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BY TIM JOHNSON
FORT WAYNE — Over 12,000 men and women of all ages throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend entrusted their lives to Mary on the solemnity of Our Lady’s Assumption, Aug. 15. And many of those making that consecration gathered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne for the 6 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. At the Mass, Bishop Rhoades rededicated the diocese to Mary.

The faithful not only filled the pews and narthex of the cathedral, but brought chairs and blankets and assembled on the plaza and lawn of the cathedral where large screens and a sound system brought the Mass outdoors to the overflow. Nearly 2,000, faithful assembled for the Mass.

“Like the Apostle John, we welcome the Mother of Christ into our home, into our hearts,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily.

He said the Marian consecration is “our saying ‘yes’ to the beautiful gift Jesus gave us from the cross when He said to John: ‘Behold your mother.’ We are responding with faith to Our Lord’s gift of love, the gift of His mother, and to our Mother’s love.”

“She wants to act in our lives, to share with us the joy of her faith, to help us to know and follow her Son,” Bishop Rhoades continued. “She invites us, as she invited the servants at the wedding feast of Cana, to do whatever Jesus tells us. She wants to lead us to know the height and depth … of Christ’s love for us. And she wants us to be with her in the glory of heaven, in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity. Today we say ‘yes’ to her. We say ‘yes’ to the truths of our baptismal promises.”

The bishop said, “We say with her: ‘Behold the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your Word.’ And so we are able to rejoice with her in God our Savior and to repeat her words in the Magnificat: ‘The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name.’”

Those preparing for the consecration used “33 Days to Morning Glory” written by Father Michael E. Gaitley, a priest of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. The faithful participated by reflecting upon daily readings and some gathered in groups at their parishes to discuss and reflect upon the readings.

“In these past 33 days, we have been united in our prayers of preparation for today, for our Marian consecration, guided by the wisdom of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“These spiritual giants, heroes of our faith, reached the heights of holiness, powerfully aided by their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary,” he said. “They learned from Mary, and they teach us to learn from Mary, the way of perfection. They learned from Mary’s example to be faithful disciples of Jesus, to be steadfast in faith, persevering in hope and abounding in love. They learned, in a word, to follow Jesus. They learned to be authentic Christians, to be saints.”

“That’s what Mary teaches us,” Bishop Rhoades said. “And she not only teaches us, she helps us. Through her prayers, she fills our hearts with the light of Christ’s holiness.”

The beauty of Mary’s virtue and holiness came from the Holy Spirit, the bishop said. She was adorned with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Mary was present in the upper room with the Apostles at Pentecost, praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had already descend- ed upon Mary at the Annunciation, when she conceived the Son of God by His power, when she became the Mother of God. At Pentecost, that outpouring of the Holy Spirit was repeated and reinforced in her because of the new motherhood she had received at the foot of the cross. At Pentecost, she received a renewed gift of the Spirit for the fruitfulness of her new motherhood as Mother of the Church, as our Mother.

Bishop Rhoades said, “Just as Mary prayed for the disciples in the upper room, she also prays for us today. She prays that we too will open our hearts to the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit. In her motherly love, she implores the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us in the way of her Son.”

After the homily, while the faithful knelt in prayer, Bishop Rhoades also entrusted the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to Mary at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Aug. 15. Below, the faithful kneel in prayer during the prayer of consecration to Mary on the lawn and plaza area of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Large screens and audio brought the Mass to the overflow outside. Nearly 2,000 faithful participated in the Mass.
MARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wayne-South Bend to Mary’s intercession “so that the Holy Spirit may descend in abundance upon us, filling the hearts of all the faithful and endowing in us the fire of His love.”

As the bishop continued his homily, he invited the faithful to think about the “woman clothed with the sun” in the Book of Revelation.

This woman, the bishop said, represents both Mary and the Church. The moon is the “image of death and mortality.” On her head is a crown of 12 stars that represent the people of God — the 12 tribes of Israel and the Church founded on the Twelve Apostles. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, wanting to devour her child, but he couldn’t. “Her child was caught up to God and His throne” and “the woman fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.”

The dragon, Satan, evil, is present throughout human history, the bishop noted. “The struggle between the woman and the dragon, between God and the evil one, between the Church and the enemy, is perennial,” Bishop Rhoades said. “We see it in the world and world events. St. Maximilian Kolbe saw it dramatically in Auschwitz. Pope John Paul experienced it when he was shot in St. Peter’s Square.”

“We see it today in wars, violence, persecution, hatred and destruction of innocent human life,” the bishop continued. “The struggle between good and evil is one that we as disciples of Jesus must also confront, in our own lives and even in our own hearts. All the disciples of Jesus must face this struggle. Pope Francis teaches us that we do not face this struggle alone, that ‘the Mother of Christ and of the Church is always with us. She walks with us, she is with us. Mary has of course already entered, once and for all, into heavenly glory’ — that’s what we celebrate on today’s feast of the Assumption — ‘but this does not mean that she is distant or detached from us; rather Mary accompanies us, struggles with us, sustains Christians in their fight against the forces of evil.’ Pope Francis especially recommends the holy rosary to sustain us in this battle.”

“The Marian consecration is a powerful way for us to be on the winning side in this battle,” Bishop Rhoades said. “In Mary, Christ’s victory over Satan shines.”

The woman who escaped the dragon fled into the desert, the wilderness. “We live in that desert, that wilderness,” he said. “This time on earth is a like a desert, a time of anguish, persecution and trial. But it is not an indefinite time. Liberation and the hour of glory will come. And during this time in the desert of the world, God nourishes us with the bread of His Word and of the Holy Eucharist. And He has given us the help of His Mother.”

St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, parishioners, dressed in ethnic clothing, carry a statue of the Blessed Mother during the Marian procession following the Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption with Diocesan Consecration on Aug. 15. Many from the religious communities of the diocese also participated in the Mass and procession. At the Mass, the readings were proclaimed in English and Spanish.

The Knights of Columbus stand in honor as diocesan seminarians lead the procession out of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Aug. 15. The Mass included diocesan consecration and individual consecration to Mary.

The faithful, gathered in the back of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, kneel and make their individual consecration to Mary after completion of the “33 Days to Morning Glory” preparation.
Bishop blesses St. Elizabeth Ann Seton new educational wing

BY CORINE ERLANDSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to celebrate Mass and bless the new educational wing on Saturday, Aug. 16. The wing was recently constructed for the opening of the new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, as well as the start of the school year for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton religious education program.

Bishop Rhoades spoke of generosity as being one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. “I cannot thank you enough for your generosity in the capital campaign here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I am happy to celebrate this Mass with you today and to bless the beautiful new addition to your education wing.”

Bishop Rhoades complimented the parish on building the new education wing so quickly. “It is a sign of your faith and your commitment to the children of this parish and their formation in the faith,” Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop spoke of his own devotion to Mother Seton; beginning with the time he started college at Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland. “She was canonized the first American-born saint two weeks after I began at the Mount in 1975,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I prayed often at her tomb in the basilica in Emmitsburg, both as a college student and later as rector of the seminary. We can all be inspired by her faith and holiness. She was a great pioneer of the Church in our country.”

Bishop Rhoades quoted Cardinal Terrence Cooke of New York who ordained him a deacon: “In Elizabeth Ann Seton, we have a saint for our times.”

“At the beginning of the new educational wing, Bishop Rhoades added that Catholic education was not readily available to these 254 students previously.

“Thats why you built the new addition for Catholic education. You are heading Pope Francis call to the Church to be self-centered or self-referential, but to be missionary disciples. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was a great missionary disciple.”

Towards the end of Mass, Bishop Rhoades performed the rite of sending for two new seminarian students from the parish. He gave the two young men, Mark Hellinger and Ben Landrigan, holy medals to wear and blessed them as well.

After the Mass, Bishop Rhoades, Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Father Ben Muhlenkamp, parochial vicar, and Deacon Jim Kitchens processed with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners in the parish activity center before the blessing of the new educational wing.

By Corine Eilandson

PHOTOS BY CORINE ERLANDSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the cross in the entrance of the educational wing.

Bishop Rhoades speaks with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners in the parish activity center before the blessing of the new educational wing.

By Corine Eilandson

PHOTOS BY CORINE ERLANDSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the cross in the entrance of the educational wing.

Bishop Rhoades expressed his gratitude for the many years of service and commitment of Father Jim Shafer and Bishop Rhoades during their tenure at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

“I am happy to bless this new addition to our educational program,” Bishop Rhoades said.

The new educational wing includes teacher workrooms, restrooms and classrooms, offices, media center, teacher workrooms, restrooms and youth group room. Bishop Rhoades ended the tour by stopping at the cross that stands in the entrance of the educational wing, and blessed and kissed the cross. During the tour, parishioners in the parish gym were able to follow the blessing with a live video feed as the group went through the building.

“The visit by our bishop is always a special moment for us, and for him, too,” said Father Shafer.

“Bishop Rhoades has a special devotion and love for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The highlight for me was seeing the joy on bishop’s face as he and 50-some children moved from room to room as he blessed our new educational wing.”

The bishop, priests, deacon and students returned to the parish gym, where Father Shafer and Bishop Rhoades gave their final remarks.

Father Shafer thanked those who have been instrumental in the building of the new wing. Bishop Rhoades offered a final blessing on the parishioners gathered.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School’s first day was Aug. 13. The religious education program begins Sept. 7.

“It has been an awesome first week of school,” said St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Principal Lois Widner. “The students love their new classrooms, and the younger students are so excited to have the older students with them. The vision has become a reality, due to Bishop Rhoades, Father Jim Shafer and our dedicated staff, parents and students. We have started our new journey, just as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton did those many years ago. We are pioneers in education and building our childrens faith.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has appointed Father Bob Showers, OFMConv, as Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola, effective September 1, 2014.

