Faith celebrated as students return to school across diocese

BY KAY COZAD AND TIM JOHNSON

It’s back to school for grade school, high school, college and university students across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. As students return, their faith-life grows ever closer to Jesus through the opportunity to attend weekday Mass at churches, chapels and sometimes high school and university gymnasiums that are transformed into worship spaces.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has already begun pastoral visits — first at Sacred Heart School in Warsaw on Aug. 20 — and then celebrating the opening Mass at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, Aug. 27, in the Hutzell Athletic Center.

The center was near full with University of Saint Francis staff, faculty, students and others as the Founders Day Convocation and Mass began. Sister of St. Francis Sister Gayle Rusbasan, campus minister assistant, welcomed all visitors — not just Catholics, but others of faith and those with no faith — to the Mass and encouraged all to visit the Campus Ministry space for faith and fellowship throughout the year.

Bishop Rhoades was joined by Father David Meinzen, chaplain of USF, as concelebrant of the Mass that opened the fall semester of university classes. Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, who support the workings of the university, were present for the celebration of Mass as well. Bishop welcomed those in attendance noting that they gathered to bless the students and staff of USF both academically and spiritually.

His message to the university students spoke of the young man Jesus met on the road to Emmaus. “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

This question is one form of the question on every person’s heart: “What is the meaning of life? What is my ultimate aim and how do I attain it?”

The bishop said it is another way of asking, “How do I enter the kingdom of God?”

“In your studies here at the University of Saint Francis, you will discuss and ponder many different questions in your classes, while studying, reading and writing papers,” Bishop Rhoades told the university students.

St. Bernard Church celebrates 150 years of faith

BY LAURIE KIEFABER

WABASH — Heat and humidity did not dissuade the more than 250 parishioners, priests and area faithful from attending the St. Bernard Church sesquicentennial Aug. 24.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the anniversary Mass along with a dozen priests during the church’s 150th anniversary.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades told the congregation, “The city of Wabash is most famous in history for becoming the first electrically lighted city in the world. This event happened March 31, 1880. St. Bernard
Solidarity with brothers and sisters persecuted in the Middle East

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. ROHADES

Our hearts are moved by the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Iraq and Syria.

Several weeks ago, Pope Francis wrote to the Secretary General of the United Nations urging the international community to do all they can to stop and to prevent further systematic violence against these ethnic and religious minorities. He decried how “Christians and other religious minorities have been forced to flee from their homes and witness the destruction of their places of worship and religious patrimony.”

Since January, about 1.2 million people have been displaced in Iraq as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has taken control of large areas of those countries. Christians and other religious minorities have been singled out for attack, simply for their faith. They were given a choice: abandon their Christian faith and convert to Islam, pay an exorbitant “infidel tax,” or die. Many have been killed. Over 100,000 have fled, refusing to renounce their Christian faith. What an example of faith and courage they are for us and for the world!

It is tragic to see the destruction of the Church in Iraq, where the faith has been lived and the Church has been alive since the early centuries of Christianity. The Islamic State militants overtook the city of Mosul and have captured many of the Christian villages and cities in the surrounding area. The Christians have fled, leaving their homes and businesses. They had to leave behind their possessions often escaping with only the clothes on their backs. But they left with something more valuable and precious: their faith in Christ.

It is important that we stand in solidarity with these brothers and sisters in Christ through our prayers and financial support. Many of them are now living in community centers (churches, schools, parking lots) in the northern city of Irbil and in refugee camps elsewhere, like in Jordan, where they have been welcomed by King Abdullah and the Catholic community there. Our own Catholic Relief Services is among the organizations assisting the refugees with food, water, clothing, and shelter. CRS also is able to provide psychological and social support, trauma healing, education for the children, and help with longer-term resettlement.

On the weekend of September 6th and 7th, we will be taking up a Special Collection for the Middle East in all of our parishes. These funds will be used by CRS and other Catholic agencies working in partnership with the local Church to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs facing the peoples in Iraq, Syria, Gaza, and surrounding countries where refugees have fled. Collection funds will also be used to support Church programs to aid persecuted Christians and to respond to rebuilding needs of Catholic dioceses in the impacted areas. Thank you for your support of this special collection.

