Humility, virtuous love encouraged at Marriage and Family Conference

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

NOTRE DAME — Clinical psychologist and adoptive father of 10 children, Dr. Ray Guarendi, a nationally renowned author and speaker on marriage and family issues, often appearing on EWTN, Catholic Answers and Ave Maria Radio, served as the keynote speaker for the Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference and workshops held at the University of Notre Dame on March 29.

The morning began with prayer led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who stressed the “ongoing need of conversion, not only for individuals, but also within our family lives.” He continued, “Growth in Christian marriage and in Christian family life means growth in virtue, in holiness. Marital and familial love involves sacrifice in everyday situations for one’s spouse and children, in imitation of Jesus’ self-giving love.”

Bishop Rhoades also expressed his hope that the conference would be “a help in fostering growth in virtue and holiness through the holy vocation of marriage and through the family. All of us, married or celibate, are called to conversion, to cease doing evil and to learn to do good.”

Guarendi began his talk using personal examples from his own experience as a husband, father and professional psychologist, along with plenty of humor, to inform, entertain and challenge the audience to approach marriage and parenting with forgiveness, understanding, strength and discipline.

“Sometimes we have to tell our spouse over...”

Changing of the guard in Vocation Office

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has seen a changing of the guard recently as Mary Szymbczak retires after 20 years of faithful service, first as administrative assistant and later as associate director. Christine Bonahoom-Nix took up the challenge in her stead on March 24. Adding to the transition in personnel, the Vocation Office has recently moved from the Blessed John Paul II Center in Mishawaka to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne as well.

The face of the Vocation Office has changed a great deal over the past two decades, with three moves and an increase in seminarians. Szymbczak recalls her first encounter 20 years ago with the small office. “We began with eight seminarians when I started,” she says. “We tried to figure out the direction for the office then.”

Currently, Szymbczak reports, there are 30 seminarians discerning their vocation at seminary. The increase she notes came about slowly after Pope John Paul II instituted the World Youth Days. “We’ve had five to six enter (the seminary) these past few years,” she says.

Much of her work has been “taking care of the seminarians,” says Szymbczak, from the time of application to applying to the seminary and beyond. This jack-of-all-trades not only kept the Vocation Office organized, she also took care of insurance and the office budget, as well as organizing the vocations talks and the rich traditional ordinations to the Priesthood.

Szymbczak enjoyed her interaction with the seminarians who she kept supplied with what they needed while nurturing them as a mother would. “I tell them, ‘I’m your mom. You call me if you have a problem.’” And she adds with a smile, “It was like keeping track of...”

FAMILY, PAGE 3

VOICATIONS, PAGE 5

Mary Szymbczak, left, who is retiring after 20 years of service in the Vocation Office, poses with Christine Bonahoom-Nix, right, the new administrative assistant and Msgr. Bernard Galic, director of the office.
The raising of Lazarus

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In my last two columns, I reflected on the Sunday Gospels of the woman at the well and of the man born blind. These profound passages from Saint John’s Gospel have a baptismal perspective: Jesus promising living water to the Samaritan woman; and Jesus, the Light of the world, giving sight to the man born blind. This Sunday’s Gospel, again from Saint John, also has a baptismal significance. The raising of Lazarus from the dead points to our rising in faith to a new and eternal life through Baptism. Water, light, and life! These Sundays of Lent form a stimulating baptismal journey since the first centuries of Christianity. These Gospels continue to be proclaimed and have particular meaning for our catechumens preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. They have meaning for all of us as we strive, with the help of God’s grace, to live our baptismal promises.

We are all familiar with the miracle of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. This story from the 11th chapter of John’s Gospel is frequently chosen for funeral Masses. It is good when we commend our deceased brothers and sisters to the Lord that we hear the words of Jesus to Lazarus’ sister Martha, words that give us comfort and hope: I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

We can only imagine the surprise, maybe even consternation, of those who heard Jesus say those words. Martha believed Jesus’ words. A short time later, all were able to see the truth of Jesus’ words when, at His command, Lazarus (who had already been in the tomb for four days) came forth alive. The truth of Jesus’ proclamation that He is the resurrection and the life would become even more apparent on Easter Sunday morning with His own resurrection, the final victory over evil and death.

The raising of Lazarus was a sign of Christ’s power over death. He is “the life” who pulls down that wall that can seem impenetrable to us: the wall of death. It shows us Christ’s lordship over death. Christ gives us a trustworthy hope of life beyond death. We need Martha’s faith in the midst of the doubts and fears we might encounter in the face of tragedies, especially in the face of death. When Jesus asked Martha if she believed He was the resurrection and the life, she replied: Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.

We express this faith in the resurrection in the beautiful prayer in the Roman Missal, part of the Preface at Funeral Masses: Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.

While the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus shows Jesus’ power over physical death, it also points to Jesus’ power over spiritual death. In this vein, Saint Augustine saw the raising of Lazarus as a symbol of the sacrament of Penance. Just as burial clothes bound Lazarus, sin binds human beings. Jesus told the people to unbind the burial bands from Lazarus as he came forth from the tomb. So the Lord, through His priests, unbinds sinners from the chains of sin, from spiritual death in the sacrament of Penance. We truly experience new life, a kind of second Baptism, through this sacrament of God’s mercy.