Priest appointed

We require that you report to us if you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or by someone who is an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuse is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, (260) 399-1458, email: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend.

Report abuse

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BY SIMONE ORENDAIN

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Pope Francis placed 124 Korean martyrs on the last step toward sainthood in a beatification Mass Aug. 16 that brought elation to the 800,000 people in attendance.

The sun was searing as Bishop Francis Ahn Myong-ok of Muan, president of the commission for the beatification, asked the pope to pronounce the martyrs blessed. After hearing a brief collective biography of 124 of the original founders of the Korean Catholic Church, Pope Francis pronounced the formula of beatification.

With his words, trumpets blared and a huge swath depicting a water-color of the newly blessed martyrs in heaven was unfurled on the side of the U.S. Embassy facing the square where the faithful gathered. People laughed and cheered as the image also popped up on the giant video monitors along the more than one-mile stretch.

“It was very great to see Papa Francis,” Sophia Moon, 26, told Catholic News Service. “He was very touching to us because in Korea there have been very hard times and there were (people who became martyrs).”

The 124 were killed for their beliefs, setting off a 100-year period in the 18th and 19th centuries when the Korean government went after about 10,000 faithful who pledged filial piety to God, not the king of Joseon. Among this group was Paul Yun Ji-chung, the very first Korean to be executed for his faith after he buried his mother using Catholic rites that completely went against the norms of the heavily Confucian society.

In his homily, the pope said, “So often we today can find our faith challenged by the world, and in countless ways we are asked to compromise our faith, to water down the radical demands of the Gospel and to conform to the spirit of this age.”

Yet the martyrs call out to us to put Christ first and to see all else in this world in relation to him and His eternal kingdom. They challenge us to think about what, if anything, we ourselves would be willing to die for,” he said.

Scyeon Jeong, 26, told Catholic News Service she had an 18th-century ancestor who “actually sacrificed himself as a Catholic” but was not among the newly blessed.

“I was born a Catholic and I have been living as a Catholic, but through this Mass I can actually realize the meaning, I mean the full meaning of what the sacrifice meant here,” she said. “I could actually feel my ancestor’s spirit.”

Pope Francis credited the martyrs with showing the “importance of charity in the life of faith,” since their belief in the “equal dignity of all the baptized” led them to challenge the “rigid social structures of the day.”

Moments before the Mass, the pope personally greeted the faithful as he traveled via popemobile along the stretch from Seoul’s City Hall to Gyeongbok Palace, the backdrop of a temporary altar. Gyeongbok is described by South Korea’s tourism bureau as the grandest of the Joseon-era palaces.

Among those who attended the Mass were about 300 U.S. military personnel and 400 family members of the victims of the Sewol ferry accident, which left more than 300 dead in April.

The Sewol group had been protesting since April at the square for weeks, demanding that a special law be passed to allow an independent investigation into the accident. They were determined to remain during the beatification Mass in hopes of an encounter with the pope. After days of negotiations, the committee handling the pope’s visit granted access, and they got their wish.

When Pope Francis swung by on the popemobile, many called out to him, pointing at the family members and one grieving father who had been on a hunger strike for more than a month.

Kim Young-oh, father of a teenage girl who died in the capsized ferry, told CNS the pope grabbed his hands and, because a fence separated them and he could not hug the pope, he laid his forehead twice on the pope’s hands.

Kim said he asked to give him a letter and the pope nodded and tucked it into his cassock.

“I was really prepared to meet the pope and (spel) out that there is a strong message this bill held out by the pope’s hands,” said Kim through an interpreter.
First black priests in U.S. ‘opened door for rest of us’

MOBILE, Ala. (CNS) — Black Catholic bishops, priests, deacons and religious brothers who gathered in Mobile for an annual joint conference celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first class of black priests who were educated and ordained in the U.S.

“As we begin our preparations for the 50th anniversary of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, it is important for us to remember those pioneers who came before us,” said Father Kenneth Taylor, president of the caucus.

“These men who were educated and ordained here in the United States opened the door for the rest of us. Because of what they did, we can do what we do,” added Father Taylor, who is pastor of the Church of the Holy Angels in Indianapolis.

The clergy caucus holds an annual joint conference with the National Black Sisters’ Conference, the National Black Catholic Seminarians’ Association and the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons.

Deacon Mel Tardy, who serves at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, was elected to serve on the board of directors of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He and his wife Annie attended the joint conference.

This year’s joint conference took place July 27-31 in Mobile, where the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary national convention took place July 25-30. Some events of the two meetings overlapped.

A highlight of the joint conference was a review of the history of black Catholic priests ministering in the United States. Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago also gave a progress report on the sainthood cause for Father Augustus Tolton.

According to the clergy caucus, the Society of the Divine Word, a German-based missionary order, took on the challenge of formation of black clergy for America’s black Catholic parishes.

In 1934, four black men educated in the U.S. were ordained Divine Word priests: Fathers Anthony Bourges, Maurice Rousseve, Vincent Smith and Francis Wade. All four suffered racial hatred “from within the Church and in American society,” the caucus noted.

Their ordination came more than 40 years after the first self-acknowledged black priest, Father Charles Uncles, was ordained in the U.S. — in 1891. A native of Baltimore, he was educated at a Quebec seminary.

In 1893, Father Uncles was part of a small group that re-organized a mission society devoted to freedmen to create St. Joseph’s Society of the Sacred Heart, known better as the Josephite Fathers and Brothers, to serve the black Catholic community.

Father James Healy (1830-1900) was the first black Catholic priest and later the first black Catholic bishop in the U.S. His brother Father Patrick Healy was the first black Jesuit. Both were ordained in Paris, James in 1854 and Patrick in 1864. They were born into a mixed-race family of 10 children in Georgia.

“Both of these priests passed as white and found no racial barriers in their pursuits,” the caucus report said.

Father Tolton (1854-1897), a former slave, was educated in Rome and ordained there in 1886. He founded the first black Catholic church in Chicago. The Archdiocese of Chicago formally opened his sainthood cause in 2010. In a progress report on his cause, Bishop Perry said two cures for which there is believed to be no medical explanation have been submitted to Church officials for verification.

In general one miracle attributed to the sainthood candidate’s intercession is needed for beatification, and a second such miracle is needed for canonization.

During the conference the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus presented its Brother Joseph Davis Award for lifetime achievement to retired Auxiliary Bishop Dominic Carmon of New Orleans.

During its business meeting the caucus also formally established a committee to oversee events to mark its 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in April 2018. Precious Blood Father Clarence Williams, who is vice president of the caucus, was named chairman of the committee.

By starting plans for the anniversary now, “we hope to encourage the black Catholic community and the Church in general to reflect on our life changing journey of the last 46 years,” Father Williams said in a statement. “The black and black Catholic movements have transformed the soul of this nation and have given us the moral strength to elect twice a black president which was unthinkable in April of 1968. Just think about that!”
Women gather inside a chapel Aug. 18 at a temporary tent camp set up for Ukrainian refugees near the Russian-Ukrainian border. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated Aug. 15 that 155,800 Ukrainians had been displaced by fighting, more than 2,000 people had been killed since mid-April and another 5,000 had been injured.

Archbishop calls for prayer, penance to counter planned ‘black mass’

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNS) Archbishop Paul S. Coakley has asked Catholics to offer prayer and penance to prevent a Satanic group from holding a “black mass” Sept. 21 at the Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma City. “Even though tickets are being sold for this event, as if it were merely some sort of dark entertainment, this Satanic ritual is deadly serious. It is a blasphemous and obscene inversion of the Catholic Mass,” said the Oklahoma City archbishop. “Using a consecrated host obtained illicitly from a Catholic church and desecrating it in the vilest ways imaginable, the practitioners offer it in sacrifice to Satan,” he said. “This terrible sacrilege is a deliberate attack on the Catholic Mass as well as the foundational beliefs of all Christians.” He made the comments in an Aug. 4 letter to priests and parishioners through-out the archdiocese. A copy of the letter was released to media Aug. 5. He said that despite “repeated requests, there has been no indication that the city intends to prevent this.”

Knights convene to celebrate their charitable works, fraternal programs

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Setting the tone for the 132nd annual Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus, Orlando Bishop John G. Noonan noted shifting social trends and the turbulence of world events but also emphasized the hope of faith and fraternity among Christians. “Ninety archbishops and bishops — including 11 cardinals — were expected to join approximately 2,000 Knights and their family members for the Aug. 5-7 convention in Orlando. On the anniversary of the founding of Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major, Bishop Noonan noted the difficulty of the times, of political gridlock and apparent social and moral decay, challenges to marriage and family life, dwindling belief in God and challenges in the Church. “The challenges we are facing are whether we are willing to recognize God in our lives and are we willing to have a relationship with Him,” the Irish-born Bishop Noonan said in his homily. “Along comes a man named Jorge Mario Bergoglio who becomes Pope Francis. He captures the world with his humility and simplicity. In his first message to the world, Pope Francis ‘is telling us not to view the world with fear but with the joy of the Gospel,’” he said. “Pope Francis challenges us to let God into our lives. He illustrates this by telling us that the moon has no lights, but we have to be like the moon, because the moon reflects the light of the sun just as we must reflect the love of Christ in our lives. This year’s convention, with the theme ‘You Will All Be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity,’” was to include a mix of business, fellowship, prayer and recognition of Knights who have distinguished themselves over the past year. Later in the day, at the start of the convention business meet-ing, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, conveyed a papal message. “The Church is called to be a community of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another and serve as a leaven of reconciliation and unity for the whole human family,” the cardinal said in his statement.

