangladesh, is celebrating 25 years.

Other sisters celebrating anniversaries

Twelve other Sisters of the Holy Cross are celebrating anniversaries of their vows in 2013. Sisters Judith McKenna, June Ann Kirby, Geraldine Lupore, Elizabeth Panero, M. Joan Elizabeth Johnson, Jean Kelleher, Carmel Marie Sallows, Dolores Marie Rathnow, Grace Watson, M. Perpetua Meyer are marking 60 years of religious life. Sister Agnes Solari celebrates 80 years and Sister M. Louis Gonzague Kullmann, 85 years.

Eight Victory Noll Sisters celebrate jubilees in 2013

HUNTINGTON — Eight members of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters celebrated jubilees this year. Sister Carlota Baca celebrated 85 years as a Victory Noll Sister this year. Now 104 years old, Sister Baca joined OLVM on Oct. 28, 1928.

“Two Sisters were honored for 75 years as Victory Noll Sisters, including Sister Mary Joan Girsterblum and Sister Justine Kiefer. Sister Mary Francis Barchel celebrated 70 years with OLVM.

Three Sisters celebrated 60 years, including Sister Kathleen Cunnings, Sister Regina Marie Morrissey and Sister Christopher Rudell. The 70th jubilee celebration for Sister Helen Rodriguez-Marin will be held Aug. 5 at Victory Noll.

Five sisters have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

75-year jubilarians

Sister Mary Joan Girsterblum was born in Jackson, Mich., and entered OLVM on Jan. 6, 1954. Her mission work involved catechesis, leadership team general treasurer, executive trustee of Community Support Trust and computer technology in California, Utah and at Victory Noll.

Sister Regina Marie Morrissey was born in Jackson, Mich., and entered OLVM on Sept. 6, 1953. Her mission work involved catechesis, liturgy, pastoral associate, director of religious education in Missouri, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey and in East Chicago and Kendallville.

Sister Christopher Rudell was born in Baltimore, Md., and entered OLVM on Sept. 6, 1953. Her mission involved catechesis, teacher formation, maintenance and laundry, nursing (RN), secretarial and as sacramitant in Massachusetts, California, Michigan, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, Florida and at Victory Noll.
Keep the faith with summer reading

BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to Today’s Catholic that can touch the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase.


The “Live Simply Series” published by Franciscan Media offers four delightful little pocket books that are inspired by the values of St. Francis of Assisi. “Ethical Eating,” “Wholly Healthy,” “Earth Friendly,” and “Sensible Shopping,” all help the reader prioritize and reflect moral values that are inspired by Franciscan Media, each book is $1.99.


“St. Clare: A Short Biography,” is the story of this saint who as friend of St. Francis of Assisi was devoted to Franciscan principles and founded the Poor Clares religious order for women. A respected scholar, author Poor Clare Sister Joan Mueller has spent her life studying the life of St. Clare and translating her writings. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-599-8, $4.99.


For children “Read With Me Bible,” offers the classic original book and is paired with two audio CDs narrated by stage, screen and TV actor John Rubinstein, whose friendly voice enhanced with soothing music and animated sound effects will inspire read-alongs for children ages four to seven and their families. The more-than-400-page edition is based on the New International Reader’s Version, with simpler text and features playful artwork by illustrator Dennis Jones. Zonderkidz, ISBN: 978-0-310-73029-3, $24.99.

When I go to pray…
My Chapel is down the hallway

As a community sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame offers ways in which you can strengthen your faith. Attend Mass and rosary; worship privately or join a group for Bible studies. Guided by traditional Catholic values, we are a caring community eager to help you settle in and get acquainted. Our warm and inviting community offers:

• Independent living villa homes and apartments
• Assisted living
• Memory care
• Skilled nursing
• Rehabilitation services

Holy Cross Village is an interdependent community energized by Holy Cross spirituality and hospitality, and dedicated to providing a nurturing environment focused on dignity and respect. Please call (574) 251-2235 today if you’d like to learn how you can enjoy this lifestyle.

Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame is a ministry of the Brothers of Holy Cross.

SECKING A CHOIR DIRECTOR AND PIANO ACCOMPANIST

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen is seeking musicians for the 10:30 Sunday Mass, Holy Days, and a midweek rehearsal. For more information regarding stipend and details, contact (574) 825-5888 or directorofliturgy@gmail.com.
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.

NFP classes offered
Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer the new "streamlined" method of Natural Family Planning. Integrating John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, the series of three one-per-month PowerPoint-based classes in modern, 99 percent-effective “symptothermal” Natural Family Planning starts Sunday, July 14, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register or for information call (260) 489-1856 or email mshannon11@frontier.com.

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

St. Vincent Villa alumni to meet
Fort Wayne — The SVV alumni will have a reunion Sunday, June 30, at the Queen of Angels Hospital Donor Center, 7900 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 107, Fort Wayne. For tickets or to RSVPs are required. Call Theresa at (260) 494-6444 or e-mail charitadaily365@frontier.com or visit http://sites.google.com/site/creightonhealth.

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Natural Family Planning session offered
Fort Wayne — A revolution- ary approach to Natural Family Planning will be presented Saturday, July 13, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The only family planning system that networks women’s procreative health with their general health called NaPro TECHNOLOGY® promotes healthy women, healthy marriages and healthy families. RSVPs are required. Call Theresa at (260) 494-6444 or e-mail charitadaily365@frontier.com or visit http://sites.google.com/site/creightonhealth.

Theology on Tap — summer series
Granger — Join young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, to share in a Catholic theology class at Theology on Tap — summer series, beginning with Mass at 6 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Fundraiser planned
Fort Wayne — A day of fun has been planned for friends of Tom Figel (BLHS Class of ‘86) with Dr. Peter Kilpatrick and Isabella M. Sullivan, 95, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

DONATIONS
Blood donations needed
The American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. There are three locations for donation: Fort Wayne Donor Center, 1212 E. California Rd.; Lutheran Hospital Donor Center, 7900 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 107, (260) 480-8170 or Goshen Donor Center, 226 S. Main St., Goshen, (574) 533-8083. To make an appointment or for information call 1-800-GIVELIFE or 1-800-448-3543.

What's happening?
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, July 5, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

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Theology on Tap — summer series
Granger — Join young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, to share in a Catholic speaker series called Theology on Tap — Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in a new location: Villa Macri, 225 Toscana Blvd. The theme: Truth in Charity will begin July 23 — Charitable Leadership: Pope Francis with Dr. Matthew Bunson; July 30 — Charitable Witness: St. Francis of Assisi with Sister Marie Morgan, OSF; Aug. 6 — Charitable Response: Same-Sex Relationships with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades; Aug. 13 — Charitable Defense: Apologetics with Dr. Peter Kilpatrick and ending the series with the Aug. 20 cookout. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot for information.

REST IN PEACE
Decatur
Mary L. Alberding, 90, St. Mary of the Assumption
Fort Wayne
Marianne V. Baker, 54, St. Jude
Marie T. McDougall, 92, Saint Anne Home Chapel
Mildred M. Robillard, 106, St. Vincent de Paul
Lucy V. Tracey, 92, St. Patrick
Isabella M. Sullivan, 95, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Margaret A. Funch, 72, Our Lady of Good Hope
Donald Paul Weldon, 89, Queen of Angels
Michael P. Morrison, 25, St. Charles Borromeo
Granger
Rita G. Cizcczon, 87, St. Plus X
Mary Simeri, 86, St. Plus X

