White Mass encourages professionals to holiness

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Bishop Rhoades speaks to legal professionals at the Red Mass held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 2.

FORT WAYNE — Lawyers, judges and civil government officials in the Allen County and surrounding area were invited to attend the Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the celebrant.

The evening, that has become an annual tradition in Fort Wayne, was hosted by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the recently formed St. Thomas More Society in Fort Wayne. Those in the legal profession and law students in South Bend celebrated on Monday, Oct. 7, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

Participants included students and faculty of the law school, the Department of Political Science and the Interdisciplinary Program in Constitutional Studies.

Do not be conformed to this world

At the Red Mass, Bishop Rhoades spoke in his homily about St. Paul’s urging the faithful not to be “conformed to this world” but to live true freedom that is obedience to the will of God.

“You who are members of the legal profession do the Church and the world a great service as you bear witness to Christ in your profession, living and proclaiming the true freedom that is founded in truth, the freedom that comes from obedience to God’s will,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“You are called to remind others that the only foundation capable of sustaining our democratic republic, a true culture of freedom, is what the Founders of our nation called ‘self-evident’ truths. In doing so, you are heeding the counsel of St. Paul not to ‘be conformed to this world’ since a distorted notion of freedom has
Respect Life: The gifts of persons with disabilities

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Mass for persons with disabilities on Respect Life Sunday, October 6th, at Saint Jude Church, Fort Wayne:

Saint Paul wrote to his delegate, Saint Timothy, that “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” He told Timothy not to be ashamed of his testimony to our Lord but to bear his “share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”

Saint Paul’s teaching and advice are important and relevant for us today. Whatever our abilities or disabilities, we all have received from the Lord not a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. We all have been called to bear witness or testimony to the Lord. How edified I have been by the powerful and loving witness of many persons with disabilities in our diocese, of individuals and families who indeed bear their share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. I believe that your witness to the Lord is vital to the Church’s mission of evangelization in the world today. It is good to focus on the gifts of persons with disabilities since your generous sharing of your gifts, in the midst of hardship and struggle at times, is a powerful sign to all of the power of God’s grace and love.

We all struggle with life, in one way or another. For some, the struggle may be due to a physical, emotional, or mental disability. For others, it may be due to family troubles, loneliness, grief, or poverty. Saint Paul counsels all to bear their hardships with the strength that comes from God. To do so requires faith. At times we can waver in our faith. Our faith can be tested. It can become weak. We all need to pray like the apostles in today’s Gospel: “Lord, increase our faith.” Jesus teaches that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, an extremely small seed, we could say to a big mulberry tree “Be uprooted and planted in the sea” and it would obey.

We gather here this afternoon in faith and mutual love to celebrate the gifts of our brothers and sisters with disabilities. We come to Mass to receive strength from the Lord in the Eucharist so that we can indeed bear our share of hardship for the Gospel. In the midst of life’s struggles, we turn to the Lord and His Church and we are renewed in spirit and strengthened in our faith. “Lord, increase our faith,” the prayer of the apostles, is our prayer.

Today the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Sunday. I could not think of a more appropriate community to celebrate Mass with this Sunday than you. In their pastoral statement on persons with disabilities in 1978, the United States bishops wrote about the right to life and said that “the defense of the right to life of handicapped persons is a matter of particular urgency” since “the presence of handicapping conditions is not infrequently used as a rationale for abortion.” This is as true today as it was 35 years ago. The bishops wrote that “the defense of the right to life … implies (also) the defense of other rights which enable the handicapped individual to achieve the fullest measure of personal development of which he or she is capable.”

The bishops go on to talk about the Church’s duty to reach out to handicapped people and ensure a full appreciation of the beautiful contribution they can make to the Church’s spiritual life: “Handicapped individuals bring with them a special insight into the meaning of life; for they live, more than the rest of us perhaps, in the shadow of the cross. And out of their experience they forge virtues like courage, patience, perseverance, compassion, and sensitivity that should serve as an inspiration to all Christians.”

These words remind me of Saint Paul’s words to Timothy with which I began this homily: “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” You who have disabilities have so much to teach me and others, by your example, about faith and courage, about patience and perseverance, about compassion and sensitivity. You also have a duty, as do all members of the Church, to do the Lord’s work in the world, according to your God-given talents and capacity. We should not focus so much on disabilities as to neglect your gifts and abilities and the ways you can and do serve the Lord and His Church. And the whole Church must continue to seek to remove any obstacles to your full and active participation in the life of the Church. Catholics are much poorer when we do not experience and receive your gifts which help build up the Body of Christ, the Church, at every level: parish, diocese, and beyond. The Church is stronger when the gifts of all are welcomed and when a true spirit of mutual love extends to all, without discrimination.

As I said earlier, we all have struggles in life. Some are more visible than others. Some are more intense than others. We can only bear the crosses that are part of life with the strength that comes from God. That’s why we are here, to receive the strength which the Lord gives us preeminently in the Eucharist. He also gives us His grace and strength in the other sacraments. We know that we all need to rely on the Lord in the midst of life’s struggles. And so, the prayer of the apostles is a prayer we need to say often “Lord, increase our faith.”
Harms of pornography discussed, hope offered at conference

FORT WAYNE — Nationally recognized experts and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke about the harms of pornography, how to protect oneself and one’s family, and regain sexual integrity at a diocesan conference on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend collaborated with Morality in Media and the national Catholic apostolate, RECLAIM Sexual Health, in hosting the anti-pornography conference titled, “Ignite the Life in a World Darkened by Pornography,” at the University of Saint Francis, North Campus Auditorium. Our Sunday Visitor provided a grant for the conference.

Patrick Trueman, president of Morality in Media, spoke about how pornography creates an “overwhelming Catholic men.” Pornography is on computers, smartphones, and cable or satellite TV. It’s common in hotels and even in many retail stores and gas stations. For many men — and, increasingly, women — it is part of their daily lives.

Church teaching on the subject is clear. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Pornography … offends against chastity because it pervades the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others.” (No. 2354)

“Addiction to pornography is now commonplace among adults and is even a growing problem for children and teenagers,” Trueman reported. “He offered these statistics: 79 percent of unwanted exposure to pornography happens in the home; 93 percent of children 12-17 have been exposed and the largest consumers of Internet pornography are ages 12-17; 80 percent of 8-16 year olds viewed pornography online while doing homework.

“Pornography’s addictive strength is a result of long-term, sometimes lifelong, changes in the brain,” he added. “But he also offered hope for those with pornography addiction.

Brain science and hope

“There is hope, there is healing,” Jeannie Hannemann told Today’s Catholic.

“The ‘once an addict always an addict’ theory is hereby, ‘by the grace of God’ said when it comes to pornography,” because we believe Jesus heals,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Bruce and Jeannie Hannemann spoke about healing and breaking the bonds of pornography through their ministry, RECLAIM Sexual Health, a professional, Catholic online recovery program with additional resources designed to help individuals overcome pornography use and other unhealthy sexual behavior. A unique integration of Blessed John Paul II’s theology of the body, faith practices and brain science of change exercises, RECLAIM brings psychology and spiritual direction from a Catholic perspective to those in need.

The website can be found at www.reclaimsexualhealth.com.

The Hannemans experienced the problems associated with pornography in their own marriage and shared their journey to sexual health. The ministry is under the guidance of Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis.

Family therapist offers advice

Dr. Jill Manning, a licensed marriage and family therapist, specializes in research and clinical work related to pornography and its impact on marriages and families.

She encouraged parents to teach healthy sexuality in a layered, step-wise manner throughout a child’s development, and emphasized this type of teaching is one of the best defenses against pornography’s influence. “It is best,” she said, “if both the mother and father are involved in teaching male and female children.”

She also encouraged families to discuss expectations and values around media use and avoidance of pornography. As part of this communication, she invited families to implement a family media pledge. The pledge she created, “Our Clean and Safe Media Pledge,” is downloadable at no cost at the Deseret Book website, http://deseretbook.com/mediapledge.

For protection of marriages, Manning suggested couples be unified on their definition of pornography. She encouraged them to establish an exposure rule. “For example, within 24 hours of being accidentally exposed to sexually explicit content, share that experience with your spouse and debrief it. ‘Don’t let images fascinate,’” she said.

Battle plan for sexual integrity

Bishop Rhoades, in his talk titled “God’s Plan for Living a Life of Sexual Integrity,” offered a battle plan — from a section of the catechism’s explanation of the ninth commandment.

“The are four elements to this battle plan, and the catechism assures us that if we put them into practice, with God’s grace, we will succeed in living a life of sexual integrity,” Bishop Rhoades affirmed.

“Living a life of sexual integrity has never been easy, but it is not impossible. God in His great mercy has given us His abundant grace to win the battle for purity, and what is more, He has given us a most gracious advocate — His mother,” Bishop Rhoades said. “The rosary has always been recommended by the Church as a prayer that is as powerful as it is beautiful.”

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

Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, has a holy hour Mondays 5-6:30 p.m., and every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. The Adoration Chapel is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and people are encouraged to spend time in Adoration and pray for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty.