Healing after teen’s shooting ‘in Jesus’ hands’, says parishioner

FERGUSON, Mo. (CNS) — Against the backdrop of demonstra-tions in the St. Louis suburb, a son of a local Catholic parish did perhaps the only thing they could — they prayed. As police and protesters stood in an uneasy truce Aug. 11 close to a burned-out convenience store and businesses looted in an earlier demon-stration, two miles away members of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish prayed the rosary. “As a community, we needed to come together in prayer,” said parishioner Cathy Cunningham, who described the community as “very sad. We just have to put it in Jesus’ hands, and he will heal us,” she told the St. Louis Review, the archdiocesan newspaper. Led by their pastor, Father Robert Rosenboom, about 100 people gath-ered to pray the rosary at the parish’s Our Lady of Lourdes groto. Since the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, the community is demanding answers. Emotions run deep in the biracial community of Ferguson, 11 miles from downtown St. Louis.

Iraqi Christians arrive in Jordan with tearful tales of desperation

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — The first Iraqi Christians fleeing Islamic State militants reached the safety of Jordan, helped by King Abdullah II and Catholic aid groups. “Our money has run out,” said an Iraqi Christian woman, Um Marzouk, as tears streamed down her face. “The Islamic State put a big red Arabic letter ‘N’ on our home, claiming the building as their property. There was no other choice but to flee, first to the northern Kurdish city of Irbil and now here to Jordan. We’ve spent our life savings to get here. Um Marzouk, the former teacher said, as “N” is the first let-ter of an Arabic word for Christian, “Nasrani” or Nazarene. “Never in my life did I imagine such a thing happening to us, Christians,” she told Catholic News Service. Um Muwazat and her family of four managed to fly from Irbil to Jordan, the Iraqi Christians from Mosul, Qaraqosh and surrounding Christian villages, beginning Aug. 13. But she said she was concerned for her 6-month-old son, who has no place to sleep and no one to take care of the family stuck in Irbil, because the young woman’s 6-month-old twins do not have Iraqi passports. Nor can the family return to Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city, to apply for these travel documents. Ra’ed Bahou, Catholic Near East Welfare Association’s regional director for Jordan and Iraq, told CNS that about 1,000 Iraqi Christians from the Mosul area were expected to enter Jordan under special arrangements by King Abdullah.
AUBURN — All are invited to celebrate a Holy Hour for Vocations on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. The liturgy will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Brother Joseph Maria, vocations director for the Franciscan Brothers Minor at Our Lady of the Angels Friary, will share a reflection on vocations and discernment. Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of Immaculate Conception, will be the celebrant. Refreshments and socializing will follow. Visit iccauburn.com or call the parish office at 260-925-3930 for more information.

Bishop Luers principal appointed director on USF board committee

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne Bishop Luers High School principal Tiffany Albertson has been appointed a director on the Academic Affairs Committee of the University of Saint Francis Board of Trustees.

Albertson earned a bachelor’s degree in biology/secondary education at Saint Francis College, now University of Saint Francis, in 1996, and a Master of Education in curriculum/instruction at Indiana Wesleyan University in 2006.

An Andrews resident, she is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntington and a member of its Stewardship Committee. She and her husband, Tom, have four children, Michael, Savannah, Nicholas and Nathan.

Granger woman joins Franciscan Cap Corps

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Granger resident, Mary Catherine McDonald, daughter of Maura and Fran McDonald, has been commissioned as a Cap Corps volunteer.

Cap Corps is a Franciscan Capuchin volunteer ministry, geared to college-age students and graduates who wish to emulate the example of St. Francis of Assisi and serve the poor and disenfranchised. McDonald, a University of Dayton graduate with a degree in religious studies, will be providing service to a health clinic in Peru.

Service project provides blankets and hats for community

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center will once again host its successful “Matthew 25 Project” service program to assist those in need in the area.

The program takes its name from the Bible verse Mt. 25:40, in which Jesus says: “I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least, you did it for me.”

Beginning Sept. 9, each Tuesday from 1-4 p.m. will be “Matthew 25 Day” at the center, where anyone may come to help create the blankets and hats and take part in fellowship and service. Donations to the project are also welcome, including materials.

For more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact the center at 260-356-0628, ext. 174, or by e-mail at victorynollcenter@olvm.org.

The Franciscan Center to host open house

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center will hold an open house on Tuesday, Sept. 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at its new center for operation at 1015 East Maple Grove. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will dedicate the center at noon. Tours will be available and refreshments provided.

Support for Apostle Build requested

FORT WAYNE — Coordinators report that support for the Catholic Apostle Build has been great. Over 151 volunteers from six Catholic parishes have labored as the hands and feet of Christ to build a home in Fort Wayne for the Bakhov family, but more work is needed for the following days:

- Aug. 25-26 — 10 volunteers able to lift and set the truss;
- Aug. 28-29 — 10 needed to install sheathing;
- Sept. 9-12 — 10-20 volunteers needed to complete sheathing, install shingles, install siding;
- Sept. 15-18 — 10-20 needed to finish siding, windows, doors

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. No experience is needed. Each shift is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The building site is located at 4308 W. Cook Rd. Volunteers may sign up at http://www.fortwaynehabitat.org, click on “Volunteer,” followed by “Volunteer Now” and scroll through the calendar to the Catholic Apostle Build. Volunteers should select the date they want and click on “Sign Up.” For additional information, call the Habitat office at 260-422-4284 and enter 2 for administrative offices.

Secret Sisters Society Luncheon and Style Show to be held on Sept. 10

MISHAWAKA — The Secret Sisters Society will host its 13th annual Luncheon and Style Show from 12-1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Century Center in downtown South Bend.

Organized by the Women’s Task Force of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, the luncheon and style show is an annual event that raises funds to help underserved women, ages 40-49, receive life-saving mammograms or cervical cancer screenings. In the past decade, money raised by the Secret Sisters Society has provided more than 4,000 women assistance. The 2013 event raised more than $83,000.

Celebrating survivorship, the event provides education regarding the importance of early detection. Chris Karam, SJRMC chief operating officer; Dr. Michael Method, Women’s Task Force medical director; and Tricia Slioma, WNDU news anchor will be the masters of ceremony for the event. All models in the style show are cancer survivors and each demonstrates a testament to strength and perseverance.

The luncheon and style show is open to the public, but seating is limited. Reservations must be made in advance prior to Sept. 5. Individual reservations are $35. Sponsorship opportunities are available. With a donation of $50 or more, individuals may become members of the Secret Sisters Society and help underserved women gain access to mammograms or cervical cancer screenings. Donations are being accepted for those unable to attend.

Reservations, inquiries or donations may be made by emailing thefoundation@sjrmc.com, by calling 574-335-4545, or by visiting sjrmc.com. For more information on the Secret Sisters Society, visit womenstaskforce.org.

Enrichment support program offered for divorced Catholic adults

MISHAWAKA — The diocesan Office of Family Life is hosting a 12-session spiritual enrichment and support program for Catholic adults who have experienced divorce. The program will be held at the St. John Paul II Center in Mishawaka on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m. from Sept. 9 through Nov. 24.

The program is based on the DVD series “The Catholic’s Divorce and Penance Guide,” which features noted experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Christopher West and Father Donald Calloway, and covers topics such as dealing with anger, relating to a former spouse, raising children, handling finances, struggling to forgive and learning a deeper relationship with Christ.

The cost for the program is $20, which includes a personal reflection journal and refreshments. To register, contact Helen at 574-234-0687 or haustigen@dioceseofwb.org.

Associated Churches and USF partner to feed hungry

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis students will participate in a food drive on Aug. 24. Volunteers will disperse throughout the 46080 and 46802 zip codes from 1-3 p.m. collecting food for the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County’s Neighborhood Food Network.
ND conference to explore Romero contributions

NOTRE DAME — A major three-day international conference that will explore the past and present theological contributions of Archbishop Oscar Romero, and his enduring impact upon daily life in Latin America will be held Sept. 25-28 at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero was assassinated by a hired killer while celebrating Mass at a Carmelite chapel located in the Hospital de la Divina Providencia of San Salvador.

Only a few days before his tragic death, Romero told an editor of the Mexican magazine Excélsior: “If they kill me, I will rise again in the people of El Salvador. … If they manage to carry out their threats, this will mean to her and to her fellow community members at Perquin, El Salvador, those who witnessed the event, as a witness of hope in what is to come. … A bishop may die, but the Church of God, which is in the people, will never die.” Exploration of the international significance of the life and martyrdom of Archbishop Romero upon the Church of the future, and continuation of Archbishop Romero’s staunch opposition to violence, poverty, social injustice and oppression is the raison d’être for the annual Romero Days symposiums and lectures, which have been held at Notre Dame every March since 1987, and for the International Conference on Archbishop Oscar Romero, being held at the University of Notre Dame.

This international gathering is sponsored by generous support from Latin American/North American Church Concerns (LANACC), The Kellogg Institute for International Studies, The Institute for Latino Studies (ILS), The Center for Social Concerns (CSC), The Department of Theology, The Institute for Scholarship in Liberal Arts (ISLA) — all at the University of Notre Dame — and by anonymous donors.