Saint Augustine wrote in a homily on this Gospel: Everyone who sins, dies. Every man fears the death of the flesh, few the death of the soul. In regard to the death of the flesh, which without a doubt must some day come, all guard against its coming; that is the reason for their labors. Man, destined to die, labors to avert his dying; and yet man, destined to live in eternity does not labor to avoid sinning. Lent is a season that reminds us to labor to avoid sinning. This is the point of our Lenten penance and sacrifices: interior conversion.

It is our mission as Christians to proclaim that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. It means we live as a people of hope and that we spread that hope to others. Saint Peter wrote: Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope (1 Peter 3:15). Of course, that hope must first be real and personal, based on our encounter with Christ and His mercy, so that we can witness to the joy that arises from the gift of living hope we have received. This is the witness that evangelizes, the witness of joyful and hope-filled disciples of Jesus, those who believe that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life.

As we approach Holy Week, let us pray that our own faith may be strengthened, so that we, like Martha, can place all our hope in Him who is the resurrection and the life! May the intercession of our Blessed Mother strengthen our faith and hope in her Son, especially in moments of trial and difficulty!
Pope and Obama discuss religious freedom, life issues, immigration

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In their first encounter, Pope Francis received U.S. President Barack Obama at the Vatican March 27 for a discussion that touched on several areas of tension between the Catholic Church and the White House, including religious freedom and medical ethics.

During an unusually long 50-minute meeting, the two leaders discussed “questions of great relevance for the Church in the (U.S.), such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection as the issue of immigration reform,” the Vatican said in statement.

The mention of religious freedom and conscience and religious freedom presumably referred to the contraception mandate in the new health care law, which has become a major source of conflict between the administration and the Church.

According to the Vatican statement, Pope Francis and Obama also had an “exchange of views on some current international themes, and it was hoped that in areas of conflict, there would be respect for humanitarian and international law and a negotiated solution between the parties involved.”

In September, Pope Francis launched a high-profile campaign against President Obama’s planned military strikes to punish the government of President Bashar Assad for its presumed use of chemical weapons.

In his first meeting with Obama, Francis met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, host of a G-20 summit, decrying the “futile pursuit of a military solution,” and a few days later led a prayer with the pope: “May God protect the population of Syria, those without opportunity and not to touch in detail” on the contraband war.

Obama will attend that event, which could bring the same sins to God month after month, year after year. How would we react if God refused to forgive us? No marriage, no relaying of institutional power unless we acquire forgiveness and humility to get past the challenges you face or you risk having to endure continual frustration and resentment.

Dr. Guarendi also stressed the importance of husbands and wives working together as a team. He remarked that one of the most crucial elements of a healthy marriage is for the husband and wife to be able to put themselves in the midst of the other.

“He allies me how often I encounter men who have no idea why their wives think, say or do things in a certain way,” he said. “How do you get past this? Get inside her head and find out why she is frustrated or upset. Only when you are able to understand what she might be going through can you begin to work through it together.”

He also emphasized that women desire men who are not only open and communicative, but to have a spouse who is strong, reliable and someone they can count on consistently.

Guarendi said, “It is the responsibility of men to protect and defend their wives, standing strong with them and serving as the spiritual leader of the household.”

Guarendi also adamantly focused on teaching virtue to children. “The prominent quality many secular psychologists seem to promote in our culture is self-esteem,” Guarendi said. “However, what is sorely lacking in any notion of love should be instilling humility in our children.

Humility is the virtue at the heart of all the other virtues. We cannot establish morals and character without love, but that it must be tempered and directed. There are lots of strong willed children today because we now have many adults without will. Discipline without love is harsh. Love without discipline is child abuse.”

Lisa Everett spoke about building communication and intimacy in marriage, encouraging couples to share their entire selves with one another by being open in both mind and heart. She also shared the importance of non-verbal communication in marriage and the benefits of setting aside time each day to talk and pray together as often as possible.

John Sikorski offered an analysis of Pope Francis and the domestic Church, showing that the family is fundamentally a community centered on Christ in love and joy, while also providing the foundation of a just society, and serving as the primary place of reconciliation, peace, and moral formation.

During an extended handshake at the end of the meeting, Obama told the pope: “My family has to be with me on this journey. They’ve been very strong. Pray for them. I would appreciate it.”

After his meeting with the pope, Obama met with Cardinal Parolin for more than an hour. Kerry, Rice and Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican’s foreign minister, also participated in that meeting.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden.

U.S. President Barack Obama talks with Pope Francis during a private audience at the Vatican City March 27.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Leading a penitential liturgy in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis surprised his liturgical adviser by going to Confession during the service.

After an examination of conscience March 28, the pope and 61 priests moved into confessionals or to chairs set up against the walls to offer the sacrament to individual penitents.

However, as Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, was showing which confessionnal the pope would be using to hear Confessions, the pope pointed to another confessionnal nearby, indicating that he himself was going to first confess.

The pope, dressed in a simple white alb and purple stole, spent about three minutes kneeling before the priest’s open confessional and received absolution. The priest also clasped the pope’s hands and kissed his simple silver ring.

Pope Francis then went to another confession and spent about 40 minutes hearing confessions.

In his homily, the pope said following God’s call to conversion is not supposed to happen only during Lent, but is a lifetime commitment. He spoke about two key characteristics of Christian life: putting on a “new self, created in God’s way” and living in and sharing God’s love.

Renewal in Christ comes with Baptism, which frees people from sin and welcomes them as children of God and members of Christ and His Church, he said.