St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the chapel.

Queen of Peace Church 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. 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.

Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

• Sunday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m. — Regional Mass and Reception for 150th Anniversary of Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Performing Arts Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

• Monday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

• Monday, Oct. 14, 3:30 p.m. — Mass for Faculty and Staff, Queen of Angels School, Fort Wayne

• Tuesday through Wednesday, Oct. 15-16 — Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Institute Board, Detroit, Mich.

• Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. — Mass for Trine University Students, Saint Anthony Parish, Angola

• Thursday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. — Lecture on Marriage, North Campus, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

• Friday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m. — Homily at Chapel Service, Goshen College, Goshen
Mass for persons with disabilities celebrated at St. Jude Church

By Deb Wagner

FORT WAYNE — “We gather here this afternoon in faith and mutual love to celebrate the gifts of our brothers and sisters with disabilities,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said in his homily at the Mass for persons with disabilities on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 6, at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne.

“We come to Mass to receive strength from the Lord in the Eucharist so that we can indeed bear our share of hardship for the Gospel,” he said. “In the midst of life’s struggles, we turn to the Lord and His Church, and we are renewed in spirit and strengthened in our faith. ‘Lord, increase our faith,’ the prayer of the apostles, is our prayer.”

The bishop noted, “St. Paul’s teaching and advice is important and relevant for us today. Whatever our abilities or disabilities, we all have received from the Lord not a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. We all have been called to bear witness or testimony to the Lord not a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. We are all called to bear witness or testimony to the Lord.”

The bishop added, “How edified I have been by the powerful and loving witness of many persons with disabilities in our diocese, of individuals and families who indeed bear their share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God. I believe that your witness to the Lord is vital to the Church’s mission of evangelization in the world today.”

“It is good to focus on the gifts of persons with disabilities since your generous sharing of your gifts, in the midst of hardship and struggle at times, is a powerful sign to all of the power of God’s grace and love,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“We should not focus so much on disabilities as to neglect your gifts and abilities and the ways you can and do serve the Lord and His Church,” he said. “And the whole Church must continue to seek to remove any obstacles to your full and active participation in the life of the Church. Catholics are much poorer when we do not experience and receive your gifts which help build up the Body of Christ, the Church, at every level: parish, diocese and beyond. The Church is stronger when the gifts of all are welcomed and when a true spirit of mutual love extends to all, without discrimination.”

Many of those engaged in lay ministries for the Mass have disabilities or have loved ones with such challenges.

Cash Reuille, who lives with Down syndrome, is a seasoned gift-bearer for the Mass.

Tracy Rau, who is blind and uses a guide dog, began lectoring at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, as a result of being asked to proclaim the readings at last year’s disability retreat. She was one of two lectors with disabilities. Rau reflected on the Mass that, “We are all God’s children. To go through the struggles in our lives and to bear all of the crosses in our lives, we need to walk with Jesus.”

Monica Laughlin from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was among the over 50 participants in the Mass. She said she hoped more Catholic deaf would attend the Mass in the future.

Parents and supporters of children with disabilities were grateful that the Mass for people with disabilities is celebrated. Michael Kucharski, a friend of Tom, Judy Trentadore’s father, said that this was “a nice, friendly environment (for) people with disabilities.”

Jennifer Barton from St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, passionately described that “it is so, so nice when you have someone like this. Our son, Andrew, has autism and I don’t think everybody understands what that means.” Members of the Barton family were also gift-bearers for the Mass.

A time of fellowship and faith sharing followed in the church’s vestibule.

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Pope, in Assisi, calls on Church to renounce ‘spirit of the world’

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Making his first pilgrimage as pope to the birthplace of his papal namesake, Pope Francis called on the whole Church to imitate St. Francis of Assisi, embracing poverty and stripping itself of the “spirit of the world.”

“A Christian cannot coexist with the spirit of the world,” he said. Worldliness “leads us to vanity, arrogance, pride. And this is an idol, it is not of God.”

The pope spoke Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis, in the “stripping room” of the Assisi archbishop’s residence, where the saint shed himself of his rich clothes and embraced a life of poverty.

“This is a good occasion for inviting the Church to strip itself,” the pope said, adding that he directed his invitation not merely to the hierarchy but all the Church’s members, and that he sought renunciation of spiritual complacency as well as material riches.

“It is so sad to find a worldly Christian, who thinks he enjoys the security of the faith and of the world. One can’t have it both ways.”

The pope was accompanied to Assisi by the eight-member Council of Cardinals he has appointed to advise him on governance of the universal Church and reform of the Vatican bureaucracy, and with whom he concluded an end of meetings Oct. 3 at the Vatican.

Pope Francis’ talk in the archbishop’s residence, one of six addresses he was scheduled to deliver during his daylong visit to Assisi, was to a group of poor people receiving assistance from local Catholic charities, whom he later joined for lunch.

“Many of you have been stripped by this savage world, which doesn’t provide work, which doesn’t help, to which it makes no difference that children die of hunger,” he said.

The pope mourned the African immigrants killed in the previous day’s sinking of a boat near the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, where in July he made his first trip as pope outside Rome.

“It doesn’t matter (to the world) that people must flee slavery and hunger in search of liberty. With how much pain, so often, we see that they find death,” he said. “This is a day of weeping. The spirit of the world does these things.”

As he often does, the pope set aside his prepared remarks and spoke entirely off the cuff.

He did the same thing earlier in the morning, when he addressed a group of disabled children and young people and their caregivers at a Church-run rehabilitation center, the first of a dozen stops on his tightly packed schedule.

Pope Francis spent about 45 minutes prior to his talk personally greeting the young patients, many of whom were confined to wheelchairs. Throughout his visit, the room resounded with their cries and moans.

“We are among the wounds of Jesus,” the pope said. “Jesus is hidden in these kids, in these children, in these people. On the altar we adore the flesh of Jesus, in them we find the wounds of Jesus.”

The pope noted that Jesus’ body after the resurrection was unblemished except for the five wounds he had received during his crucifixion.

“He wanted to preserve only the wounds, and He took them with Him into heaven,” the pope said. “We treat the wounds of Jesus here and He, in heaven, shows us His wounds and tells all of us, all of us: ‘I am waiting for you.’”

In the pope’s remarks at the rehabilitation center he called for more “works of the culture of welcome, works animated above all by profound Christian love, love for Christ crucified, for the flesh of Christ.”

The pope’s morning in Assisi culminated in a Mass he celebrated in the square outside the Basilica of St. Francis.

In his homily, the pope disputed what he characterized as popular misconceptions of St. Francis and his legacy.

“Many people, when they think of St. Francis, think of peace,” he said. “Very few people, however, go deeper.

“What is the peace which Francis received, experienced and lived, and which he passes on to us?” the pope asked. “It is the peace of Christ, which is born of the cross.”

He later added: “Franciscan peace is not something saccharine. Hardly. That is not the real St. Francis. Nor is it a kind of pantheistic harmony with the forces of the cosmos. That is not Franciscan either; it is a notion some people have invented.”

Celebrating St. Francis’ love for all creation, the pope said that the saint “bears witness that man is called to safeguard man, that man at the center of creation, where God the creator wanted him.”

Pope Francis also paid tribute to his namesake as a “man of harmony and peace” and drew attention to those “who are suffering and who are dying because of violence, terrorism or war, in the Holy Land, so dear to St. Francis, in Syria, throughout the Middle East and everywhere in the world.”

The pope’s day in Assisi included visits to various sites associated with St. Francis, including his tomb in the Basilica of St. Francis; the Church of San Damiano, where the saint had a vision of Jesus; the hermitage where he went to pray in isolation; the small “Porziuncola” Church, now contained inside the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, where he founded the Franciscan order; the tomb of his friend St. Clare; and the cathedral where St. Francis and St. Clare were baptized.

In a short impromptu talk to clustered fans at the Basilica of St. Clare, the pope voiced sympathy over the challenges of community life and urged them to strive for harmony.

“The devil takes every opportunity to divide. He says, ‘I don’t wish to speak ill but ...’ And the division begins,” the pope said. “Foster friendship among yourselves, family life, love, that your monastery not be a purgatory but a family.”

Late in the afternoon, addressing diocesan clergy, religious and laity in the cathedral, Pope Francis charmed the crowd like a folksy parish priest, drawing frequent laughter and applause.

“Enough with these interminable, boring homilies of which nothing can be understood,” said the pope, who favors short sermons typically based on three key words.

Encouraging pastors to be close to their flocks, the pope recalled one who had told him that he knew the names of all the families — and the dogs — in his parish.

“What could be more beautiful?” he asked.

“I always advise newlyweds: ‘Argue as much as you want,’” he said. “It’s the plates that fly, let them. But never let the day end without making peace, never.’”

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Croatian priest killed during 1947 anti-Church violence beatified

PULA, Croatia (CNS) — A young priest who was murdered by communist partisans during a wave of anti-Church violence in 1947 was beatified as a martyr in Croatia.