To honor Romero’s martyrdom and his message, the conference is bringing together approximately two dozen internationally-recognized Romero experts including Msgr. Ricardo Urioste, president of the Fundación Oscar Arnulfo Romero; and a personal friend of Msgr. Romero; Dominican Father Gustavo Gutiérrez; John Cardinal O’Hara Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame; James Cuéllar, former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras; Roberto Cuellar, executive director of the International Institute of Human Rights and formerly Romero’s attorney and legal advisor; Michael Lee, associate professor of Systematic Theology at Fordham University; Julian Filewoski, chair of the Archibishop Romero Trust in England and author of Romero’s nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize; Claudia Bernardi, professor of community arts at the California College of the Arts and member of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, which exhumed mass graves in El Salvador, Guatemala and Ethiopia; Damián Zundel, director of Christian formation at the Church of the Transfiguration; Tom Kelly, associate professor of systematic theology at Creighton University; Guadalupe Montalvo, who will offer a personal account of what Romero’s efforts meant to her and to her fellow community members at Pengin, El Salvador, and other distinguished experts from around the world.

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame begins its fifth year of the popular “Saturdays with the Saints” lecture series. Distinguished members of the Notre Dame faculty will offer lectures on various saints at 10:30 a.m. on select ND home football game weekends.

For fall 2014, Saturdays with the Saints offers another great opportunity to spend time in the company of saints. Starting the season on Aug. 30, Lawrence Cunningham, professor emeritus, Notre Dame, will give a presentation on “Mary” at Notre Dame — Mary in art and image on Notre Dame’s campus.

In honor of the Synod on the Family, there will be a presentation on “A Family of Saints: Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents, as encountered by Dorothy Day” (Thérèse,1960) on Oct. 4. The holiest of all families will be the topic on Nov. 15 with a presentation titled “The Holy Family: Images in Art.”

Other saints, old and new include, “Theologian and More: Thomas Aquinas the Saint” on Sept. 6, and two of the newest saints will be discussed in “Saints as Popes: The Canonization of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II” on Oct. 11.

All lectures are free, open to the public, and held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Andrews Auditorium — Lower Level, Geddes Hall, on the University of Notre Dame campus. Find out more at http://icl.nd.edu/events/saturdays-with-the-saints/
The World Apostolate of Fatima’s Fort Wayne-South Bend Division invites everyone to their annual BREAKFAST and CELEBRATION!

Saturday, October 4, 2014
beginning at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
• 8:00 a.m.: First Saturday Devotions
• 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass - Father Glenn Kohrman, celebrant
Then a Marian Procession to the Grand Wayne Center
• Guest speaker: Father James Bromwich of the Sons of St. Philip Neri
• Catered all-you-can-eat breakfast

Pre-paid breakfast reservations required by Friday, September 19

• Adults: $10 • Children (4-12) $5 • Children 3 and younger eat for free
• For reservations, call Eric or Mariam at 260-348-9214 or email schmitz0696@gmail.com

We hope to see you on September 16.

Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth

You’ve heard the name Reza Aslan:
Now hear his talk on how history has portrayed Jesus and how Jesus understood himself.
A new voice among the scholars of Jesus,
you don’t want to miss this opportunity to see Aslan September 16.
Get your tickets now at MoreauCenter.com or by phoning (574) 284-4626.

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 | 7:30 p.m.
Saint Mary’s College | O’Laughlin Auditorium | Moreau Center for the Arts
St. Francis Xavier Parish thriving after 150 years

BY BONNIE EBERSON

PIERCETON — The members of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Pierceton are unanimous in their love for and praise of the small Catholic community and nearly all are active in church life and events. Brian Sexton, a relative newcomer to the parish who moved from the Gary diocese, says St. Francis parishioners are very welcoming. Though he came from a large parish with many more ministries, he believes that a larger percentage of St. Francis parishioners are active in the church.

“The great thing about a smaller church is that you get to know people...you feel more like family,” Sexton said. As a person who likes to be involved, he headed up the RCIA program last year and now serves on the parish council. “I’m always there,” he said, if Father Chuck Herman needs something done.

Father Herman himself is still getting acquainted since his appointment to the position of St. Francis Xavier pastor by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades just last month. As a newcomer, his initial impression of the parish is similar to Sexton’s. He’s found “a very active, very welcoming community with a lot of enthusiasm. They like to get things done.” The parish population is about 150 families with members of varying ages. “We have ‘em all,” he said. And there are ministries for everyone.

Men of the parish may join the fledgling Knights of Columbus chapter. Only one year old and not yet chartered, the 12-member organization or “round table” that surrounds the church, works at the church cemetery and assists elderly in the community. Plans for the future, according to Fourth Degree Knight Don Ripplinger, include a parish breakfast and father-daughter dance.

The music ministry at St. Francis is headed up by Georgia Tenney, who has been organist there the past 15 years. She plays for the Saturday evening Mass, while guitarists Betsy Hoffman and Susan Eberhardt cantor and play at Sunday morning Masses, including the popular 7:30 a.m. Mass at nearby Jellystone Campground, which Father Herman has re-instituted after a long hiatus. Substitute organist and cantor Ann Zydec assists Tenney and will step in during the winter months. Though there’s no church choir at present, Tenney confides that Father Herman wants one, so there’s a plan underway to begin recruiting singers at Christmas time.

St. Francis Xavier is active in the broader community as well and participates in a three-church free dinner ministry with the local Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Each congregation takes its turn planning the weekly menu, preparing and serving the food. Seventy-nine people from the area attended the most recent dinner, said Tenney.

Ministries serve parishioners both young and old. Children’s religious education classes are held each Sunday morning following the 9 a.m. Mass. Sharon DeLong oversees the program, which serves preschool through eighth-grade, while Don Ripplinger teaches Confirmation classes. DeLong says the number of children in the program increases yearly. She, too, enjoys the “small community” atmosphere of the parish.

Shut-ins and the elderly are served as well. Lay ministers take the Holy Eucharist to them on a weekly basis and Father Herman visits them monthly.

A new Parish Life committee will begin in the fall to plan activities, which promote the sense of community that parishioners seem to enjoy. Tracy Ripplinger revealed plans for the second annual parish Octoberfest, which is slated for Saturday, Oct. 25. A six-piece polka band will play for dancing and entertainment, a photo booth will be on site, German food will be served, and a German dessert contest will be judged by the pastor, she said. It is expected that with deep German roots himself and fluency in the language, Father Herman should feel very comfortable during the festivities.

Planning such events might be daunting but the advantage of belonging to a family-oriented parish, said Ripplinger, is that people simply ask, “What can I bring? What can I do?” so that things run smoothly and easily.

She is especially proud of the church’s first place award in this year’s Pierceton Days Parade. The parade theme was “Saturday Night Fever” and St. Francis Xavier’s entry entitled “Staying Alive for 150 Years in Christ” exemplified both their parish longevity and their community spirit. As usual, many parishioners helped with the project. These are the kinds of things “that bring people together,” she added. At the time of the 100th anniversary celebration in 1964, then-Bishop Leo A. Parsley wrote of “the spirit of the Catholics of Pierceton who, despite being a mission for so long without a resident pastor, kept alive their love for their parish church and their pride in serving it.”

Former parish administrator Father Robert Schulte observed at the time of the 125th anniversary celebration in 1989, “I remember St. Francis Xavier as a remarkable small parish where most people know one another and support one another in times of need. The ladies of the parish had been especially ready to help whenever needed.”

That welcoming attitude continues and the small faith community of St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton, now pastored by Father Chuck Herman, continues to thrive and appears more ready than ever to carry on the spiritual mission established 150 years ago by its Catholic predecessors.

Parish family celebrates

BY BONNIE EBERSON

PIERCETON — The small parish community of St. Francis Xavier is active and thriving 150 years after its founding. The church, dedicated in 1864, was filled to overflowing Aug. 17 as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was on hand to celebrate the anniversary Mass for the parish faithful. Joining Bishop Rhoades were Father Chuck Herman, pastor, and former parish administrator, Msgr. Bruce Piechocki.

“I’m very happy to be here with you,” said Bishop Rhoades, adding that he enjoys celebrating the liturgy in the many churches in the diocese and especially likes the feeling of family in the small parishes.

“I’m very happy to be with your family,” he told them.

Bishop Rhoades began his homily by sharing his impressions of the parish. “I’ve enjoyed reading about the 150-year history of St. Francis Xavier Parish in preparation for today’s celebration,” he said. “I learned that in the early 1860s, just a few years after the Diocese of Fort Wayne was established, priests came here to Pierceton on horseback to minister to Catholics. In 1864, a frame-structured church was built. The mission life of this parish began, and from 1864 to 1950, priests from surrounding communities served the Catholic community of Pierceton. Let us remember today these pioneer priests and the people, your ancestors in the faith, who built up this parish in faith, hope and charity.”

Bishop Rhoades went on to recall the appointment in 1950 of the first resident pastor, Father Robert Hibel, by then-Bishop John F. Noll, an event which began a time of stability and growth for the parish. Just recently, he continued, “I appointed another resident pastor here and I am very grateful to Father Chuck Herman for assuming this responsibility.”

In 1972, he reminded the congregation, the late Bishop Joseph R. Crowley, an early administrator of the parish, dedicated the present church, and it was later served by Msgr. Robert Schulte, Msgr. Robert Sarrazine, Father Dale Bauman, Father Drew Curry and others who speak very warmly about St. Francis Xavier Parish.

“This church building shows your connection with your history. I understand that the crucifix and stained glass windows are from the old church. But today’s celebration is about much more than physical buildings. It is about faith — the faith of the Catholics of Pierceton and this parish that has been lived and passed on for 150 years,” said the bishop.

The Gospel for this 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time told of a
Canaanite woman of faith, a Gentile, whose daughter was afflicted by a demon. She begged and pleaded for Jesus’ help until He finally answered her prayers and healed her daughter. Jesus spoke in glowing terms of the woman because of her perseverance in faith.