“Like many other scientists and intelligent design in television and lectures, Miller has illustrated the ideals of the Church of the Mass that Sunday, which is the Latin word for ‘rejoice,’ is the first word in the entrance antiphon of the Mass that Sunday, which ritualistically anticipates the celebration of Easter. The medal bears the Latin inscription, ‘Magna est veritas et prevalebit’ (‘Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail’).

Established at Notre Dame in 1883, the Laetare Medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic ‘whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity.’

“Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.”

Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder of the Christ Child Society

The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne wishes to express our gratitude to the parishes and parishioners who so generously participated in our 2014 Baby Bottle Fundraising project.

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THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU
30 sons. They called me mom.”

“I’ve enjoyed watching them (seminarians) change, grow and develop. I liked being mom. I think of them as my kids. I don’t know that I’ve given them as much as they’ve given me,” she says of her relationship with the young men.

Szymczak also administered the permanent deacon program, as well as the Vocation Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne before stepping into the role of associate of the Vocation Office since 1994, says of Szymczak’s devotion to her work.

One her most memorable tasks as associate of the Vocation Office was visiting the seminaries. “I loved going to visit the seminarians. I enjoyed seeing where they were and meeting the people who taught them,” says Szymczak. And she notes, “The ordinations were always special.”

Msgr. Bernard Galic, director of the Vocation Office since 1994, says of Szymczak’s devotion to her work. “If I were to tell you what she does in the office, I’d say one word — everything! That’s why the office has been so organized and so very productive. She’s secret-charge person and doesn’t mind keeping me on time. And I’m grateful for that.”

The two had worked together previously during Msgr. Galic’s appointment as pastor at Holy Family Parish in South Bend.

Szymczak was then secretary of the school there. When Msgr. Galic was appointed director of the Vocation Office he asked Szymczak to work with him again.

Szymczak and husband David, a retired police officer, have been parishioners of Holy Family Parish for 47 years. They have two grown children and five grandchildren — a close-knit family that spends quality time together, which Szymczak says.

Working with Msgr. Bernard Galic, director of the Vocation Office, is a good fit, says Bonahoom-Nix. The two worked together on the TV Mass during her tenure in communications. “It was a huge draw to know I’d be working with Msgr. Galic. I hope we can build on what we have now and that more young men and women will pursue the voca-

“Christine Bonahoom-Nix is excited about her new position as administrative assistant of the Vocation Office. No stranger to diocesan work with work credentials including director of communications from 1990 to 2004, Bonahoom-Nix began organizing her new office at the Archbishop Noll Center on March 24.

Bonahoom-Nix hopes her background in communications will be a “huge plus in being able to speak with the young men and their families who are discerning a call to the Priesthood and those that are finally accepted. I’ll make sure they know the door is always open,” she says.

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Bonahoom-Nix and her husband Jerry, are parishioners of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, and have two children. She is grateful for the flexibility of the part-time work at the Vocation Office and will remain available to help children and their activities. “I feel like its all the greater work of the Church, so if I can do all this, that’ll be the best of both worlds,” she says, adding that her family is very supportive of her new position.

Msgr. Galic is pleased with his new assistant and says, “I’m very happy with the fact that she’s coming on board with us. I think she’s up to what the office demands of her. I feel confident that she’s going to relate well with the seminarians. And I’m sure they’re going to like her. … And I expect she’s as take charge a person as Mary (Szymczak) is.”

Bonahoom-Nix concludes, “I’m just excited to be back in Church work and feel it’s where I’m called to be. I’m glad I can still be a mom and do this too.”

Upgrades made to TV Mass signal

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “It has been a rough year for the regular watchers of the Televised Mass in Fort Wayne, and even rougher on those that produce and broadcast the long-running program,” said Sean McBride, director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and producer of the TV Mass.

Technical issues have plagued the broadcast for nearly a year and in that time multiple solutions were tried and no headway was really made, until very recently when WFFT-TV traded a very large capital investment to install a new style of microwave transceiver that allows direct communications between the station and the chapel at the University of Saint Francis, where the broadcast originates.

“I think we turned a corner recently when we were able to get the third party technology provider out of the mix, and do things ourselves,” McBride said. “I feel fortunate that we have a broadcast partner like WFFT who not only stuck with us and worked hard right beside us, but in the end, decided to invest in this ministry.”

McBride likes the direction the upgrade has gone. “This new system of broad-

Christine BONAHOOM-NIX

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Wednesday, April 2, 2014

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Continued from Page 1

The Szymczaks have worked as associate of the Vocation Office since 1994, says Szymczak. “I’ve been inspired more than I ever wondered. Everyone asks ‘why?’ I always said I have faith! … I’m so proud of them, their families who are discerning a call to the Priesthood and those that are finally accepted. … I’ll make sure they know the door is always open,” she says.

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McBride likes the direction the upgrade has gone. “This new system of broad-casting eliminates a third-party data-service provider that was not responsive to our technical challenges and now allows us total control of the signal,” he said. “We’ve already seen improvements in the signal strength and resolution quality.”

While the system continues to be tweaked and honed, both parties admit that it isn’t perfect, and may never be, but it is a vast improvement to what viewers were experiencing before.

Before the upgrade, “the screen would go black, or freeze, on multiple occasions in one broadcast. It was maddening!” said McBride.

WFFT-TV General Manager BillRichhart said, “WFFT Local is honored to partner with the diocese to televise the Catholic TV Mass each Sunday. We recognize this is an important service for our viewers in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio who are unable to attend Mass to still be able to connect with their faith.”
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The rite of canonization of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II April 27 will use the standard formula for the creation of new saints, but the Mass will be preceded by the recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet, and it is possible retired Pope Benedict XVI will attend, the Vatican spokesman said.