Father Miroslav Bulešic, 27 at the time of his death, was portrayed as a victim of a hate crime during a time of upheaval in post-World War II Europe, said Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes, during the Sept. 28 ceremony. “All hate crimes are an abomination against religion, but the circumstances of the murder of Father Miroslav Bulešic were particularly loathsome,” Cardinal Amato told hundreds of priests and 20,000 Croats at the beatification.

“Human wickedness was vented on a helpless priest, and the wolf tore the lamb apart. Hatred extinguished a human life, which is always precious but was twice as priceless this time as the life of a good man,” the cardinal said. He said honoring the priest expressed the church’s “deference and gratitude” for martyrs and should also encourage faith “in a world of transient ideologies.”

What’s on the Supreme Court docket, and what might be there later

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court’s docket for the term beginning Oct. 7 is notable — from the perspective of the Catholic Church — for a handful of cases accepted or in the pipeline that would refine previous rulings on free speech, public prayer and the Affordable Care Act.

The docket so far lacks cases that would appear to be of wide-reaching significance, like last year’s rulings on same-sex marriage, the Affordable Rights Act and affirmative action at colleges. But there are several challenges bubbling up from lower courts which the court could add to the calendar, over aspects of the national health care law and its requirement that most employers cover contraceptives free of charge in their health plan for workers.

On Nov. 6, the court will consider whether it’s appropriate for the town council of Greece, N.Y., to open its sessions with a prayer. The case may test the reach of a previous ruling that permitted prayers in legislatures as “a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country.”

The case is Greece v. Galloway. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the practice in Greece violates the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Although the town allows the prayer to be offered in any faith tradition, the court found that established Greek Orthodox Church’s predominance and majority of the prayers were specifically Christian, with sectarian references to Jesus and “Your Son,” and there was little effort to broaden the type of prayers offered, the practice is unconstitutional.

Furthering transparency efforts, Vatican bank publishes annual report

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As part of its continuing efforts to promote transparency and to demonstrate its stability and adherence to industry standards, the Vatican bank published its annual report for the first time in its history. The Institute for the Works of Religion, as the bank is formally known, released its independently audited report Oct. 1, publishing the 100-page document on its website www.ior.va. In a introduction to the report, Ernst von Freyberg, president of the institute, said, “2012 was a successful year for the IOR and for our clients. The IOR posted earnings of 86.6 million euros (about $117 million), which allowed us to contribute 54.7 million euros toward the budget of the Holy See, while transferring 31.9 million euros to our general operating risk reserves.”

The bank’s earnings for 2012 were more than four times greater than the 20.3 million euros it earned in 2011, mainly due to an increase in the value of the securities it invested in, the report said.

Children make up half the Syrian refugee population

KILIS, Turkey (CNS) — Fifteen-year-old Abdalhadi Mustafa wants to fight. He has been living in a refugee camp in Turkey for a year, since his family fled Tal Riffat, an embattled Syrian town just north of Aleppo. “Who wants not to go back?” he asks, standing between the gates of the camp and a steady stream of refugees passing through the Turkish border control. “I want to be a fighter. I will go to make freedom.”

 Asked whether he really thinks fighting can bring peace, he responded: “I want peace. A soldier is the maker of peace.” Abdalhadi is one of more than a million Syrian children living as refugees outside of Syria. He’s not alone in Kilis; there are children everywhere. Kids offer to help refugees with their bags, wait for relatives to return from trips back into Syria or try to sell fruit to travelers passing by. Children make up about half of the Syrian refugee population. There are about 1.2 million refugees under the age of 11. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reports significant numbers of unaccompanied Syrian children crossing the borders with Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. At least 7,000 Syrian children are among the 100,000 casualties of the 32-month-old civil war. Abdullah’s town was under siege by Syrian security forces in 2011. In 2012, a council of Islamic scholars and former Syrian army officers took over administration of the town, ruling by Islamic law. As the Syrian army has pushed to retake Aleppo, it has bombed Tal Riffat from the air, hitting civilian targets.

Pope calls for less ‘Vatican-centric,’ more socially conscious Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his latest wide-ranging interview, Pope Francis said that he aimed to make the Catholic Church less “Vatican-centric” and closer to the “people of God,” as well as more socially conscious and open to modern culture.

He also revealed that he briefly considered turning down the papacy in the moments following his election last March, and identified the “most urgent problem” the Church should consider one day as “to work for justice, employment and the abandonment of elderly people.” The pope’s remarks appeared in a 4,500-word interview published Oct. 1 in the Rome daily La Repubblica, with Eugenio Scalfari, a co-founder and former editor-in-chief of the newspaper.

Scalfari, an avowed atheist, publicly addressed the pope in a pair of articles on religious and philosophical topics over the summer, and Pope Francis replied in a letter to the newspaper’s editor.

The journalist reported that the two met in person at the Vatican Sept. 24.

Pope, cardinal advisers looking at major overhaul of Roman Curia

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals are laying out plans to completely overhaul the Roman Curia, underlining its role as “service to the universal Church and the local churches,” the Vatican spokesman said.

As the pope and the eight cardinals he named to advise him were about to begin the final session of their Oct. 1-3 meeting, Jesuit Father Lombardi said he named the cardinals to advise him were “two sections: One section deals with foreign relations and the other deals with internal Church matters. “Pastor Bonus” said the secretariat was to “foster relations” with other Curia offices and coordinate their work.”

Father Lombardi said the pope and the cardinals emphasized the role of the Secretariat of State as “the secretariat of the pope,” and has given him an Oct. 15 start on his own timetable. Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals are laying out plans for a major overhaul of the Curia. The eight cardinals — six of whom currently serve as diocesan bishops — brought to the meeting with the pope suggestions they received from Church leaders around the world. One of the topics mentioned most often, Father Lombardi said, was concern for the role of the laity in the Church and the world.

The pope and his cardinal advisers talked about “how to ensure that this dimension of the Church’s reality is more adequately and effectively recognized and followed in the governance of the Church,” Father Lombardi said.

The vast majority of the Catholic Church’s 1.2 billion members are laypeople, the spokesman said. Their activities and needs are followed by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, which is “very active,” he said, but does not have the profile or authority of a Vatican congregation, such as those for bishops, for priests and for religious.

Pope Francis has asked his eight cardinal advisers for counsel on the Vatican’s finances, as well, Father Lombardi said, but the theme was not a priority at the Oct. 1 meeting because Pope Francis also appointed several special commissions to look into specific aspects of the Vatican’s finances, budgeting process and the Vatican bank and those commissions are still at work.

At the end of their meeting, council members announced they would hold their second meeting with the pope Dec. 3-5, and they planned to meet again at the Vatican in February “so that the work of the council, especially in this initial phase, can proceed quickly,” Father Lombardi said.

The eight members, who represent six continents, are: Cardinals Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa, Indian Cardinal Oswald Gracias, German Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Congolese Cardinal Monsengwo Pasinya, U.S. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, Australian Cardinal George Pell and Honduran Cardinal Oscar Romero Maradiaga.

The eight cardinals — six of whom currently serve as diocesan bishops — were scheduled to meet for the first time with the panel Oct. 1. The discussions, Father Lombardi said, are in the direction of an apostolic constitution to replace “Pastor Bonus,” and not simply “cosmetic retouches or marginal modifications” of the 1988 document.

Possible changes to the organization of the world Synod of Bishops, which has been a periodic gathering of bishops from around the world to discuss a specific theme of Church life, were moved to the top of the meeting’s agenda because the synod council will meet at the Vatican Oct. 7-8, the spokesman said.

Father Lombardi said the pope is expected to decide the theme for the next synod “in the coming days,” the spokesman said, whom currently serve as diocesan bishops — brought to the meeting with the pope suggestions they received from Church leaders around the world. One of the topics mentioned most often, Father Lombardi said, was concern for the role of the laity in the Church and the world.

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Catherine Kasper Life Center recognized for outstanding care

DONALDSON — Catherine Kasper Life Center (CKLC) received the Excellence in Action award from My InnerView by National Research Corporation. This honor recognizes long-term care and senior living facilities that achieve the highest levels of satisfaction and excellence, as demonstrated by overall resident or employee satisfaction scores that fall within the top 10 percent of the My InnerView product database.

Catherine Kasper Life Center, a ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, is a faith-based Continuing Care Retirement Community comprised of Maria Center, apartments for senior independent living with some supportive services; and the Catherine Kasper Home, a licensed skilled nursing facility with all private rooms providing short-term rehabilitation, long-term nursing care and a memory care unit. It provides comfort, dignity and wellbeing as residents continue on their journey of life. Catherine Kasper Life Center is a part of The Center at Donaldson.

Catherine Kasper Life Center is one of just four Indiana skilled nursing facilities that received the Customer Excellence in Action award. This is the second year that it has earned this national award. For more information about Catherine Kasper Life Center call (574) 935-1742 or visit http://www.cklc.poorhandmaids.org.

Math competition for middle school students

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the state’s American Mathematics Competition, AMC 8, on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Doermer Family Center for Health Science Education in room 156A/156B.