“The Canaanite woman is a model of faith for us,” said Bishop Rhoades. She knew that she had no claim on the God of Israel or its Messiah. But she trusted in His goodness and mercy and persisted in her pleas for help. “I wish to encourage you as a parish community that celebrates 150 years to persevere in faith and persistent prayer, like the Canaanite woman.”

“We’ve all inherited the beautiful gift of faith and are called to live that faith with strength, conviction and courage, trusting in the Lord’s mercy and goodness. We also have a mission to pass on the faith, to spread the faith, and when needed, to defend the faith.”

“A truly vibrant parish is one that evangelizes. I pray that you will focus on this mission. Your patron saint, Francis Xavier, was one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the Church. May the Lord bless you with his missionary zeal!” Bishop Rhoades exhorted the faithful.

He instructed parishioners, “Reach out to inactive Catholics and the unchurched. Reach out with love especially to the sick, the suffering, the lonely and the vulnerable. After 150 years of faith, may that faith continue to shine through your witness of love in this community.”

Bishop concluded by saying, “May God bless you and St. Francis Xavier intercede for you!”

After the anniversary Mass, parishioners gathered in the hall adjacent to the church for a catered breakfast and extra chairs were set up to accommodate the crowd. Thirty-one-year parishioner Pat Landrigan echoed the sentiments of many others on their special day. “This is a really, really nice parish, very warm,” he said. Landrigan was a lector during Mass and helps with maintenance at the church.

Bob and Martha Bohn were waiting patiently for the meal to begin. Parishioners for six years, they moved from Manchester. “We love it,” Martha said of St. Francis Parish. Her husband Bob had created a cross fashioned from pieces of stained glass, which were left over when the original church windows were remade for the new church in 1972. It was on display in the church hall.

It was clear that the people of St. Francis Xavier Parish were enjoying the special celebration. Both young and old exhibited the joy associated with such a wonderful occasion and the family-friendliness for which the parish is well known.

The present St. Francis Xavier church building was dedicated on April 16, 1972, by Bishop Joseph R. Crowley. At left are Father Martin Horvath and Father Frank Kronewitter.
Reaevew mirror

As I was traveling to my destination this morning, mind-wandering the road’s familiar twists and turns, navigating the occasional pothole, I was taken with the notion that grief is much like a journey down a road well traveled. After the loss of someone dear, we may find ourselves on an unfamiliar though well traveled highway, with grief as our traveling companion. We may even find ourselves a bit lost at times along the way.

There may be days when the sun shines warmly on our faces, and others when the glare blinds our eyes. A storm may erupt when we least expect it, but we navigate the slippery road of grief nonetheless. Many times we simply wish to stop and stare longingly into the rearview mirror at our past, becoming engulfed in the memories of what once was.

But like driving a car, though, we must glance occasionally into the rearview mirror to see where we have been; we simply cannot fix our eyes there and move forward safely. Of course you remember the past. It is the foundation of our present life. Our past, with its challenges and joys, and all that transpired in between, has made each of us who we are today. But we cannot live there. However, we can use our memories as a springboard to a hopeful future.

I visited with a gentleman who was receiving visitors at his deceased wife’s showing recently. He shared sweet stories of his life with his beloved — how they grew as a couple and even their retirement plans — and spoke of how blessed he had been for over 34 years to have loved this dynamic woman who had lost her battle with cancer. He spoke of the journey they shared as her health declined following a recurrence of the 15-year-old disease.

“I feel like I was blessed with twice as much time as some others get with this disease,” he said, confiding that research reports a six-year recurrence rate for a high percentage of patients in remission. “I will always miss her, but I know things will be alright eventually,” he concluded.

This gentle man had looked to his past and even through the lens of grief felt only love and gratitude for what he had. With hope fueled by faith he turned to his future and rested in knowing that life would go on eventually — a different life, but a hopeful one.

With faith comes wisdom

HE GOSPEL MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION THE SUNDAY GOSPEL 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 16:13-20

The first section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading.

The author of this section of Isaiah lived when the southern Hebrew kingdom, or the kingdom of Judah, still existed. Only later was this kingdom, and the other Hebrew kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, overwhelmed by outside invaders. As has been, and is so often the case of national rulers, the king of Judah governed the country with the assistance of aides and subordinates. The principal assistant wore a distinctive badge to indicate to any and all that he acted in the king’s behalf. This distinctive badge was a key.

In this reading, God, speaking through the prophet, stated that a chief minister would be selected to serve the king and to carry out the royal will. This official would wear the key.

An important point in this reading is that God is very much intervenes in human lives and uses human agents to accomplish the divine will and to communicate God’s words to people. The prophet, the king and the chief minister all were in the roles of human agents commissioned to bring God to the people, and the people to God.

Looking back on mystery priest at car crash

Kate Lentz had plucked the perfect dress for her Sunday surprise, and the yellow J. Crew frock was dangling in the back of her 1989 Mercedes, bouncing along the highway as the sun streamed in and oldies played on the radio.

The 19-year-old blonde from Quincy, Illinois, had just completed her summer internship in Jefferson City, Missouri, and she had hatched a plan to surprise her friends there by making a final visit. She set off around 8 a.m. on that Sunday, Aug. 4, and began the two-hour drive so she could go to church one more time with the gang she had worshiped with every week that summer.

As she drove south on Highway 19, Katie saw a crew swerve into her lane. She tried to steer away but couldn’t react quickly enough. A drunk driver hit her head on, and suddenly Katie felt herself moving — the car rolled in one complete rotation and landed on the driver side. Katie’s body trapped in the mangled Mercedes, inches from the ground. She felt a shooting pain, looked up and saw blood and steering wheel mashed into her stomach and blocking the view of her broken legs. She knew something was wrong because the car wasn’t upright.

“Well, is this real life?” she asked repeatedly.

Katie couldn’t see the witnesses and emergency responders, but the Pentecostal Christian remembers asking them to pray for her, to pray out loud.

Then came the man in black, a priest carrying anointing oil and offering to bless the person in the car. Once he received permission from a sheriff, he hooked up to Katie quietly, anointed her, absolved her and stepped away.

Someone asked him to return, saying Katie had requested more prayers, so the priest returned and prayed at her side.

To the crowd gathered around Katie, the priest seemed to vanish out of thin air, just as he had appeared. Katie was finally extricated from the car and flown to Blessing Hospital in Quincy. As news of the near-fatal accident spread, word got out about “a mystery priest” on the scene. ABC News dubbed him a “guardian angel,” and a composite sketch of the unknown man emerged. The story went viral.

One year later, Katie, who is walking unassisted and hoping to make a full recovery, still thanks God for Father Dowling’s presence that morning. “I believe father was sent from God,” she said. “He was my earth angel that day. And he was there for everyone on the scene, because it was really chaotic and they didn’t know what they were going to do. He provided a lot of comfort.”

Katie’s priorities have come into sharp focus, and she changed her career plans to follow her passion — sports, not dentistry. She sees the car crash as an opportunity to evangelize in a way that isn’t “pushy,” as she put it. “All I’m doing is telling my story. I can share what God did for me.”

Christina Capelchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and editor of SisterStory.org, the official website of National Catholic Sisters Week.

READINGS FOR the week of August 31

Sunday: Jer 20:7-8 Ps 63:2-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27


Tuesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-15, 20-21 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 4-5 Lk 4:38-41

Thursday: 1 Cor 11:19-25 Ps 119:12-18, 24-32 Lk 4:40-45

Friday: 1 Cor 12:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-21 Mt 25:14-30

Saturday: 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1-2c, 1-4 Lk 5:1-10

The Sunday Gospel reflexion for Aug. 31 can be found online at todaycatholicnews.com. Look for Msgr. Campion under columnists.

Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1b-2c, 3-4ab, 5:6 Lk 5:11-17

Friday: 1 Cor 3:1-5 Ps 37:2-3, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:23-33

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:16b-15 Ps 145:17-21 Lk 6:1-5

The unknown priest was a “guardian angel,” and a composite sketch of the unknown man emerged. The story went viral.

If you want to follow Father Dowling the story had made national news. The longtime priest, a 69-year-old native of Kilkenny, Ireland, reluctantly identified himself.

Father Dowling had subbed for a sick priest that Sunday morning and was driving home in his white Toyota Camry when he spotted ambulance lights and pulled over. It was a frightening scene, and Father Dowling didn’t want to get in the way of the emergency responders, but he felt compelled to approach the car. After 15 years in prison ministry, he’d learned the power of showing up, breathing in and reaching out. He’d even witnessed moments of grace among inmates on suicide watch.

“There is a great God,” he said. “When the Lord sends you, you have His Spirit. You trust, you serve, you live in the Holy Spirit.”

One year later, Katie, who is walking unassisted and hoping to make a full recovery, still thanks God for Father Dowling’s presence that morning. “I believe father was sent from God,” she said. “He was my earth angel that day. And he was there for everyone on the scene, because it was really chaotic and they didn’t know what they were going to do. He provided a lot of comfort.”

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Is artificial insemination wrong even among married couples?

Artificial insemination introduces sperm into a woman’s body by use of a catheter (cannula) or other instrument to bring about a pregnancy. Artificial insemination can be either homologous (using sperm from a woman’s own partner) or heterologous (using sperm from a man she is not married to). Both forms of artificial insemination raise significant moral concerns.