“He is invited,” said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the spokesman. “There is still a question of God. We’ll have to see if he wants to be present and feels up to it.”

Discussing preparations for the canonizations with reporters March 31, Father Lombardi also said the popes’ tombs in St. Peter’s Basilica would not be disturbed, other than to change the inscriptions from “blessed” to “saint.” Pilgrims can visit the tombs after the Apr. 27 Mass.

Relics from the two popes will be presented during the liturgy, the spokesman said. The relic of Blessed John Paul Ii — a vial of his blood encased in a reliquary featuring a silver sculpture of olive branches — will be the same that was used for his beatification in 2011.

A matching reliquary has been made for a relic of Blessed John, said Msgr. Guilio Dellavite, an official of the Diocese of Bergamo, where the pope was born. When Blessed John was beatified in 2000, no relic was presented, the monsignor said, because no blood or body parts had been preserved for that purpose. However, when Blessed John’s tomb was opened in 2001 and the remains treated before being reinterred in St. Peter’s Basilica, some bone fragments were removed.

Floribeth Mora Diaz, a Costa Rican whose recovering from a brain aneurysm was the miracle accepted for the canonization of Blessed John Paul Ii, and French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson’s disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for his beatification, are both expected to attend the Mass April 27, Father Lombardi said.

Pope Francis waived the requirement for a miracle for the canonization of Blessed John Ii. The canonization Mass is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. the Sunday after Easter, which the Church celebrates as Divine Mercy Sunday. Pilgrims are expected to begin filing into St. Peter’s Square early in the morning, Father Lombardi said, and will have an opportunity to participate in the recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet, a series of prayers focusing on the gifts of God’s mercy, especially shown through the passion of Christ.

The Vatican, he said, is not issuing tickets to the Mass, although large sections of St. Peter’s Square will be reserved for official government delegations, for bishops and priests, and for members of the Vatican diplomatic corps. Other than that, space in the square will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Because the Vatican is not handling ticket requests, it cannot predict how many people will attend the ceremony, he said.

“We hope many people will come and we are making preparations to welcome them,” Father Lombardi said. “We invite people to come to Rome with trust and serenity without excessive fear.”

“If people filled St. Peter’s Square and (the main boulevard) back to the Tiber River, we calculate there would be between 200,000 and 250,000 people,” he said. Forecasts, including by city of Rome officials, that mention millions of pilgrims trying to attend the event appear exaggerated, Father Lombardi said.

“Come to Rome. Don’t be afraid,” he said.

Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, told reporters that the diocese was focusing on a spiritual preparation for the canonization of the two popes, two bishops of Rome, who lived and experienced their faith, becoming messengers of the Gospel, but also of great humanity.

The cardinal will lead an evening for young people April 22 along with the postulators — official promoters — of the sainthood causes of the two popes. The night before the canonization, 11 churches near the Vatican will be open all night for prayer, meditation and confessions. The program will be offered in English and Italian at the Basilica of St. Mark the Evangelist at the Campus Martius and in Italian and Spanish at the Jesuit Church of the Gesu.

The diocese also has launched a special website — www.2popesaints.org — and several social media initiatives with the help of communications students at a Rome university. The Facebook fan page is “2popesaints,” the Twitter account is “#2popesaints,” the Instagram account is “#2popesaints” and the YouTube channel search term is also “#2popesaints.”

The Diocese of Bergamo, where Pope John was born and ordained a priest, has put much of the focus of its celebration on acts of charity. Msgr. Dellavite said the diocese is contributing the equivalent of $1.1 million for the construction and three years of operating costs of St. John XXIII School in Haiti; it is building a church and pastoral center in Shengjin, Albania, at a cost of about $830,000; and it is remodeling an emergency assistance center for the poor.

In addition, he said, the 900 professors of the diocese are being asked to donate one month’s salary and take up a collection in their parishes to strengthen the diocese’s “family home” fund, which helps families in difficulty with rent, mortgage payments and utilities. The diocese also is selling some of its property to increase the fund’s principal.
Evening of prayer, reflection and Adoration for women planned

An evening of prayer, reflection and adoration for women, titled “Leaving the Tomb,” is planned for Sunday, April 27, from 6:30-9 p.m. Light refreshments will be served starting at 6 p.m. Cost is $5. Choose from three locations: St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend; St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; or St. Mary, Fort Wayne. Register online at www.diocesefwsb.org/leavingthetomb or contact Allison at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Valedictorians, salutatorian named

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School has announced the valedictorians and salutatorian for the class of 2014. This year there are three valedictorians: Chelsea Suppinger, Anna Boll and Greg Monnin. Claire Jilek was named salutatorian.

Tom Policinski, head sacristan of the Chapel of Divine Mercy next to the abortion facility, said, “During this 40 Day campaign, we have adorers in the chapel on one side of the abortuary, and the prayer witnesses on the other.”

DCCW honors women of service

FORT WAYNE — The Deanery Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) held a special Mass at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Saturday morning, March 22.

During a brunch and ceremony following, the council honored women from each parish with a first-ever award for outstanding women from each parish. Approximately 140 were in attendance.