First administered in 1950, the AMC’s purpose is to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem-solving ability through a series of friendly mathematics competitions for students in fifth through eighth grade and up to the age of 14½.

The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple-choice contest. The student’s score is the number of correct answers. Solutions, and does not allow adversity to define or limit the constructive pursuit of one’s/her dreams. Jack Jones, a senior at Bishop Luers High School who possesses outstanding moral character, strives to perform to the highest level of his/her God-given talents, and does not allow adversity to define or limit the constructive pursuit of his/her dreams.

The day includes a talk by James Kennedy, author of “The Order of Odd-Fish” and several sessions from which to choose. The registration fee includes lunch and an autographed copy of Kennedy’s latest book.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 22. To download the registration form, visit www.amc.maa.org. To register for the competition, contact Carolyn Exner at cexner@sf.edu or phone (260) 399-8067. Contact University of Saint Francis Department of Mathematics Chair, Dr. Victor Kusenok, at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8237, for more information about the AMC.

‘Get Inked’ teen writing conference to be held

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary’s College Department of Education will sponsor a teen writing conference titled “Get Inked” for students in grades 8-12, on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event, which costs $40 and requires pre-registration, will start and end in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall.

The day includes a talk by James Kennedy, author of “The Order of Odd-Fish,” and several sessions from which to choose. The registration fee includes lunch and an autographed copy of Kennedy’s latest book.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 22. To download the registration form, visit www.amc.maa.org. To register for the competition, contact Carolyn Exner at cexner@sf.edu or phone (260) 399-8067.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. Cost is $15 per person and includes lunch.

The FEST will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. Cost is $15 per person and includes lunch.

Festivities will begin in O’Shaughnessy in Providence Center. From there participants will embark on a pilgrimage around the grounds to sacred places in the life of St. Mother Theodore. Reflections, readings and song will help highlight the significance of each location. Those not able physically to journey to these locations can participate in a similar reflective journey in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

A festive lunch will follow the morning pilgrimage.

After lunch participants may choose to join in one or more of 10 options, including sessions on St. Mother Theodore Guérin and humor, on art and journaling and on healing stories of St. Mother Theodore. Participants may also choose to pray in the Sacred Heart Chapel, to view a documentary on the life of St. Mother Theodore or to see plans for the new shrine to be constructed in her honor. Other options include taking a nature walk or visiting the alpacas.

The day will conclude with a Mass celebrating St. Mother Theodore’s legacy at 3 p.m. in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

To learn more or to register, contact Sister Jan at (812) 535-2925 or jcraven@spsmw.org or visit www.SistersofProvidencen.org.

Ancillla College awarded 2014 Military Friendly Schools® Designation

DONALDSON — Victory Media, a national media company serving military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Ancilla College to the coveted Military Friendly Schools list. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

The 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 10,000 schools nationwide approved for VA tuition funding.

Two-day event focuses on the loss of a child

SCHERERVILLE — A two-day event focusing on the loss of a child will be held at St. Michael Church, 1 W. Wilhelm St., Schererville, in northwestern Indiana. Day 1 will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with guest speakers Joseph Hannemann, founder of Elizabeth Ministry International, and Kristin Bird, director of ministries for Elizabeth Ministry International. The program titled, “Mourning the Loss of a Child: What to Say-What to Do,” is open to individuals, ministers and others. Day 2, titled “Remembering the Children Memorial Prayer Service,” with speaker Hannemann, will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Shrine of Christ Passion, 10630 Wicker Ave., (U.S. 41), St. John.

To register for Day 1 call (219) 730-9199 or (219) 838-5755 or email hannemansfamily@elizabethministry.com with name or organization, number of attendees, contact name, email and phone. To submit a child’s name for the memorial program on Day 2, send child’s name, your name and phone number to jillsn@elizabethministry.com. The event is sponsored by the Diocese of Gary Office of Pro-Life Activities, Elizabeth Ministry and St. Michael Respect Life Ministry.
MISHAWAKA — Under a tent on the bright, sunny morning of Sept. 9, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center president and CEO, Albert Gutierrez, welcomed those present and stressed his obligation to protect the mission and values of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who founded the hospital.

Close to 150 Sisters of the Holy Cross, alumna of Saint Joseph-Holy Cross Nursing School, associates and others were present for the ceremony.

Close to 150 Sisters of the Holy Cross, alumna of Saint Joseph-Holy Cross Nursing School, associates and others were present for the ceremony. In South Bend, a new location near the cross in front of the women's former hospital was dedicated and placed on the Mishawaka campus.

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

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Historical marker honoring Civil War sister-nurses rededicated

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

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New Paris couple Ben and Jeannie Ewing is shown with their daughters Felicity and Sarah. Six-month-old Sarah recently had her first surgery to open fused bones in her skull and will soon have surgery to correct fused fingers and toes.

Couple’s faith sustains, inspires through child’s challenges

By Denise Fedorow

NEW PARIS — From the moment Sarah Ewing was born it was apparent that there were challenges ahead. But God has been very present to her parents, Ben and Jeannie Ewing, and to those around the family.

Sarah, was born with Apert Syndrome — a rare chromosomal disorder. Apert is a type of Craniosynostosis where one or more of the cranial plates in the skull fuse prematurely and affects one in 65,000 to 200,000 live births. Every system in the body can be affected. Many children with Apert Syndrome also have fused fingers and toes.

“Could it have been the right time without notice — it's a genetic fluke,” Ben said.

The Ewings were taken completely by surprise when Sarah was born with the characteristics of Apert — mitten-like hands, clubbed feet and craniofacial abnormalities. There were no signs in the ultra-sounds that Jeannie had during pregnancy, although their doctor said there should have been.

The New Paris couple has a strong faith background. They attend St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen — and now believe that Divine Providence protected them from that knowledge in advance.

Jeannie is a self-admitted worrier, and Ben said it’s possible that had they known, her worrying might have put the pregnancy at risk. Instead, Jeannie said she enjoyed her pregnancy with Sarah, even more than her first pregnancy when she did worry.

The couple’s older daughter, Felicity, will be three years old in November and she chose Sarah’s name before she was born. Jeannie delivered Sarah through Cesarean section and when she returned to the doctor’s office for her two week post-operative appointment, the doctor spoke to Jeannie about the effect Sarah’s birth had on her.

The doctor said, “Jeannie, I have to be honest with you — everything that happened with your labor and delivery has made a huge impact on me. Quite honestly, the entire thing was a miracle.”

She cited the fact that despite three ultrasounds there was no sign of Sarah’s condition and that the C-section went flawlessly, “I never performed such a perfect surgery in all of my profession. I felt God’s presence in the surgical room that day. I truly believe that God’s hands — not mine — delivered your baby that day,” the doctor told Jeannie.

Sarah is recovering from her first major surgery to correct the cranial bones. So far, she had Cranial Vault Reconstruction surgery at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. In Sarah’s case they performed a “distraction” from the posterior of the skull and put metal plates on both sides of her bitemporal plates.

The biggest danger with Apert’s is not having enough room for the brain to grow and develop properly. Children with Apert’s usually have to repeat the surgery as their bodies grow.

The Ewings have been passing out prayer cards to the medical professionals that care for their daughter. Ben passed out prayer cards to the nurses before Sarah’s surgery and two of the operating room nurses said they were also Catholic and assured the parents that a badge containing Father Solanus Casey’s relics would be able to remain with Sarah through her surgery.

Her second surgery will be to separate her fingers and toes. Last month was Craniofacial Acceptance Month and the couple promoted the cause in their community.

“Our society places such emphasis on exterior beauty and people can be so cruel and judgmental. A lot of kids with Craniofacial disorders are difficult to look at; this challenges us to look beyond that to the inner beauty,” Jeannie said, adding, “The slogan for this year’s acceptance month (was) ‘Beyond the Face There’s a Heart’ — it speaks to seeing the dignity of a person.”

Of her daughter Sarah, Ben said, “She’s definitely interested in the world around her. She’s social and likes to be around everyone.”

There are different levels of severity in the physical and cognitive characteristics of Apert Syndrome. The Ewings are not sure how severe her case is, but they are hopeful she has a mild case.

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“While we know that Apert’s is going to be a difficult journey, we are hoping to instill a sense of wonder in God’s creation, especially to who she is and what she brings to the world,” Ben said.

The bones of Sarah Ewing’s hands are fused together, a characteristic of Apert Syndrome, what is typically called “mitten hands.” All of the finger bones are present, however, so surgery to separate them will be done within the next few months.

It is a different journey compared with other parents they know as their days are consumed with doctor’s appointments, testing, dealing with social service agencies and trips to Riley Hospital for Children. It is a lesson in patience and humility the couple said.

“We may do different things on weekends but the goal is the same — to have a closer family,” Ben said.

The couple most wants others to realize “the simplest thing — to look beyond our physical differences and look at the heart of a person. Every soul is unique with gifts and talents,” Ben said.

“Don’t be afraid or uncomfortable with someone who’s different — make eye contact,” Jeannie urges. “Stop and see the person — the human within.”