Bringing about a pregnancy by introducing a cannula through the reproductive tract of a woman and injecting sperm into her body raises concerns about reducing her to a kind of conduit for the purposes of obtaining a child. These actions fail to respect the most personal and intimate aspects of a woman’s relational femininity and her sexuality. She ends up being treated or treating herself as an “object” for the pursuit of procreation. A man also violates his sexuality, as his involvement becomes reduced to “producing a sample,” usually by masturbation, which technicians then use to impregnate his wife or another woman.

Similarly, any child conceived in this manner is potentially marital; the conjugal act but serves to facilitate and help to so that the act attains its natural purpose.

Interestingly, at the present time, there do not seem to be any real-world examples of insemination technologies that facilitate the conjugal act.

Produce sperm without masturbation, a couple could use a so-called “silkastic sheath” during marital relations (a perforated condom called “silastic sheath” during marriage). Hence, while the statement above is true in a theoretical way, in practice there do not appear to be any specific technical methods to which the statement would in fact apply, so the claim of some Catholos that an exception exists for homologous artificial insemination does not appear to be correct.

The core problem remains that even if sperm were collected without masturbation, the subsequent steps of introducing a sample into a woman’s reproductive tract, through a cannula or other means, would invariably involve a substitution or replacement of the conjugal act, which would not be morally acceptable.

To procure sperm without masturbation, the conjugal act is prohibited.”

Homologous artificial insemination within marriage cannot be admitted except for those cases in which the technical means is not a substitute for the conjugal act but serves to facilitate and to help so that the act attains its natural purpose.

FATHER TAD PACZOLCYK

HOPE

Continued from Page 12

one built on the past he held dear.

There was no urgency in his voice for this new life. He simply was sifting through his memories as he mounted his loss.

I have heard some say those who grieve must let go of their past memories. But our memories bring such pain that they won’t look to the past. But how can we have hope for our future without healing our past?

I have learned that remembering our deceased loved one and all that they meant to us can be painful at first. There is a very real loneliness to those memories as we ache for their very presence in our lives. But there is healing there as well. As time marches on we have the choice to work through our grief and move forward or remain in the pain and live in the past.

Griefshare.org, a bereavement website, recently offered, “Our hope lies before us, not in the memories of our past. Life’s path leads us forward and our decisions must be made based on our present and future needs not on our past memories.” Doing the hard work of mourning means looking to the past for a time and allowing ourselves to move through those painful feelings that are stirred by our longings— and then, in time, moving forward to create a new life, all the while holding our precious memories dear.

Our future, you see, stands on the shoulders of our past.

This road we travel with grief at our side is a well-traveled road. Many sojourners have traversed this path before us finding their way to hope. In that hope there is the promise to each of us that we are not alone — never alone. In the pain of loss — our seeming constant companionship — we may find ourselves lost and weary, the support and wisdom of others who are familiar with this sometimes-agonizing road can sustain us.

As we journey into the future, we may find that as we work through our pain, we learn to slow down and appreciate life’s landscapes in a different way. We may even reach out to others who have merged onto this challenging path with a loss of their own. Our compassion and grace grow as the road of healing opens before us.

So, through the reaview mirror is useful at times on our journey down the road of grief and loss, it is only for short and healing glances into the past rather than long fixed stars. Our grief work will drive us forward to the crossroads and when we are ready, we will move into the future with hearts and our hearts.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of Today’s Catholic newspaper.
Fort Wayne Catholic high schools conditioned for the fall season

**BISHOP LUERS ANNOUNCES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR** Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne has selected Rick Brown as athletic director. Brown taught at Huntington North (2007-2014) as a physical education teacher and served as assistant coach for football, wrestling and track. Brown has a bachelor’s degree in health and fitness from Purdue University, a master’s degree from Concordia University in secondary education and a MS in athletic administration from Western Kentucky.

**Fall Sports**

**Fort Wayne Catholic high schools conditioned for the fall season**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

**FORT WAYNE** — Rosters have been filled up and athletes from the Fort Wayne area Catholic high schools are conditioned for the fall season. Both Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger boast a considerable amount of talent in northeast Indiana as they vie for Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) titles and postseason crowns. John Bennett returns as athletic director for Bishop Dwenger while Bishop Luers welcomes Rick Brown to the post. Here is a preview of the 2014 teams.

**Bishop Dwenger High School**

**Girls’ soccer**

The Bishop Dwenger girls’ soccer team plans to continue their winning tradition, repeat their SAC title and advance in the post season. However, due to injury, they will have to do it without their star player and state leader, senior Kellee O’Shaughnessey. Other senior captains back to lead the Saints are Lexie Royale, Liz Ball and Michelle Adgalanis.

**Boys’ soccer**

Varsity players returning to the Bishop Dwenger boys’ soccer team include: Matthew Anderson, Cesar Borjas, Vaughn Gallager, Andrew Harter, Austin Ly, John Pollifrone, Jared Roy and Dan Ruiz, with Nathan Abel and Brian Gore listed as captains. In his rookie season at the helm, but no stranger to the soccer program at Bishop Dwenger, Coach Carl Philip Dorissant lists speed on offense and overall defense as the strengths for the Saints.

**Tennis**

With a goal to defend their 2013 SAC and sectional titles, the Bishop Dwenger boys’ tennis team will be led by four returning letter winners in Patrick Hols, Patrick Blee, Griffin Lapan and senior Joseph Verocco. Lost to graduation were the No. 1 doubles team of Bertram Najev and Charlie Scott who were state letter winners and the No. 1 singles player. The Saints’ mix of talent and experience will be key to meet their goals to win their conference, sectional and advance to state for the 2014 season. Leading captains for the blue and gold will be outside hitter Megan Coffin and setter Haley Henline, with Abby Borjach and Ellen Ross listed as newcomers to watch.

**Bishop Luers High School**

**Football**

The Bishop Luers football team returns a lot of experience with some exciting young players coming up. In his second start at the helm, Coach Kyle Lindsay is excited for the season and the future of the program, “We have a good blend of experience, speed and size. That may not equate to a bunch of wins, but we should be an exciting team.” Ten offensive players return along with eight defensive starters including captains Solomone Smith, Matt Gigli, Joey Lamping and Noah Wezensky. The Knights return three starters from a year ago with captains Katie Prendergast, Sarah Braun and senior Brianna Burilison all back, along with sophomore newcomer Katie Leja. In his eighth season as head coach, Tom O’Brien hopes to build on a strong 2013 finish when Bishop Luers won three of their final four matches. O’Brien’s goals are the same each year: improve weekly and keep the game fun.

**Volleyball**

Jay Golsteiny, former IPFW All-American returns for his second term with the Knights. After a busy summer, Bishop Luers’ young team is geared up for competition. Early on will be the preseason SAC tournament beginning Aug. 21. Seniors back this year for their final appearance are Kirsten Comment, Allie Leja, Tiyon Griggs and Natalie Huntein.

**Girls’ soccer**

Excited to see the team and Bishop Luers program continue to grow, new head coach J.C. Couto, returns senior captains Sheyna Coy, Aubrey Fipel and Maddy Strack to provide great leadership to his young roster along with three key returners who he feels will help a whole lot with their talent and experience on and off the field. With a challenging schedule from the start, the Knights hope to be a team that works hard together on and off the field to achieve the highest level they can possibly achieve.

**Boys’ soccer**

After losing in double overtime to the eventual state champs, Coach John Myers is hopeful Bishop Luers will continue their winning efforts on the soccer field in 2014. “We have the potential for success if they learn to play with confidence and poise as the season progresses,” Myers predicted. The Knights have some work to do, finding new leaders with the loss of a very talented senior class, which included Nick Strack who will be sitting up at Oakland University this season. Back to lead Bishop Luers are Andrew Schenkel, Ben Parks, Jake Shifflet and Jorge Barbone.

**Cross-country**

Official practices started Aug. 4, but Bishop Luers’ runners have been conditioning all through the summer months to prepare for the 2014 fall season. The Knights will host the Bishop Luers Invitational at Foster Park on Aug. 23 and the annual all-Catholic meet at Guerin Catholic High School will take place on Sept. 13 this year, while the SAC meet is set for Oct. 4. The postseason will kick off Oct. 14 for the Bishop Luers’ cross-country teams.

**Golf**

The Knights return three starters from a year ago with captains Katie Prendergast, Sarah Braun and senior Brianna Burilison all back, along with sophomore newcomer Katie Leja. In his eighth season as head coach, Tom O’Brien hopes to build on a strong 2013 finish when Bishop Luers won three of their final four matches. O’Brien’s goals are the same each year: improve weekly and keep the game fun.

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By Lisa Kochanowski

South Bend — The class of 2018 has many new adventures ahead of them as they transition from being in grade school to high school and nothing creates school spirit better than fall sports. The Saint Joseph High School Indians have practiced hard during the off-season and are coming out this fall ready to compete for a victory.

Cross-country

Coach Mike McCarthy is predicting a great season for both the boys and girls. Attendance at daily summer morning running was steady, and both teams are entering the season strong.

“After being very young the last two seasons, this year we have a large group of juniors leading the team. We have a very solid 1-2 in the front of our boys’ pack with Jacob Turner and Matt Morris leading the way,” said McCarthy about the boys’ team.

“Jacob Turner (16:21 5K PR, 9:48 3200 M PR) is coming off a great track season where he was the top non-senior in the 1,600 and 3,200 meter in the regional. Jacob had an excellent summer and should challenge for conference MVP as well as top spot at the sectional and regional,”

According to McCarthy, juniors Matt Morris (16:51 PR), Grayson Radwansky and Sam Roth all qualified for regionals in track and are ready to take the jump from underclassmen to upperclassmen. Sophomore Brian Lenyo was a regional qualifier last fall and gained some valuable track leg speed through the spring.