Those honored were as follows: Evelyn Beam, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Joan Girardot, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne; Dottie Carpenter, St. Mary, Fort Wayne; Nancy Riecke, Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne; Donna Brooke, St. Patrick, Fort Wayne; Patricia Hendricks, St. Peter, Fort Wayne; Cheryl Mowan, St. Therese, Fort Wayne; Linda Milewiski, Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; Rosie Munson, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne; Ingrid Nicholson, St. Patrick, Arcola; Rita Brueggeman, St. Louis Besancon, New Haven; Roberta Muzzillo, St. Joseph, Garrett; Fran Lottie, Blessed Sacrament, Albion; Debbie Lautzenheiser, St. Joseph, Bluffton; Mary Alice Rentsch, St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville; Joy Ory, St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Linda Bustamante, St. Catherine Nix Settlement; Beth Hamman, St. Michael, Waterloo; and in memory of Joan Weaver, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome City. Rosary Sodalities or parish priests chose the recipients. — Michelle Castleman

Local advisors earn membership in Million Dollar Round Table

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Phillip J. Stackowicz and Keith C. Praski of the Knights of Columbus, John J. Stackowicz agency in South Bend to earn membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Phillip Stackowicz is from Granger, and Keith Praski is from Angola.

Achieving membership in MDRT is a distinguishing career milestone, attained only by those who have demonstrated exceptional professional knowledge, expertise and client service. The Round Table’s membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide.

ST. JOSEPH STUDENTS ACT OUT WAY OF THE CROSS

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, second-grade students performed the Way of the Cross for the entire student body recently, telling the story of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. Gabe Herber as Jesus carries His cross as Moises Beltran, who portrayed Pontius Pilate, orders Him with his sword.

STUDENTS COLLECT DIAPERS

Bishop Dwenger High School students collected diapers during a diaper drive last week to celebrate Pro-Life Week. Students collected 383 packets of diapers for the Women’s Care Center and $501.02 in cash from a penny drive for the Christ Child Society. Shown in the photo, from left, are students Eliese Kurtzweg, Grace Oberhausen and Julie Weilbaker.

ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT GUITAR RECITAL

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, Fort Wayne, guitar students and alumni presented an annual guitar recital for families and friends on March 21. The recital took place at St. Joseph Church on Brooklyn Ave. The guitar students played a variety of contemporary and church music. The students take lessons from Ken Jehle, St. Joseph Parish music director. A number of the guitar students also play music for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Masses.
Voices From Heaven

Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival celebrated at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

Angelic voices rose like incense in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne during Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on March 25, the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. A select group of musically-gifted students combined as one choir to perform at the fourth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival. Conducting the choir was Lee Gwozdz, director of music at Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Pueri Cantores is a century-old practice started in the United States in 1953. Pueri Cantores (which is Latin for “young choristers” or “young singers”) is the official children’s choral organization of the Catholic Church and provides opportunities for school-aged youth choirs from all backgrounds to participate in liturgical music. Pueri Cantores aims to enhance the lives of young singers through this musical experience conducted within a nurturing environment. The event was sponsored by The American Federation Pueri Cantores along with Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

Lee Gwozdz, director of music at Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi, Texas, conducts the Pueri Cantores choir singers during the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival for the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 25. Gwozdz remarked, “These children in the diocese were very well prepared. They are gifted with great teachers and have the support of their bishop. This was one of the top festival Masses I’ve ever done in the U.S.”

During Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ homily at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival students turn to view the beautiful stained-glass window in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception depicting the Annunciation of the Lord. In his homily Bishop Rhoades told the students, just as Mary said yes to God’s will, she “invites us also to say yes to God’s word, to His will. She invites us to trust in God like she did, to open the door of our lives to God. When we follow God’s call and say yes to His will, we find our true good and true happiness.” He reminded them that God has a unique plan for each one of them and their task is to be courageous and faithful in following Jesus.
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, other clergy and Pueri Cantores conductor Lee Gwozdz pose with the over 375 students from around the diocese who participated in the fourth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival. It was the first time the choral Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, with the previous three years being celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.


Bishop Luers High School was one of the four Catholic diocesan high schools represented who provided sacred music at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival celebrated on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 25. The singers were accompanied by organist, Michael Dulac, director of music for the cathedral.
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Julie Kenny joins planned giving staff to help parishes with endowment efforts

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Julie Kenny was a noted professional in the field of stewardship, and she has been invited to apply her talent as part of the staff of the Development Office as the director of planned giving.

With 19 years experience at Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, working with parishes and dioceses across the nation, Kenny noted that their endowment efforts “ensures the work of the parish or organization that don’t thrive, long after they are no longer a part of the Church,” said Harry Verhiley, director of the Development Office.

Growing up at Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, Kenny and her sister taught catechism. It was there that she developed her love for service to the Church and is a noted professional in the field of stewardship.

Kenny will work with parishes and organizations that currently have endowments, as well as to assist them with marketing and promoting their endowments so others will think about giving gifts to the endowment.

Kenny will also work with parishes and organizations that don’t have an endowment.

She noted, “bequeathing an amount of their estate” in a will “ensures the work of the parish or school — that they have so much passion for — will continue long after they are gone.”

Kenny will work part-time as a planned giving director, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from the Archdiocese of Fort Wayne office.

“Planned gifting and bequests are the most effective way to fund endowments,” Verhiley said. “Parishes should be promoting planned giving and bequests to fund their endowments because people’s hearts are in their parish and they want to see their parish thrive, long after they are no longer supporting the parish with their offertory gifts.”