For more information about Children’s Craniofacial Association visit the website at www.ccckids.org. For more about the Ewing’s journey, visit Jeannie’s blog at www.love
HAITIAN PRIESTS VISIT SACRED HEART SCHOOL, WARSAW

Father Edwige Carre and Father Isaac Nazaire, both of Haiti, recently visited Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, where they began their day with an all-school Mass concelebrated with Sacred Heart pastor, Father Phil DeVolder. Following Mass the priests were presented a large welcome banner and gifts. They visited students in classrooms throughout the school to discuss the cultural and other differences between Haiti and the U.S., such as lack of electricity in Haitian schools and the Haitian student-teacher ratio of 70-1. A special luncheon was then held in their honor. The day was facilitated by Debbie Reith, chair of Sacred Heart’s Haiti Committee with its sister parish in Kenscoff, Haiti, St. Nicolas.

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St. Michael Parish Celebrates 150 Years

The faithful of St. Michael Church in Plymouth gathered for a Mass celebrated in English and Spanish by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Sept. 29. The Mass closed the yearlong sesquicentennial or 150th anniversary.

The Knights of Columbus participate in the closing Mass of St. Michael’s sesquicentennial celebration year.

It was a standing-room-only celebration as the faithful gather near the entrance area of St. Michael Church for the closing Mass of the parish’s sesquicentennial.
PLYMOUTH — The multicultural makeup of the congregation was on full display in standing-room-only attendance at the Mass that concluded St. Michael Church’s sesquicentennial celebration on Sept. 29. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joyfully addressed the diverse ethnic audience with a bilingual Mass that included readings, music, prayers and liturgy in both English and Spanish. And to the delight of the crowd, the bishop delivered his homily in both languages.

Just as he had three years previously for the 100th anniversary of the current church building, the bishop was present to celebrate the parish’s patron saint. Today we celebrate the 150th anniversary of this parish, named with the title of one of the three great archangels, St. Michael,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Bishop Rhoades spoke to the congregation about St. Michael, who is mentioned four times in the Bible. “In the book of Daniel, Michael is identified as the ‘great prince,’ the protector of the children of Israel. In the letter of St. Jude, Michael is presented as disputing with the devil over the body of Moses,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“In the Book of Revelation, in the passage we heard in our second reading today, we read of the war that broke out in heaven, of Michael and his angels battling against Satan (the dragon) and his angels, the fallen angels.”

In a reference to the current challenges the Church faces today, Bishop Rhoades noted, “The Book of Revelation recounts how Michael and his angels prevailed. Satan and his angels were expelled from heaven and thrown down to earth. Based on these Scripture passages, the Church venerates St. Michael as the guardian angel of the Kingdom of Christ on earth, as the heavenly leader in the fight against all enemies of God.”

“Given our world and our culture today, it is good to renew our devotion to St. Michael, to defend us in battle and to be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil,” the bishop emphasized.

Bishop Rhoades also cited the growth of the diverse ethnic background of St. Michael Parish since its inception in 1862. While pointing to the church’s stained glass windows of St. Boniface and St. Patrick, he spoke of the many German and Irish immigrants in the early parish.

St. Michael parishioner Eyvonne Aker’s family has been at the parish for five generations. Her grandfather Milton Bottorff, who was German by birth, began the tradition of attending St. Michael with Aker’s parents, siblings, children and grandchildren following suit. “Church is more than a building; the lifelong friendships and support are what make St. Michael so very special. The celebration (of the sesquicentennial) brings all of this to life,” said Aker.

Kathleen Flynn Fox, whose father moved her family to Plymouth in 1960, is the descendent of four Irish grandparents. The eldest of six children, Fox recalls that St. Michael continues to be her “go to” place in good times and bad.

“When President Kennedy was shot, the Holy Cross Sisters brought the school children across the street to pray, and they did the same when Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy died. The children prayed, the adults lit candles, and we all cried. We were responsible to each other, we were all safe inside St. Michael Church,” Fox recalled.

In paying homage to St. Michael’s Hispanic community with the bilingual Mass, Bishop Rhoades’ message of community hit home with parishioner Sara Lopez. “I remember the festival in 2010 following the Mass recognizing the 100th anniversary of the church building. It was not just the Hispanic community or the English speaking community. It was a church community coming together,” said Lopez.

The coming together of the church community is also reflected in the parish’s participation in the ARISE Together in Christ ministry, according to English Parish ARISE coordinator Cindy Casper. Casper and her Spanish Parish ARISE coordinator counterpart Rosie Jamies are excited about the ministry’s growth.

“Over the past year, ARISE Together in Christ has been very successful in our parish. With the beginning of Session 3 the numbers participating have continued to remain about the same; 273 in our Spanish speaking community and 150 in the English community,” Casper explained.

“I believe St. Michael’s strong participation is due to the hour of Adoration the parish prays before each sign-up. At the end of Session 3 plans are beginning to be made for another community-wide gathering so both the Spanish and English communities can share their experiences,” she continued. And parishioner Nick Schafer alluded to the phrase “there is no place like home,” when speaking of his homecoming to St. Michael. “I returned to St. Mike’s and my first Mass back it was like I had never missed a beat. There are always new faces, but the open arms of the parish provide great comfort,” said Schafer.

At the end of Mass, Bishop Rhoades offered congratulations to pastor Holy Cross Father John S. Korcsmar, parochial vicar Father Eloy Jimenez and the parishioners of St. Michael on the conclusion of their celebration. “May St. Michael walk beside you, protect you and defend you always! May your parish community be a sign and instrument of the victory of God’s love and goodness,” he concluded.
done much damage to our culture. You do a great service by witnessing to the truth that obedience to God’s commandments, particularly the natural law and objective moral values, is the pathway to genuine freedom and also the source of true happiness.”

St. Paul’s admonition, “not to be conformed to this world” has special relevance and urgency in the current cultural context “in which skepticism about the very existence of moral truth and an objective moral law is quite prevalent,” he said.

The bishop said this attitude is quite common in many academic and political circles. People can feel pressured by forces, which contradict the things they know in their hearts to be true, like the truth about the nature of marriage.

“We face many cultural pressures in today’s society that promote false notions of freedom and equality while we try to uphold the moral law that is inscribed in our very humanity, the moral law that we can know by rational reflection, obligations that are universally true and binding, like the obligation to respect and protect all human life,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Upholding moral truth is seen by many as intolerance or as an abrogation of freedom (think, for example, of the rhetoric of pro-choice advocates). But this mentality distorts freedom, making it merely an assertion of one’s will.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke about how the U.S. Bishops are vigorously fighting the unjust HHS mandate as a matter of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

“We are defending the dignity of conscience,” he said. “Conscience is that holy place where God reveals to us our true good. It is important that people understand that conscience is not the mere assertion of personal will. Consciences must be formed so as to discern what corresponds to the eternal, objective and universal divine law, something human reason and intelligence is capable of discovering.

So the freedom of conscience we seek to defend is never freedom from the truth. It is freedom in the truth.”

As lawyers, judges, professors and students of law or political science, Bishop Rhoades said, “the Church needs you to be servants of the truth about the human person and about marriage, defenders of human dignity, and promoters of authentic human freedom, including religious liberty. You can help to rebuild the moral foundations of a genuine culture of freedom. I believe the future of our nation depends on a culture that adheres to the moral truths and values without which our democracy is imperiled.”

He spoke of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of those in the legal profession, and an example and model of moral integrity.

“He was absolutely faithful to his civil duties, and through his fidelity to his conscience, brought the values of the Gospel to the civil sphere,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Because of his fidelity and his refusal to violate
Isn’t ‘What Marriage Is … and Isn’t’

What Marriage Is … and Isn’t”

Following the Mass, Robert P. George, the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, spoke via teleconference at a dinner in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

George, a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and previously served on the President’s Council on Bioethics and as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He is a former Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States, where he received the Justice Tom C. Clark Award. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

His talk was entitled “What Marriage Is … and Isn’t?”

He spoke of marriage as a comprehensive sharing of life, a union at the bodily and emotional levels. His talk also explored how marriage is structured by norms of conduct and why marriage is a matter of public concern, rather than a purely private relationship.

George, along with Sherif Girgis and Ryan T. Anderson, co-wrote the book, “What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense” that identifies and defends reason for the historic consensus that no society had seen marriage as anything other than a conjugal partnership, a male-female union. The book, published by Encounter Books, is available at the Cathedral Bookstore for $15.99, and shows why redefining civil marriage is unnecessary, unreasonable and contrary to the common good.

St. Michael students provide musical accompaniment at a school Mass.

St. Michael Parish’s ministries serve St. Michael School provides well-rounded education

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

PLYMOUTH — St. Michael School in Plymouth is a place where students not only receive quality education from grades pre-k through eighth grade, but also is a place where they can grow academically, spiritually and socially in a unique environment that inspires them to be the best that they can be.

“I attribute that to the fact that teachers care deeply about their students,” Principal Amy Weidner said.