“Intrateam competition from the remaining varsity spots will come from Tristin Moreno, Peter Lenyo, transfer James Mustillo, and hopefully a few emerging runners. With a solid track season of growth behind us we are ready to run with the usual strong programs in the NIC and sectional (Penn, Mishawaka, Riley) and know that each team is near equal in ability as the season begins. Consistency in all aspects of training (mileage, rest and recovery, school/port balance) will be important in the fall, as they always are,” stated McCarthy.

The goals for the boys’ team are to win semi state and be represented by at least one individual in the state series.

“Where the boys have a true front runner the girls’ team is balanced with much depth and intrateam competition. No regular varsity athletes from the 2013 squad graduated,” commented McCarthy about the girls’ team.

“Additionally, junior Hannah Conner (regional track qualifier who missed the 2013 cross-country season due to injury) is the clear No. 1 in practice. Closely behind are Taylor Rock, Megan Kitz and Mara Taylor. Where Taylor missed track season with a stress fracture but appears to be ready to race well based on summer tempo runs, both Rock and Kitz had great improvement and ran their best times in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meter runs respectively at track season’s end,” said McCarthy.

Emily Radwansky and Katie Sakimoto are also returning varsity runners who qualified in both the cross-country and track regionals last year,” said McCarthy.

The girls’ team goal will be to qualify for semi state and to run our best at sectional.

“Last year we ran well enough at regional to beat several teams who had beaten us all season but we simply did not have the front runner to have a low enough team score to move on to semi state. With an improved ‘pack’ mean time, despite a true individual state finalist threat, we believe we can contend to move to week 3 of the state series this year,” said McCarthy.

A change in the organization will be a big help this season.

“Both teams and coaches are very satisfied to have the state series move to a four-meet, four-week series and not have to run sectional and regional in the same week as had been the case in the past. We feel this extra recovery time will allow for peak performances by all athletes in the post-season, which is what training is all about — planning, organizing, and setting long-term goals,” said McCarthy.

Girls’ golf

“This year’s group looks to be focused and ready to compete in every match. It is a good mix of veterans and newcomers,” said Coach Bret Bajdek.

Bajdek and Coach Harry Verhiley feel the team’s biggest strengths are the camaraderie the girls have and their willingness to practice hard. He has a big group, 23 girls, and they seem to get along well and come out to practice everyday trying to get better.

“Like most teams, getting them to forget about the bad shots and keeping a positive attitude when a round isn’t going well is always one of the bigger tests for the golfers,” said Bajdek about areas that need to work on during the season.

“The team is hoping for a great season.

“Our goals are to be competitive in the NIC during the regular season and strive to improve until sectional time. We hope to be playing our best golf when sectionals roll around and give ourselves a chance to move on from there,” stated Bajdek.

Girls’ soccer

“I predict a stronger finish than start, as we have a number of important soccer issues to solve. I expect us to be strong defensively, and will need some time to develop our midfield and forward lines. I do expect us to be a focused team and one which will rely on the contributions of many in order to succeed,” said Coach Johan Kuitse about the upcoming season.

The team has a strong senior class with excellent leadership skills.

“We have an experienced group of defenders returning this season, so we’d expect this to be a strength for the team. I really like the effort the girls have demonstrated during the summer sessions, and I expect this to translate into a hard-working team,” commented Kuitse about the team’s strengths.

An area the team will need to work on this season is finding players who are able to put the ball in the net with a level of consistency.

“Losing our top two scorers will give others the opportunity to step up and demonstrate their ability and value to the team,” stated Kuitse.

The goal for the 2014 season is to develop as a team so that they are able to win their conference, and are able to compete against the best teams in the state.

Boys’ tennis

Coach Steve Bender said they graduated five of the seven from last year’s 24-2 team so there will be some challenges ahead.

“We will be very inexperienced and young, but this group works hard and will improve a ton,” stated Bender. “Our strength, like every year, will be our team depth. We have a lot of guys close in ability.”

According to Bender the team will take their lumps early with a tough schedule, but get mentally tough from that and build for a strong finish.

“Our goals never change. We are out to win the NIC crown, sectionals, regionals and head downstate,” said Bender.

Volleyball

“This will be a young team going into the season since there are only three returning varsity players. Because of that variable, this will be a rebuilding year as well as one of growth and development for each player and the team as they gain experience at the varsity level. I think the team that steps onto the court in August will be a very different one at the end of the season. We have a good core group in the returning varsity players who will provide strong leadership, work ethic and experience to the team,” said volleyball Coach Mary Kay O’Connell about her predictions for this season.

According to O’Connell, the team has some very passionate players who love the game of volleyball. She feels they will bring a high level of intensity and joy to the court. This team is not an exceptionally tall team and they will rely on scrappy defense, steady ball handling and smart attacking.

O’Connell believes that the team will need to work on everything this season, but improving blocking will greatly impact the defense overall. Excellent ball control and defense are vital to success so the team will spend a lot of time honing these skills.

“Because this is a transition year, since we’re all getting to know each other in my first year back coaching at St. Joe, we’ll set several goals to achieve throughout the season. It will be a season to build on and grow individually and collectively as a team with each week that passes. I’m looking forward to a great season, and O’Connell of her goals for the season.

Football

“I predict another season in which each and every Friday night will bring exciting battles between evenly-matched teams,” said Coach Ben Downey about the upcoming season.

Downey feels the team’s greatest strengths this year are senior leadership, their ability to overcome adversity with a positive attitude and a staff that enjoys the players and collaborating together.

“We need to work on developing younger players and remain focused on the process of becoming the best team we can be,” said Downey.

Downey’s goal for the 2014 season is “to prepare better and compete harder than our opponents.”
Marian High School sports go ‘full throttle’

BY TRISH LINNER

Football

The theme for Marian football this season: “Full Throttle.” It isn’t about what we do, but how we do it!” Coach Reggie Glon is determined as he enters his 21st season as the head coach of Marian High School football. Despite graduating nine seniors from last year’s team, the expectations have not changed for the new senior class. Coach Glon expects to play for championships in November. Marian will return nine starters on offense, nine on defense. The Knights will need to have a great summer to compete with a daunting schedule.

Girls’ golf

Jay Dobson joins the Marian family as the new head coach for girls’ golf. Dobson is a graduate of Saint Joseph who returns to the Michiana area after coaching at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The team has already started the season with two invitational meets. “Our greatest competition will be Saint Joseph. They recently beat us by two strokes,” said Dobson.

Girls’ soccer

Djamel Charmat returns for his fifth season as head coach for girls’ soccer. This season the team has 14 returning varsity players and with eight more joining the varsity squad including four freshmen.

“I think seniors Shannon Hendricks, Denise Veldman and Taylor Pooley will be key players for the success of the team,” said Coach Charmat. He believes the team will do well this season based on the schedule they will face. “There are always a few teams such as Penn, Saint Joseph and Warsaw that will be a challenge for us.” The team just completed tryouts and kicked off their first game against Warsaw on Aug. 18. The following week is the annual tournament at Saint Joseph. “I will have a good idea where we stand then and determine what kind of adjustments need to be made for the rest of the season,” Coach Charmat said.

Boys’ soccer

Coach Ben Householder returns for his 17th season at the helm of the boys’ soccer team. The team has 12 returning varsity players from last year’s squad and 10 new players to the team. “Of the 10 new players, two are freshmen, one is a transfer, one is a foreign exchange student, and the rest are moving up from junior varsity,” said Coach Householder.

“I expect the seniors and returning players to make a big impact.” The returning seniors include Cruz Javera, Luis Javera, Joey Kaucie, Boniface Muguru, Simon Siguenza and Isaac Torres.

“We hope to improve upon the third place Northern Indiana Conference finish from last year and compete for the title. We also hope to improve on our runner-up finish in regionals from last season and try to get to semi state,” Coach Householder said.

Rivalry games against Saint Joseph and Penn will be big games for the team this season, in addition to Elkhart Central. Coach Householder has the team focused on their all-around team defense and the chemistry of the team. Many players will be competing for multiple positions on the team and they are hoping for a great season.
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Jim Caviezel’s new role reflects Christ-like love

BY TONY ROSSI

Jesus, Jimmy Stewart and John Paul II. Actor Jim Caviezel believes that all three of those men are reflected in Coach Bob Ladouceur, the character he plays in the new film “When the Game Stands Tall” (opening Aug. 22).

Inspired by actual events, “When the Game Stands Tall” tells the story of Concord, California’s De La Salle High School football team which, between 1992 and 2004, went on the longest winning streak in sports history with 151 consecutive wins. Ironically, Ladouceur wasn’t especially focused on winning. Instead, his goal was to build character in the young men put in his charge, to instill them with skills and virtues that would serve them not just on the football field but in life.

During an interview on “Christopher Closeup,” Caviezel explained that one of the reasons he took the role stems from a long-ago encounter with “It’s a Wonderful Life” star Jimmy Stewart. Caviezel recalled the veteran actor telling him, “Young man, whatever you do, make good movies.”

And what qualifies as a good movie in Caviezel’s mind? “A story that has redemption, a story that has real love. That’s what Ladouceur teaches: real love and responsibility. Those boys would look him in the eye (and know) he loves them. That is true authenticity. Why aren’t more coaches like that?”

It’s the worst three-letter word ever: Ego. Edge God Out. So authenticity is important because there was no one more authentic than Christ. Ladouceur takes that seriously.

Caviezel added that he also admires Ladouceur for being a role model for youth. He says, “Things changed in the ’80s when the saying came out, ‘I’m not your kids’ role model.’ I think that’s hurt our culture — (this belief) that I can do whatever I want whenever I want it. When Pope John Paul came to the United States, he said that every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom exists not to do what you like, but having the right to do what you ought. And he also said to set yourself up to be a saint. Bob Ladouceur has these principles.”