Verhiley said, “We want to encourage families to consider a bequest or planned gift directed to their respective parish. A parish endowment is a great way to receive a bequest and/or planned gift, yet not all parishioners know of these giving opportunities. Julie will help parishes spread the word.”

“I want to find out (the parishes’) needs,” Kenny said. “How can I help them the most?”

She hopes to collect stories from the generous people who are creating endowments to tell their story. Oftentimes these are people who don’t want the publicity. Kenny explained, “but by telling their story, they’re giving ideas to other people to do the same thing.”

She is also searching for stories from some of the benefactors who received grants from those endowments. For example, how have they been able to afford Catholic school tuition through the endowment fund?

“God has blessed me so abundantly and I am so grateful,” Kenny explained, “but by telling their story, they’re giving ideas to other people to do the same thing.”

“Contact Julie Kenny at jkenny@diocesefwsb.org or the Secretary of Stewardship and Development at stewardship@diocesefwsb.org for more information.”

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Amber L. Taylor
**The big reveal:**

**Looking back at God’s plan**

Bue or pink? That was the secret contained in the cake.

My younger brother and his wife are always looking for an excuse to throw a themed-party — a World Series game for the Cardinals, an end-of-the-world prediction, the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. They couldn’t resist the opportunity to kick-start the celebration of their firstborn by hosting a gender-reveal party, so we gathered on a chilly Sunday afternoon to learn about the baby due in June.

A gender-reveal party takes the news captured at an ultrasound and announces it in a more dramatic fashion: pulling a sheet out of an envelope, Oscars style; slicing into a blue- or pink-colored cake; opening a box of balloons. The concept took off in 2011, according to BabyCenter. Concerns which reported an explosion of diaper throw threads, was the antithesis of a baby shower, heavy on obligation and estrangement. A gender-reveal party centers on the surprise, delivering a sweet pay-off for a breathless audience — the promise of big news and bakery-made cake.

Its popularity has surged with the birth of pop singer, where pregnant women dream up a million ways to decorate with light pink and powder blue. My brother hung a cascade of pink and blue balloons in the entrance of his home and used his pitcher’s arm to fling crepe paper onto the chandelier in this two-story great room.

When Tony and Jodie lifted a slice of blue cake, I felt a flicker of that hospital thrill right there in the dining room. My voice broke when I congratulated him.

“You’re going to have a son!”

Later that day, after I’d downloaded my pictures, I found myself thinking about the idea of a big reveal. Sometimes major events can be known in advance through a dream.

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Later that day, after I’
Lent: the annual catechumenate

Historians of the Roman liturgy generally reckon the restorations of the Easter Vigil (by Pius XII) and the adult catechumenate (by Vatican II) as two of the signal accomplishments of the 20th-century liturgical movement. I wouldn’t contest that claim, but I’d add something else to the highlights reel: the recovery of the baptismal character of Lent for every Catholic.

Back in the day, Lent was about what you don’t eat: candy, smoke, drink, whatever. And of course the three classic methods of keeping the Forty Days — fasting, intensified prayer and almsgiving — retain their perennial significance.

What I discovered three years ago, however, is that the practices come into clearer spiritual focus when they’re “located” within an understanding that Lent is the season when all of us — not just those who will be baptized or received into full membership of the church of the day, persuaded me that he was quite right.

The days immediately following Ash Wednesday and the first two weeks of Lent ask each of us to undertake an extended examination of conscience: Am I being the witness to the kingdom and the evangelical missionary that I ought to be? What within me needs purifying if I’m to become a better friend of Jesus Christ and a true embodiment of His saving grace and mercy? With whom must I be reconciled?

The tone shifts with the third Sunday in Lent, as the Church begins three weeks of reflection on the meaning of Baptism and the liturgy asks the baptized to consider how well we are living in imitation of Christ. The questions posed come from the three great catechetical Gospels read on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent: Jesus and the woman at the well; Jesus caring for the man born blind; Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

In the early Church, the explanation of those Gospels completed the catechumens’ preparation for Baptism. For those already baptized, as I wrote in “Roman Pilgrimage,” they prompt a searching reflection in preparation for our being blessed with Easter water, which is baptismal water:

“How am I responding to Christ’s thirst for my friendship in prayer, in light of Jesus’s invitation to the Samaritan woman, whom he asked for a drink of water? How are my eyes being opened to the demands of my mission, by the Christ who gave sight to the man born blind? Do I, like Martha, truly believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God, with power to raise me, like Lazarus, from the bonds of sin and death?”

Reflecting on those questions, the already-baptized experience a new catechumenate, a period of preparing to go up to Jerusalem with Jesus, who will make His messianic destiny there — and who, in embracing that destiny in obedience to the Father, will be revealed as the Risen Lord who makes all things new, including our brotherhood.

The evangelical Catholicism of the 21st century and the third millennium demands more of Catholics than the culturally-transmitted and culturally-comfortable Catholicism in which many of us were raised.

Confronting a culture that rejects the biblical vision of the human person and human relationships — converting that culture — is not easy. But it can be a great adventure, when it’s lived in the confidence that what is revealed at Easter is true: love is stronger than death.

That is what Lent is for. The “annual catechumenate” of Lent prepares us to be missionary disciples who can display the divine mercy because we have known it in our lives.

Celebrating a culture of protection

The Catholic Church is working hard to protect children. Much has been accomplished, but more work is needed. Until child sexual abuse is no longer a part of our society, the Church will continue its efforts.