St. Michael School provides full-day kindergarten through eighth grade classes with curriculum that includes religion, language arts, mathematics, music/band/choir/orchestra, social studies, science/health, art, physical education, computers and Spanish.

The school currently has 187 students from pre-k through grade 8 who come from as far as Rochester, Etna Green, Monterey and Culver. The school includes not only Catholic students, but students from all faiths who are welcomed by 23 faculty and staff members.

Sports are also a part of the well-rounded education. St. Michael School has active participation in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) for girls’ and boys’ basketball grades 5/6 and 7/8, boys’ and girls’ soccer and girls’ volleyball.

“The school also offers grades 4 girls’ and boys’ basketball, which includes competition with the Plymouth elementary schools. “We will be looking to add ICCL baseball and possibly softball,” Weidner said.

Students who need help with English speaking skills receive English as a second language services from the ENL (English new language) teacher, the classroom teachers and teacher assistants, noted Weidner.

Not only do staff and teachers work to provide a great education for students, but parents regularly help at school and in classrooms by serving on committees, coaching athletics, running and organizing fundraisers, and in classrooms all day, every day of the week.

“They work with small groups of students and work in the classrooms to provide additional interventions work with students and also work with students who benefit from enrichment work in reading and math,” said Weidner. “Our volunteers are amazing and a true gift to our school students and staff!”

Weidner said Sister Rosemary Jung, a retired Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sister, comes every day to help with anything that is needed in the kindergarten.

All students attend Mass throughout the week. Grades 1-3 attend Mass on Tuesdays. On Wednesdays, grades 4 and 5 attend Mass. On Thursday, grades 6, 7 and 8 attend Mass.

“This allows students to connect, do the readings and psalm,” Weidner said. “On Fridays, grades k-8 attend the all-school Mass together. At the conclusion of Mass on Fridays, we celebrate and recognize our students of the week and our students of the month. On Tuesdays, the students of the week eat lunch at a specially decorated table in the cafeteria and receive a special St. Michael Crusader cookie for dessert. Students/Crusaders of the month receive a pizza lunch and a special dessert during their lunchtimes. They also have their first names and last initial displayed on our electronic school sign.”

St. Michael School’s door is always open with ideas welcomed by teachers, administrators and volunteers, all focused on the same goal — to make each child’s education a priority as they learn, thrive and succeed in all they do.
SHARING THE JOY as St. Michael’s celebrates 150 years!
Best wishes to the priests, staff and parish community.

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May Providence continue to bless St. Michael Parish and its parish family. Congratulations on 150 years serving the faithful.
BILL FORTIN, PARISHIONER

Congratulating to St. Michael’s Thanks be to Providence for providing leadership and resources for the faithful of Plymouth for 150 years.
ROY MICHAEL ROUSH Attorney-At-Law
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Variety of parish life ministries

St. Michael Parish has several varied parish life ministries for parishioners.

One of the many choices is the refreshments/cake and coffee. It offers parishioners an opportunity to get to know one another after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on various Sundays. Those who want to learn more about Sacred Scripture can do so every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement. Spanish Bible studies are also provided on Sunday afternoons.

The St. Michael Altar-Rosary group provides funeral luncheons at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Plymouth.

A prayerline is offered for requests through the rectory line as well as other phone lines for serious needs at all times.

Baptismal preparation and marriage preparation classes are also offered.

Harvest House is a social organization for parishioners and friends over age 55. They meet monthly for lunch at the Christos Banquet Center. At each meeting they have a guest speaker on a variety of topics.

St. Michael Pastor Holy Cross Father John S. Karczmar has come to know this faith community as “a friendly parish.” He said, “The people are eager to serve one another. They take their faith and ministries seriously.”

He has been impressed with the history of St. Michael and said, “It’s a parish with roots. There are many families who have had parents and grandparents who have grown up here. Having these roots is a factor in building community. It’s part of its identity.”
Reflections on Pope Francis’ interview

As by now everyone in the world knows, Pope Francis offered a lengthy and wide-ranging interview to the editor of Civita Cattolica, which was subsequently published in 16 Jesuit-sponsored journals from a variety of countries. As we come to expect practically anytime that this pope speaks, the interview has provoked a media frenzy. To judge by the headlines in The New York Times and on CNN, the Catholic Church is in the midst of a moral and doctrinal revolution, led by a maverick pope bent on dragging the old institution into the modern world. I might recommend that everyone take a deep breath and prayerfully (or at least thoughtfully) read what Pope Francis actually said. For what he actually said is beautiful, lyrical, spirit-filled, and in its own distinctive way, revolutionary.

The first question to which the pope responded in this interview as simple as: “Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio (his given name)?” After a substantial pause, he said, “a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon.” At the heart of the matter, at the core of the “Catholic thing,” is this encounter between us sinners and the God of amazing grace. Long before we get to special teaching, to debates about birth control and abortion, to adjudicating questions about homosexual activity, to disputes about liturgy, etc., we have the grace moment when sinners are accepted, even though they are unacceptable. Pope Francis aptly illustrated his observation by drawing attention to Caraggio’s masterpiece, “The Conversion of St. Matthew,” which depicts the instant when Matthew, a thoroughly self-absorbed and materialistic man, found himself looked upon by Christ’s merciful gaze. Because of that look, Matthew utterly changed, becoming first a disciple, then a missionary and finally a martyr.

I believe that this first answer reflects

God restores us to life

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL
MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lk 17:11-19

The Second Book of Kings furnishes this weekend with its first Scriptural reading at Mass. Once the two books of Kings were a single volume, but time passed, and editors divided the volume into two: 1 Kings and 2 Kings. They are among the Old Testament’s historical writings. While they are interested in the careers of the early kings of Israel, as the name implies, none of the Old Testament is primarily about history in and of itself. Instead, the Old Testament books all are concerned with religion, and more precisely with the relationship between God and all the Hebrew people. In the view of the ancients, the most important question in life was how to live in faithfulness to God. Nothing else mattered.

So, while the kings are prominent in these books, religious figures also are much in evidence. This weekend’s reading is an example. The central personality is not a king, but rather is Naaman. Two strikes are against Naaman. He is a Gentile, and he is a leper. It was much more than a coincidence of birth, religious choice or bad luck when it came to health. Even in that instance smacked of estrangement from God. Leprosy was seen, for instance, as punishment for sin.

Naaman was cured by bathing in the Jordan. The Jordan formed an important border between the Promised Land, overflowing with life, and the Jordan Valley, filled with treachery and death and people by unbelievers. Crossing the Jordan symbolized, and indeed was, entry into the land of God’s chosen.

After being cured, Naaman went to thank God, represented by Elisha, the prophet. It is a story, then, of the power of mercy and of recognizing God.

The Second Epistle to Timothy is the next reading. The epistle to Timothy is the farewell text of Paul, the apostle. It is a story of the power of mercy and of recognizing God.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading, “Leprosy” occurring throughout the Scriptures. What was it in today’s clinical sense? Obviously chronic, progressive and then without any known cure, modern medical historians do not know. This is clear. It was a fearful fate.

Unaware of the workings of disease, ancient Jews saw a curse from God in leprosy. Somewhere, somehow, the leper had disobeyed God.

Fearing contagion, communities forced lepers to live apart. Lepers could have no communication with those “clean” of leprosy. Isolated lepers were forced to live lives of want to the point of starvation.

This reading also has an ethnic component. Jews scorned Samaritans. Samaritans long ago had tolerated pagan invaders, and they had intermarried with the pagans, producing offspring not purely Hebrew, thereby blurring the identity of the chosen people. Jews thought that Samaritans were the worst of the worst, incapable of anything good. Amid all this, Jesus heals and forgives. His actions were works of God. He was God.

Reflection

Presumably Jews, nine of the lepers cured in this story from St. Luke’s Gospel likely saw themselves as being entitled to God’s mercy and forgiveness.

The 10th leper was different. He was a Samaritan. The Jews would have thought that his ancestors forfeited this claim to divine mercy. Moreover, Samaritan sight was limited, and Samaritan resolve was weak. Nevertheless, the 10th leper realized that God’s mercy had come to him. He gave thanks to Jesus, whom the leper understood to be the bearer of divine mercy.

By sinning we all have deserted God. We all are lepers, and Samaritans, and in the biblical context. With unending love, God cures us of the weakening effects of our sin, restores us to life, and welcomes us into the fold of those loyal to God.

The key is our own humility and our will to seek God.

The field hospital is open:

The Conversion of St. Matthew, which depicts the instant when Matthew, a thoroughly self-absorbed and materialistic man,...

WORD ON FIRE
FATHER ROBERT BARRON

Reflection

Amid all this, Jesus heals and
forgives. His actions were works
of God. He was God.

The Key is our own humility
and our will to seek God.