Malachi Pellegrini, infant, St. Plus X
Sarah E. Pellegrini, 34, St. Plus X
Huntington
Jeanette J. Bauer, 89, 55, St. Bavo
Susan M. Augustine, 65, Queen of Peace
Patricia Ann Kilian, 88, St. Joseph
Dolores Marie Sorocco, 84, St. Bavo
New Carlisle
Annabelle Nagy, 82, St. Stanislaus Kostka
Notre Dame
Robert H. Michaud, 86, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Rome City
Joan E. Weaver, 89, St. Gaspar
South Bend
Lorraine C. Havens, 95, St. Matthew
Robert L. Shaffner, 84, St. Matthew

Emily D. Cwikid, 89, St. Stanislaus
Patricia L. Kwiatkowski, 66, Holy Family
Mildred Louise Perry Zielenksi, 89, St. Anthony de Padua
theresa C. Flowers, 67, Christ the King
Claire Urbache, 92, St. Anthony de Padua
Syracuse
Laurence C. Griffith, 94, St. Martin de Porres
Wabash
George Earl, 72, St. Bernard
Walter Robert Sr., 93, St. Bernard
Sister Jeanne Koerle, 85, Church of the Immaculate Conception
Sister Mary-of-the- Woods, Ind.
Sister served at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne.

NOW IN OUR FOURTH GENERATION OF SERVICE
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VIEW OUR TRIBUTE CENTER ON THE WEB THROUGH Google Maps
Though it offers to have insurers or and universities is still very unjust. Like Catholic Charities, our hospitals posed ‘accommodation’ rather than drugs and contraception. The pro-teachings by facilitating and fund-stressing. “That is why our diocese tradition of religious liberty,” he Constitution, our laws and our long-ly held beliefs in violation of our ers to act against our most deep-(HHS) coerces religious believ-ing from the redefinition of marriage. The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue. It has its roots in the growing secular-ism of our culture, a secularism that seeks to marginalize the Church from culture and society.” The right to religious freedom is founded upon the intrinsic dignity of the human person. This is an issue of justice since the human person has a right to religious freedom. Catholics must not waver in their defense of this sacred right.

Bishop Rhoades offered the following suggestions for the faithful: • Pray for the protection of religious liberty and increased respect for the role of faith in public life; • Contact our legislators, urging their support of H.R. 940, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act; • Educate yourselves and your family, friends and neighbors on this issue. Many educational resources are available on the USCCB site and the special website www.Fornight4Freedom.org.

The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) coerces religious believers to act against our most deeply held beliefs in violation of our Constitution, our laws and our long tradition of religious liberty,” he stressed. “That is why our diocese and several other Catholic institutions of our diocese are suing the federal government. The HHS mandate is unjust and unlawful. This isn’t about the Catholic Church trying to force its beliefs on others. It is about the government trying to force its beliefs on the Catholic Church. It is a direct violation of our religious liberty to force the Church and its institutions, as well as individuals, business owners, insurers, etc. to violate our own teachings by facilitating and funding sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraception. The proposal ‘accommodation’ rather than an ‘exemption’ for our institutions like Catholic Charities, our hospitals and universities is still very unjust. Though it offers to have insurers or other third parties impose the objectionable coverage, it still deprives us of the ability to provide health coverage to our employees that is consistent with our values and it disregards the conscience rights of both insurers and employees. However the funding is worked out, the simple offer of health coverage by a religious employer would become the trigger for ensuring that all our employees receive morally objectionable services in their health plans.”

There are other threats to religious liberty,” Bishop Rhoades explained. “We have experienced in our country discrimination against Catholic adoption and foster-care services because, when placing children with couples, we make sure they enjoy the advantage of having a mother and a father who are married. We have seen discrimination against our United States Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services because we will not provide or refer for contraception and abortion. Some states have tried to make it criminal for us to provide Christian charity and pastoral care to undocumented immigrants. I could give other examples. One of the most troubling threats to religious liberty is that which is arising from the redefinition of marriage. The threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue. It has its roots in the growing secularism of our culture, a secularism that seeks to marginalize the Church from culture and society.”

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Remember: The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.