As part of its effort to protect all children from harm as well as to create safe environments in which children can learn and grow in faith, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will:

• Provide annual safe environment training to all children enrolled in diocesan Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. In age appropriate lessons, children will learn about God’s love for them; personal space; treating ourselves and others with respect and care; safe and unsafe touches; and how to get help from a trusted adult if needed.

We pray for all who support and protect children. … Christ, graciously hear us.

For questions, contact Cathie Cichielo, safe environment coordinator, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at ccichielo@diosfwsb.org, 260-422-4611, ext. 3308 or Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at mglowaski@diosfwsb.org or 260-399-1458.
St. Matthew-St. Jude wins ICCL girls’ basketball championship

BY CHUCK FREEBY

ELKHART — March Madness isn’t limited to the college and high school levels. Championship night featured a spirited atmosphere and wild game, as St. Matthew-St. Jude rallied from 12 points down to defeat St. Pius, 33-31, winning the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) girls’ basketball championship.

“This means a lot to everyone on the team, especially the eighth graders,” exclaimed St. Matthew-St. Jude’s Sean Urbanski, acknowledging it was a team effort.

St. Pius had a chance to tie, but missed two free throws and a rebound shot with 0.7 seconds remaining.

“It was a hard-fought game for both teams,” lamented St. Pius Coach Jim Welsh. “The whole second half was just a dogfight. Every possession mattered. Every shot mattered. It was a great game. Our girls had an outstanding season, and I’m proud of them.”

St. Matthew-St. Jude’s Grace Quinn dominated the first half. Quinn tallied all 15 of her points in the first eight minutes, giving her team a 19-7 lead early in the second quarter.

When Quinn exited with foul trouble, St. Matthew-St. Jude made its move. Urbanski converted an offensive rebound into an old-fashioned three-point play as part of a 9-0 run that brought the Blazers within 21-16 at halftime.

St. Pius survived the third quarter, as Megan Welsh canned a pair of free throws to give the Lions a 26-22 advantage going to the fourth. However, poor free throw shooting would lead to St. Pius’ demise, as the Granger squad would hit only one of 11 foul shots in the final stanza.

Even with three players having fouled out, St. Matthew-St. Jude slowly chiseled its way back, tying the game at 29-29 on Molly Keenan’s left-wing jumper with 2:26 remaining. Abby O’Dell’s drive just nine seconds later gave St. Pius the lead again, setting the stage for Megan Urbanski.

The savvy point guard drilled two free throws with 1:17 remaining and two more with 12.6 seconds left to give the Blazers a 33-31 lead.

“I was actually worried more about getting the rebound if I missed,” noted the younger Urbanski. “I knew we had a small team on the floor and I knew we would have to box out or get back on defense.”

St. Pius had a chance to tie, but missed two free throws and a rebound shot with 0.7 seconds remaining.

“It was a hard-fought game for both teams,” lamented St. Pius Coach Jim Welsh. “The whole second half was just a dogfight. Every possession mattered. Every shot mattered. It was a great game. Our girls had an outstanding season, and I’m proud of them.”

Hats off to St. Pius,” lauded Coach Urbanski of St. Matthew-St. Jude. “They were the team to beat all year. They brought it tonight. We kept our poise and composure, didn’t panic and got the job done.”

Mishawaka Catholic took third-place honors, thanks to a 27-20 win over St. Joseph. Gretta Meixel led the Saints with 14 points, while Mia Konkey’s 10 points paced St. Joseph.

The St. Matthew-St. Jude 2014 girls’ basketball team won the ICCL varsity crown. The team includes Emerson Lemberis, Meghan Urbanski, Stephanie McQueen, Kiara Hairston, Sapphire McQueen, Karen Hackler, Alyssa Grzesiowski, Aly Jansen, Molly Keenan, Taylor Wright and Josephina Debicki. Sean Urbanski is the head coach.

Assistant coaches are Mark Grzesiowski and David Giles.

TWO COUGARS EARN NAIA SCHOLAR ATHLETE SELECTION

University of Saint Francis senior Zach Welklin and junior Raleigh Hensley have earned NAIA Scholar Athlete awards for their excellence in the classroom for the 2013-14 season. In order to be nominated by an institution’s head coach or sports information director, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved a junior academic status.

USF basketball team honored

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry honored the University of Saint Francis and the university’s NAIA-winning women’s basketball team by proclaiming March 24 as “University of Saint Francis Women’s Basketball Team Day” in the city of Fort Wayne. The team won the NAIA Division II National Championship March 18 and were honored at an assembly March 24.
Spring into good Catholic reading

BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to Today’s Catholic for review. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase at your local bookstore.

“The Protestant’s Dilemma: How the Reformation’s Shocking Consequences Point to the Truth of Catholicism,” by Catholic convert, author and blogger Devin Rose examines 34 Protestant conclusions and with gentle humor, compels readers to probe deeply into the theology of food but with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, WL YV makes


“Table of Plenty: Stories, Reflections, Recipes” by renowned teacher and speaker Susan Muto will whet any reader’s appetite for good food and fellowship with God. The descriptive stories of her Italian upbringing and meal preparation reflect the goodness of God through the food we eat and the company we share. Each chapter offers a “Food for Thought” section with Scripture and reflection as well as “Thoughtful Food” which contains a special recipe to try. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-687-2.


“Saint Francis, Pope Francis: A common Vision,” by Gina Loehr, with All Giambon, examines five Gospel values — humility, charity, church, peace and joy — that both men have found important. Each chapter looks at one value, and includes Scripture reflection, examples from the lives of St. Francis and Pope Francis, relevant Church teaching and questions for reflection. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-616360747-3.