Saint of the Week

Louis Bertrand
1526-1581
October 9

Louis became a Dominican at 18 and was ordained a priest in 1547. He was novice-master in his native Spain on and off for 30 years and gained a reputation for holiness by caring for plague victims in Valencia in 1557. In 1562, he went as a missionary to the Caribbean, working in Colombia, and the Leeward, Virgin and Windward Islands for six years. His apostolic zeal, aided by the gift of tongues and other miraculous events, resulted in 15,000 conversions among the Indian populations. After he returned to Spain, he trained preachers for the missions, saying the only effective preparation was humble and fervent prayer. He was canonized in 1671 and is the principal patron saint of Colombia.

READINGS
Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17 Ps 98:1-4 2 Lk 17:11-19
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25 Ps 192:5 Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11 Ps 622:3-6, 7, 9 Lk 11:42-46
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30 Ps 1301:6 Lk 11:67-54
Friday: 2 Tim 4:10-17 Ps 145:10-13ab, 17-18 Lk 101:9
Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18 Ps 105:6, 42-43 Lk 12:8-12

SOMETHING
What we were married, my husband and I moved into a house that had never lived in before. No nicks in the woodwork, no carpet stains, no glow-in-the-dark constellations stuck to the ceiling. A blank slate for a new marriage.

We marveled over its pristine condition, breathing in that new-house smell and sprawling across the empty living room.

Immediately, I started scheming about how to adorn the bare walls. Left to my own devices, I would’ve imagined the nearest Kohl’s or red-filled my cart with home décor of the live-love-laugh variety, but Ted urged me to wait.

We bought it for sheepish after several months of inviting visitors into such a sparse house, I came to see the wisdom in taking my time, especially when we eventually found décor that felt unique. We inherited a painting by my great-grandpa, a crock Ted’s grandma used to store coleslaw and an ice chest his parents had accepted as one round of payment on the sale of their first home. I bought St. Andrew Daily Mass with a 1950 imprimatur at a church sale. And my latest find came through Craigslist: a 7-foot, century-old church pew. The seller, who was Craigslist: a 7-foot, century-old church pew. The seller, who was

The allure of the vintage

Christina Cappechi

Christina Cappechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.
Jean Valjean and immigration

*The Miserables,* the musical based on Victor Hugo’s novel, has been running in London since 1985. Last Christmas, it was released as a movie that won three Academy Awards. By the time of the DVD release, the film had grossed more than $440 million worldwide.

The music and the all-star cast (including Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman) had a lot to do with the movie’s success, but the story is the real attraction. Jean Valjean, the protagonist, spends 19 years in prison for stealing bread to feed his sister and her seven children. Upon his release, he is issued a yellow feuille de route, a kind of domestic passport that identifies him as a former convict, making travel and employment difficult. Inevitably, he violates his parole. For this, Inspector Javert, the righteous embodiment of the law, pursues him throughout the novel.

Living under an assumed name, Valjean becomes a successful entrepreneur and the mayor of his town. He adopts the orphaned child (Cosette) of one of his factory workers. But then Javert finds him, again. The rest of the novel is an account of the effort to bring Valjean to justice.

Hugo meant for the reader to sympathize with Valjean’s petty crime, committed out of desperate need and generosity rather than cruelty or selfishness, cost him 19 years of his life, and another seven years on the run from Javert. In the meantime, Valjean lived an exemplary life, did much good for his town and his employees, and took in Cosette. In the end, (spoiler alert) even Javert is overcome by Valjean’s goodness.

My mind returns to this story when the issue of illegal immigration arises. The main argument against providing some form of relief for undocumented immigrants — such as a path to citizenship — is the problem of “rewarding” people who broke the law by entering the U.S. without permission or who stayed without permission. I’m not one of a romantic to believe that every undocumented immigrant has the soul of Jean Valjean, but the crime they have committed (crossing the border without going through customs) is often motivated by a desire to feed a family.

I don’t mean to minimize or excuse breaking the law. It’s wrong to jump the immigration queue, especially when so many must wait years for U.S. residency. It’s also wrong for undocumented immigrants to presume on another nation’s hospitality.

But we must be careful of adopting a resolute, unforgiving, uphold-the-law-at-all-costs approach, like the one taken by Javert. He spent his last days hell bent on ruining a model citizen who posed a threat to no one and in fact made his world a better place.

As long as we’re going strictly by the book, it’s worth mentioning that federal law treats the act of illegal entry into the U.S. as a mere “administrative offense,” less serious than theft.

It makes perfect sense to say that those who wish to live here should have to get in line behind legal applicants. Make them pay a fine and back taxes for the period of their illegal stay. And just to make sure they are the kind of people we want to allow to reside here permanently, make them wait 10 years for permanent residency, so often more years before they can apply for citizenship — nearly as long as Javert spent pursuing Valjean.

There are the terms proposed in the bill the Senate passed in June. I don’t think anyone could fairly accuse us of coddlng criminals if we adopted an approach of avoidance.

At the end of the day, we have to stop hounding people for something they did long ago, often for generous reasons.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

**FAITH OF ONE**

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

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**APPRECIATION FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CRS**

Dear Bishop Rhodes,

I extended my deepest appreciation to you and the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for your generous contribution of $56,892,08 to Catholic Relief Services for CRS Rice Bowl. Your gift will have a profound impact on the lives of the people we serve in our efforts to alleviate poverty, attain food and nutrition security and improve their livelihoods.

Catholic Relief Services is able to extend our reach and multiply the effect of what we do in 100 countries. Thanks to gifts like yours, we have been able to embrace those in greatest need for nearly 65 years. On behalf of all of us at CRS and those who will be touched by your gifts, I thank you for leading the faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and marginalized people overseas.

May God bless you for your prayers and continued generosity.

Dr. Carolyn W. President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services

**SCRIPTY SEARCH**

Gospel for October 13, 2013

Luke 17:11-19

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the story of nine lepers who never came back. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

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**SCRIPTURAL SEARCH**

John 19:41-42

Jesus took the body of his mother into his care.

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**Thank You. Signed, Pro-Choice**

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**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. Father Barron also works with NBC News as an On Air Contributor/Analyst. Learn more at www.WordonFire.org

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**BARRON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

given by Pope Francis provides the interpretive lens for reading the rest of the interview. He is confessing to be a sinner who is able to survey both Church and society with astonishment, clarity and sincerity. One of the most commented upon remarks in the interview is the following: “This Church with which we should be thinking is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people.” What the pope is signaling here is that the Church, as his predecessor Paul VI put it, doesn’t have a mission; it is a mission, for its purpose is to cause the merciful face of Jesus to gaze upon everyone in the world. It is not an exclusive club where only the morally perfect are welcome, but rather, a home for sinners, which means a home for everybody.

And this insight provides the right context for understanding another controversial remark from the interview: “The Church sometimes has locked itself up in small things, in small-minded rules. The most important thing is the social dociliation. Jesus Christ has saved you.” The Pope is not suggesting that rules — moral, spiritual, liturgical, etc. — are unnecessary or unimportant, but he is indirectly suggesting that they are secondary to the central reality of encountering the living Christ. If the Church leads with moral regulation, it will appear, especially to our postmodern culture, as fussy, puritanical, censorious. And it will most likely alienate and provoke a defensive reaction on the part of those it wishes to reach. It ought to lead with its always-appealing central message, namely the saving cross of Jesus, and only then should it speak of the moral and spiritual disciplines that will bring people into greater conformity with Christ. If I might proffer a perhaps trite analogy: when attempting to attract a young kid to the game of baseball, you don’t begin with the rulebook; rather, you begin with the beauty and majesty and rhythm of the game — and then you trust that he will come in time to understand the nature and purpose of the rules from the inside.

The Church of Francis’ gifts as a communicator is a peculiar feel for the memorable image: “Shepherds should smell like their sheep”; and seminarians are “family” that will come in time to understand the nature and purpose of the rules from the inside.

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**JOHN GARVEY**

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**JESUS GALLIUE
AT A DISTANCE
HE SAW THEM
ONE OF THEM
LOVE
N I N E
L JERUSALEM
VILLAGE
PRIESTS
HEALED
FEET
FO R E I G N E R
SAMARIA
TEN LEPERS
M A S T E R
C LE A N S E D
G O D
S A M A R I T A N
F A I T H**
Sports

ICCL marks final week of regular season

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The Inter-City Catholic League had the stage set at Marian High School to crown its regular season champions as the schedule had the undefeated Mishawaka Catholic Saints playing the Panthers of St. Anthony/ St. Joseph/St. Pius X whose only blemish was an early-season tie. In recent weeks started five linemen had manhandled its opponents, but the trio of Matt Forsey, Michael Godfrey and Casey Connery of the Panthers were just as big and as athletic, posing a problem throughout the day for the gold and purple.

The Panthers also had a hard running back in the form of Charlie McFadden, who started the game off with a 47-yard kick off return deep into the Saints’ side of the field.

The Saints would take advantage of the field position with the aid of quarterback Ben Lambont’s 20 strike to McFadden immediately followed by the running back catching the edge and sprinting the remaining 11 yards for first blood with only one minute and 50 seconds gone by. The points after try was no good making the early margin just 6-0.