In light of his winning record, Ladouceur received many offers to coach college or NFL teams and earn a seven-figure salary. Yet he turned them all down because he believed that his high school students needed his guidance more. He wanted to build the next generation of leaders who would do something positive in society and become “men” in the full sense of the word.

Caviezel adds, “You think that when (guys) turn 25 or 30, they become men. That’s not necessarily true anymore: I know a lot of 40-, 50-, and 60-year-old ‘guys.’ What’s the difference between a ‘man’ and a ‘guy’? The guy never accepts responsibility. In order to be a man, you have to step up to your responsibility.”

Caviezel models responsibility in his own life as the father of three adopted children — and as husband to his wife Kerri. He calls his family and friends “the walking presence of Christ in my life.” And despite his busy schedule working in TV and film, the actor always makes time for prayer. He says, “If I don’t pray, I have no gratitude and no appreciation. If I lose those two things, I have no zest for life.”

Caviezel hopes that audiences turn out to see “When the Game Stands Tall” in theaters to send a message to Hollywood that movies like this can make money — and to simply enjoy an entertaining film that’s appropriate for the whole family. He says, “It’s not just a football movie. It’s about life. The value of this film is role models, and the focus is love.”
Lazy days of summer reading

by kay cozad

The following are recently published books that can touch the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for purchase at your local Catholic bookstore.

"Startled by God: Wisdom from Unexpected Places," by Joe McHugh is packed with stories that show how humanity searches for the living God in the events, things and people of everyday life. This engaging text and practical tips on how to live it in the U.S., including a comprehensive list of devotional sites across the country, explains devotion to Mary based on her various titles, and includes pictures of dozens of shrines. Each site description concludes with a prayer and grace. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-654-4.

"Praise God and Thank Him: Biblical Keys to a Joyful Life," by Jeff Cavin explains what biblical praise is and how it transforms any challenge and leads to deeper trust in God. It shows that gratitude and praise are a winning combination with practical tips on how to live it in everyday life. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-723-7.

"Made for Love, Loved by God," by Father Peter John Cameron opens each chapter with words of wisdom from many powerful saints and followers of Christ and is filled with Scriptural and poetic quotes that show the reader the way to feel closer to God and become His love for others. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-635-3.


"Answers: Catholic Advice for your Spiritual Questions," by Father John Bartunek is a book packed with frequently asked questions and a plethora of advice written from a practical perspective. Questions from "How can I find comfort in God when I feel so unworthy?" to "How can I balance being with doing?" are answered with intelligent and inspiring insight. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-822-7.

"Simply Merton: Wisdom from His Journals," by Linus Mundy distills the timeless themes from nonviolence to death and eternity and more written on by Merton in his dozens of books and journals and gives his readers wisdom to live by in today’s world. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-763-3.

"Following St. Francis; John Paul II’s Call for Ecological Action," written and compiled by Marybeth Loricki is a dynamic book written in easy, interesting narrative that offers a fresh look at environmental problems by investigating the ecological teachings of St. John Paul. Rizzoli edito libris, ISBN: 978-0-8478-4271-1.


"How can I find comfort in God when I feel so unworthy?" to "How can I balance being with doing?" are answered with intelligent and inspiring insight. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-822-7.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogun@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.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish to hold summer festival
Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart will hold its annual parish summer festival on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rummage sale begins at 9 a.m. with festival start at 11 a.m. Fair food features elephant ears, Italian sausage sandwiches, pizza, chicken and rice, and authentic Mexican food including tortas, flautas, elotes, tamales, duros, tostadas, gorditas and palmita. St. Vincent is located at 1404 N. Main St., Elkhart.

Parish picnic
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a parish picnic from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23, on the parish grounds, 2800 Corpus Christi Dr. Children’s and teen games, corn and sausage roast, food and drink concessions, beer tent (open at 1 p.m.), Bingo from 1-4 p.m. and 1/2 chicken dinner with noodles and cabbage from 4-7 p.m. Chicken dinner tickets: $8 in advance from the parish office, 574-272-9982.

Women’s fertility workshop offered
St. Joseph School Board will have a BBQ evening Saturday, Aug. 30, outside Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. 7th St. The Velvet Jones Band, BBQ dinner, bounce house, face painting, balloons and water games will be offered. Food starts being served at 6 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults, $12 for children and free for those 4 and under. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Peace fest
Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will have a festival Aug. 21-24. Thursday and Friday will be a rummage sale, amateur wiffleball pool play and Friday will offer breakfast. Saturday will add a classic car show, family games, food, entertainment, youth and trivia night, moonlight madness rummage sale and fireworks. On Sunday, Mass will be offered by games and a live auction. Visit queenofpeace.cc for details.

Blue Suede BBQ
South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will have a summer fish fry Friday, Aug. 22, from 4-7 p.m. Fish fried by Tyner IOOF. All tickets are $9, children 6-12 are $4 and children 5 and under are free. Drive-through and carry-out closes at 6:30 p.m. For ticket information call 574-291-3775.

Michiana Celtic Fest
South Bend — Join the Celts Sunday, Aug. 31, in Howard Park for a Celtic Fest. Entrance fee is $5 and children under 12 are free. Call 574-232-2853 for information. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus Council 553 and St. Patrick Church.

Blue Suede BBQ
Garrett — The St. Joseph School Board will have a BBQ evening Saturday, Aug. 30, outside Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. 7th St. The Velvet Jones Band, BBQ dinner, bounce house, face painting, balloons and water games will be offered. Food starts being served at 6 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults, $12 for children and free for those 4 and under. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

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Women’s fertility workshop offered
Huntington — A NaPro TECHNOLOGY workshop about women’s cycles and standardizing monthly record keeping will be Saturday, Aug. 23, at St. Mary’s Assumption Hall from 1-2 p.m. RSVPs required. Contact Theresa Schortgen at 260-494-6444 or chartdaily365@frontier.com.

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Knights’ Festival of Faith draws families to Fort Wayne

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Twenty-two councils of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Knights of Columbus combined their talents to sponsor and coordinate the Festival of Faith to celebrate the Catholic faith and family. The third annual Knights’ Festival of Faith was held at Headwaters Park in downtown Fort Wayne Aug. 15-16.

The festival opened on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a 6 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in which he rededicated the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to Mary. The Knights, in collaboration with the diocese, encouraged the faithful to prepare for individual consecration to Mary by using the “33 Days to Morning Glory” retreat prepared by Father Michael E. Gaski, a priest of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Diocesan wide, over 12,000 faithful made an individual consecration to the Blessed Mother either at the cathedral, home parishes or individually. At Mass, nearly 2,000 faithful attended and the congregation flowed outside to the cathedral’s plaza and lawn areas. At the Mass, Bishop Rhoades blessed brown scapulars to be distributed at the festival.

The Franciscan Brothers Minor carry a statue of Mary to lead 1,200 faithful who participated in the Marian procession from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception through the streets of downtown Fort Wayne to Headwaters Park. The brothers work closely with the Knights of Columbus on the implementation of events.

At Headwaters Park, the faithful assembled and Bishop Rhoades led the Litany to the Blessed Mother and sang “Immaculate Mary.” The Festival of Faith offered many elements to add to the fruits of consecration. On Saturday at the festival, area priests heard Confessions, the rosary was prayed and the Knights of Columbus’ Shroud of Turin replica and video were displayed.

At the tables, a flyer published by Our Sunday Visitor called “Living the Beatitudes: The Path to a Happy Life” and brown scapulars with literature were distributed as well as a bumper sticker encouraging the recitation of the rosary for the nation.

Dr. Ray Guarandi, the popular Catholic radio host of “The Doctor is In” encouraged the hearts of parents when he spoke of “Laughter: The Sanity of Family” and later in the evening, “Why Be Catholic?” During the evening talk he spoke about ways to be certain that the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church represent the true Christian faith.

The Franciscan Brothers Minor of Fort Wayne provided children’s games, rides and give-aways for families. In the afternoon, the brothers judged the pie-baking contest. Franciscan Father David Mary Eingo, the minister general of the Franciscan Brothers Minor, spoke at the festival about the Shroud of Turin. The festivities also included a Family 5K race, pancake and sausage breakfast, table displays from area nonprofits, musical performances by the Fort Wayne Area Community Band, Emma MacDonald, a teen singer-songwriter who sings about her faith and pro-life mission, the Franciscan Brothers Minor and the Smith Family Singers of Fort Wayne.

Mark Michuda, chairman of the Festival of Faith Planning Committee, told Today’s Catholic the vision and purpose of the festival is to bring every mission in the diocese together “to celebrate our faith publicly.” Because the Knights of Columbus are integrated through many parishes in the diocese, they are in a good position to get that work done. He said the public event is a method of evangelization and an opportunity to fortify the faith.

Fourteen Knights of Columbus councils offered financial support and nearly 300 volunteers, including the Knights, Redeemer Radio and diocesan staff, were all part of the organization and labor of the festival.

“These councils come and work together because of this festival,” Michuda said, and the visibility of this helps enhance the awareness of the Knights’ mission and membership numbers.

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On Aug. 16, Bishop Rhoades celebrated a 6 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Mark Michuda, chairman of the Festival of Faith Planning Committee, told Today’s Catholic the vision and purpose of the festival is to bring every mission in the diocese together “to celebrate our faith publicly.” Because the Knights of Columbus are integrated through many parishes in the diocese, they are in a good position to get that work done. He said the public event is a method of evangelization and an opportunity to fortify the faith.

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