Redeemer Radio, a non-profit Catholic Radio Group, is seeking a full-time Morning Show Producer for its listener-supported stations. The successful candidate will assist the Morning Show Host in researching and planning each weekday broadcast.

Responsibilities include:
Broadcast pre-planning and production both before and after broadcast hours, booking guests, pulling and editing audio, producing promos, and technically producing the broadcast between 6 am and 8 am Monday through Friday.

The producer must be inquisitive, have a sense of humor, be a self-starter, be organized and be able to share ideas with others as well as work with others. Must be able to take direction. Must have production and social media skills, be able to work with the host in the assembly of the program. Previous on-air radio experience helpful. The work hours are Monday through Friday, 5 am–1 pm.

Requirements:
• The producer needs to be a faithful Catholic in full communion with the church whose life gives witness to the Faith
• Four-year bachelor’s degree in an aligned field of study
• Strong verbal and written communication skills.

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**What's Happening?**

**Fish Fries**

Knights of Columbus host fish fry

Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will have a fish dinner on Friday, April 11, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $8.50 for adults, $4 for children 5-10 and children under 4 are free. The fish will be prepared by Tyner Oddfellows. Proceeds from the event will benefit local charitable organizations.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 11, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children (5-12) $3.50. Shrimp for $9 will be available.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council 11276 will have a fish fry on Friday, April 4, from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 10700 Aboite Ctr. Rd. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children 6-11 and children 5 and under are free. Carry-out will be available at adult meal price only.

Fish fries during Lent

Wabash — The Knights of Columbus, 595 S. Huntington St., will host fish dinners on Friday evenings during Lent through April 4, from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost for adults $8, children 6-10 $4 and children 5 and under are free.

Knights of Columbus plan fish fry

Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will sponsor a fish fry on Saturday, April 5, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish located on Fir Rd. south of SR 23. Cost is $8 adults, $4 children 5-11 and children under 6 free.

Fish fry at PB

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St., will have a fish fry with Dan’s on Friday, April 11, in the school gymnasium from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children age 6-12, and $1 for preschool-5. Dine in or drive-through carryout.

**Rummage and Bake Sales**

Rummage and bake sale

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a rummage and bake sale Thursday and Friday, May 1-2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym.

St. Hedwig Rosary Society bake sale

South Bend — The St. Hedwig Rosary Society will have a bake sale April 12-13 before and after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday. St. Peter.

Sisters auxiliary bake sale planned

South Bend — St. Adalbert Sisters’ auxiliary will have a bake sale Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Lamb Cakes will be $15 on a pre-paid, pre-order basis only by Friday, April 4. Sweet-sour cabbage, Polish noodles, homemade Pierogi and baked goods for Easter will be offered. Lunch will be available.

Altar and Rosary Society plan sale

South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Rummage sale

Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish, corner of Oak and Diamond streets, will have a rummage sale Friday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, from 9-11:30 a.m. Grocery bag sales start Friday at 3 p.m.

**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.

**Today’s Catholic**

We are:

- Consistently a State of Indiana accredited “A” school
- “Four Star Rating” Academically sound- 96% graduation rate, 55% Academic Honors graduates, 97% college bound “45” Varsity sports “go Student clubs
- A strong and vibrant Catholic faith
- “Secondary administrative licensing
- “High School teaching or administrative experience
- “A Commitment to strong Catholic identity
- “Experience in fundraising and development
- “Strong leadership skills

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for High School Principal at Marian High School Mishawaka, Indiana.

**Elementary Principal Position**

**Holy Family School**

**South Bend, Indiana**

**K-8 Enrollment: 300**

- Candidate must be a practicing Catholic
- Administrative and Public Relations skills are essential
- Have or be eligible for Administrative License

**Application Deadline:** June 15, 2014 • EOE

**Rest in Peace**

- Hannah Marie Densel, 22, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Granger
- Michael David Bowers, 71, St. Plus X
- Robert J. Dyrugliski, 70, St. Plus X
- James R. Remble, 70, St. Plus X
- Audrey Mae Walsh, 80, St. Plus X
- Anna S. Wormcastle, 81, St. John the Baptist
- Therese M. Bowers, 83, St. John the Baptist
- Gary A. Lanoue, 78, St. John the Baptist
- Issa Grace O’Brien, 9 months, Our Lady of Loreto

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**Educational Excellence in the Catholic Tradition**

Grades 9-12; Enrollment: 750

We are:

- “A strong and vibrant Catholic faith
- “Secondary administrative licensing
- “High School teaching or administrative experience
- “A Commitment to strong Catholic identity
- “Experience in fundraising and development
- “Strong leadership skills

Receiving applications through April 28

Employment to begin July 1, 2014

Contact Rhonda Scher at the Catholic Schools Office:

260-422-4611 or rscher@diocesefwsb.org

Applications are available at www.diocesefwsb.org
In 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney invited a small group of parishioners to gather in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Connecticut. His goal was simple — to establish an order that would unite men in their faith as well as help provide for Catholic families in times of need. It was in that humblest of beginnings that the Knights of Columbus was founded.

Guided by four core principles — charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism — these founding members strove to overcome the hardships of the time. Poverty. Unemployment. Even persecution.

Today, the Knights of Columbus boasts more than 1.8 million members around the world.

Our members participate in charitable service work within their communities and around the world. Last year our members performed 70 million hours of charitable work.