The Saints would have their chance to move the chains with a balanced attack of fullback John Cataldo and running back Kayvion Hightower. The Panthers stuffed the tailback in the backfield ending Mishawaka Catholic’s opening drive.

The next Panther drive was stalled by yellow handkerchiefs as the maroon-and-gold-clad linemen were called for their third holding call of the half.

The Saint one-two punch of Cataldo and Keultjes started gaining yards, marching the ball down to the Panther six, until the maroon wall held firm capped an Aaron Williamsowski sack to end the threat.

It looked as though the half would end that way until Zack Horvath picked off an errant Lambont pass and raced down the sideline to the nine with just 17 ticks of the clock left.

A Cataldo run to the two was followed by Keultjes silencing the chattering of Zack Whitfield and tied the score. Edgar Moralis’ kick was true giving the Saints a two-point margin going into the locker room.

The teams would trade bars and take the field for the second half. The Saints moved the chains, but were never able to sustain a drive and the Saints were just as big and as athletic, posing a problem throughout the day for the gold and purple.

The Saints’ fullback Cataldo burst through the line of Panthers and added a late score making the contest a 14-6, final.

“We prepared for a physical game and that’s exactly what happened,” said Cataldo.

Panthers’ skipper Tony Violi. “The Panthers are well coached and have some really good players and played their hearts out.”

Catholic, that would be the end to the Panthers’ Cinderella hopes with 49 seconds left.

Trying to run out the clock, the Saints’ two-point conversion was no good and St. Anthony/ St. Joseph/St. Pius X wins 16-8.

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Cardegles cross-country teams progress at regional invitationals

BY MICHELE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Cardegles, a combined cross-country team of 25 male runners and 27 female runners from St. Jude and St. Charles grade schools, are off and running for their 2013 season. They have had several races to date and the boys’ varsity team has compiled a 65-14 record (JV 10-5), while the girls have a 55-27 start (JV 13-5) after seven meets. At this point in their schedule, Coach Dan Kaufman reports that his teams are making good progress.

Recently, the teams ran a seven-team parochial school meet hosted by the Fort Wayne Lutheran Middle Schools at Concordia Seminary and both the boys and girls took top honors.

The Cardegles also ran a split squad with 14 varsity boys and girls competing at the 43rd annual West Noble Invitational in Ligonier, and the remainder of the team competed at the Huntington Catholic Invite where the younger Cardegles both finished fourth.

At the West Noble Invite the boys had an outstanding performance finishing fourth out of 34 teams. The girls also ran very well finishing 10th. The meet included some of the best middle school runners and teams from northern Indiana. Individually, Ebitino was the top Cardegle girl finisher at 25th followed by Hannah Ewing in 32nd. Kochanski and Isaiah Wiseman were the top boys at 18th and 30th.

Earlier in the season the team competed at Prairie Heights where the boys won the championship and the girls finished second. At Indian Springs, another big meet, the boys were sixth in a field of 25 teams and the girls were ninth out of 24 schools. In that meet, Kochanski’s time of 10:52 ranked him as the ninth fastest Cardegle ever, and in the same meet, Ebitino ran a 12:16 for seventh on the all-time girls’ list, while Julia Eckrich’s 12:30 earned her the 12th spot on the all-time list. Finally, both boys and girls won a three-way meet over Shawnee and Portage Middle schools.

To date, the top seven girls and boys by time have been: Ebitino, Ewing, Eckrich, Natalie Vogan, Aileen Delaney, Maggie Schroeder and Julia Broerman for the girls and Kochanski, Wiseman, Collin Cahill, Emmett Delaney, Kochanski, Jonah Getty and Ron Record for the boys. Andy Myers, Katie Nix, Lauryn Federspiel and Mary Horine have also competed at the varsity level.

Next up, the team will host the annual Cardegle Invitational on Oct. 10 at 4:30 p.m. at Shoaff Park.
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.

Carpenters with Wings
Garrett — St. Joseph School will have a tuition assistance event on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Bennett Hall from 6-11 p.m. Two $500 scholarship drawings will be held at 7 p.m. Adults $5, children $3. Snacks and beverages will be available in the tent during the family friendly Karaoke and Notre Dame football game at 8 p.m.

St. Hedwig Polish Festival
South Bend — St. Hedwig Parish will have a festival at the Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. A polka Mass at 11 a.m. will be followed by games, raffles and food. Admission is free.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner Friday, Oct. 18, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3.50. Carry-out available.

Fall play to be presented
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers drama department will present “Is There A Comic In The House?” on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Our Lady of the Angels Hallman at (574) 259-5427. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers gymnasium. Tickets are $7.

Diamond dinner planned
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will host a Saints Alive! Diamond Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Philmore on Broadway. Highlights include dinner, live music, dancing and each lady in attendance will have a chance to win a 1+ karat diamond. Online registration is available at www.bishopdwenger.com.

Shopping event planned
Monroeville — St. Joseph School HASA, will have a shopping extravaganza on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Monroeville Fire Station. A variety of vendors will be on hand. Food will be provided by the Fire Department Auxiliary.

The Franciscan Brothers Minor and the World Apostolate of Fatima plan event Fort Wayne — A celebration of Your True Self.” Bring a Bible. The theme for the day is “Ending ‘Same Sex Marriage,” Thursday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in the North Campus auditorium. Visit www.sf.edu for the listing of speakers.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Ending the Masquerade to Become Your True Self.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Oct. 25 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

St. Anthony De Padua Parish Mission
with Fr. Jewel Aytona, CPM

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All Souls Day Mass

In the Resurrection Mausoleum Chapel of
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Saturday, November 2, 2013 - Noon
Monsignor John N. Suelzer, Celebrant

St. Anthony De Padua
Parish Mission

National Catholic Society of Foresters

Stronger. Smarter. For Life.
professionals to never allow their faith to be compromised by participating in so-called health services that are immoral, even if promoted by some who have bought into the growing culture of death in society.

“Be apostles of life and witnesses to the sanctity of human life,” he said. “Maybe you’ll experience rejection by colleagues for refusing to prescribe contraception, perform sterilizations or participate in abortions. The Christian on the path to holiness cares more about faithfulness to God’s commands than the affirmation and praise of the world.”

He concluded with this prayer, “May the Lord Jesus strengthen you and all who serve in the medical profession.”

Following Mass and a dinner in the parish community center, Dr. Thomas McGovern, a local physician and president of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, welcomed all in attendance. He pointed out that the guild is the first of its kind in the entire state, although others are in formation in Indiana and elsewhere, and that its primary role is the sanctification of its members.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the White Mass for those who work in the healing profession on Oct. 1 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne. With Bishop Rhoades are Father David Voyce, left, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, and Father Daniel Scheidt, right, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

Its mission statement describes it as a physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes and inspires its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.

Dr. McGovern introduced the evening’s speaker, Sister Deirdre Byrne, a Virginia native and a sister in the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts order. Sister Dede, as she is more commonly known, was raised by daily Mass-going parents in a family of eight children. She credits her parents for her early foundation in the faith. “Parents, never underestimate your effect on your children’s lives,” she reminded her audience. Sister Dede is a retired Army colonel and an active general surgeon and family practitioner in Washington, D.C. As recently as 2008 she was with the U.S. Army on the Pakistani border where she saw terrible atrocities and incomprensible violence. Even more recently, in 2010, she took her final vows and entered the convent where she is now a religious superior.

Through various stages on her interesting journey, Sister Dede has remained steadfast as a warrior for life. Just as Bishop Rhoades exhorted his listeners to be apostles of life and witnesses to the sanctity of life, Sister Dede emphasized the need to be strong for Christ in the struggle against today’s culture of death. She went on to relate many instances in which that battle was fought, some more successfully than others.

On one occasion a pregnant mother’s fetus was tested and found to be a Down syndrome child. The mother, in despair, wanted to have an abortion, but Sister Dede intervened, found adoptive parents and persuaded her to give birth to the baby. On another occasion, a young mother suffering from cancer and metastatic disease became pregnant and her doctor recommended an abortion. Even though Sister Dede knew the mother wished to carry her baby to term and advocated for her, the child was aborted when the young woman was comatose and unable to convey her wishes. “We’re in a battle” for life, she acknowledged sadly.

“I encourage you to remain strong” in the fight, she advised the medical community. And she employed the analogy of using oxygen on an airplane during an emergency. First, help yourself, and then help others. That means, she said, first strengthen yourself by deepening your relationship with Christ, and then help your coworkers to do the same. “We have to work together,” to heal the wounds before we can address the problems.

Sister Dede closed with a fitting military reference. “We are God’s ‘field medics’ in the battle for life, she said.

Dr. McGovern concluded the evening with a heartfelt invitation to all those medical professionals in attendance to consider joining the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana. He noted in a recent article in Today’s Catholic, “The culture of death does not tolerate Catholic beliefs in action. In order to remain true to our faith and to avoid being swallowed up by the secular culture we need to form a vibrant Catholic medical subculture so that we may be affirmed in our vocations to carry Christ with us wherever we go — especially into our hospitals and offices.”