We cannot abandon or ignore our suffering brothers and sisters. Their need to know that we are with them and have not forgotten them. We need to pray for them and help with their needs. We and the international community must not be silent in the face of the persecution and destruction that has taken place and continues to take place.

The contempt for human life and religious liberty displayed by the Islamic State must be opposed. Their barbaric acts of terrorism must be condemned in the most absolute terms. Such acts strike at the heart of human dignity and are an offense against all humanity. The Church teaches the right to use force for purposes of legitimate defense as well as the duty to protect and help innocent victims who are not able to defend themselves from acts of aggression. The atrocities committed by the Islamic State must be condemned and their criminal activity stopped.

We saw the cruelty of ISIS in the murder of 40-year-old American journalist James Foley two weeks ago. After two years of captivity, this Catholic man was brutally executed by decapitation. By all accounts, James Foley was a strong, loving, and courageous man of faith. Looking at the photo of him in the video before the execution, his eyes showed strength and resolve. I could not help think that this strength came from his faith. I read that in captivity, he showed courage and hope. He would pray the rosary on his fingers. His cruel death might seem like a defeat. I don’t think so, not in the larger scheme. Our Lord’s death and resurrection teaches us the victory of life and love. We pray that James Foley and so many other innocent victims of the Islamic State are received into the joy and peace of heaven.

We can be encouraged and inspired by the example of James Foley and the thousands of other Catholics who will not deny their faith, will not embrace hatred, and will not despair. Let us be spiritually close to them. Let us pray for those who are persecuted, those who are refugees, and for those who have died. Let us pray that our nation and the international community will stop the crimes against humanity being committed in the Middle East. And let us pray that the militans of ISIS will cease their terror campaign.

“On the weekend of September 6 and 7, we will be taking up a Special Collection for the Middle East in all of our parishes.”

BISHOP KEVIN C. ROHADES

A demonstrator marches with crutches outside the U.S. consulate in Irbil, Iraq, Aug. 11. The pope’s envoy to the region, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, said people still do not know what will become of terrorized Christians.

TAX FREE/ MARK MAXEY
He added, “I encourage you, during your years here, not to neglect the ultimate question, the most important question. It is the question the young man asked Jesus in today’s Gospel. It touches on the only thing that will truly give us meaning in life — that will bring us real joy and peace. It’s the question about life! You are very fortunate about life! You are very fortunate to attend a Catholic university where this question is not ignored and where there is the possibility of searching for truth on the wings of reason and faith.”

“The Lord is calling us to live our lives intensely and fruitfully in this world,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Through Baptism, He has called each of us to follow Him concretely, to love Him above all things, and to serve Him in our brothers and sisters. The rich young man, unfortunately, did not accept Jesus’ invitation and he went away sad. He did not have the courage to leave behind his material goods and to serve Him in our lives intensely and fruitfully.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the students not to be afraid to ask the question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said, “The exciting possibility of unending happiness, the joy of being surrounded by God’s love forever, gives full meaning to our existence here on earth. It directs our life plan and decisions to great things, knowing that we are called to eternity.”

Bishop Rhoades recalled the words of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who died in 1925 at the age of 24. “He said: ‘I want to live to eternity.’” Bishop Rhoades noted, “He was referring to Christian perfection, to holiness, and to eternal life.”

Bishop Rhoades referred to American journalist James Foley, a devout Catholic who was held captive for two years and then brutally murdered and beheaded in August by ISIS, the terrorist Islamic State.

“During his captivity, he looked up to the heights,” Bishop Rhoades said, “He would pray the rosary on his fingers.”

“When I looked at the film of his face before they slit his head, I looked at his eyes,” Bishop Rhoades noted. “I didn’t see fear or hatred in those eyes. I saw firmness and courage. I can’t imagine what was in his mind during those moments, but the more I learn about him, the compassion and love that motivated him to cover the war and violence in Syria and Iraq, his deep faith, and his resolve in the face of danger, the more I thought how as a college student at Marquette, he must have asked the Lord: ‘What must I do to inherit eternal life?’”

During his time at Marquette University was when Foley experienced the call to serve others in need.

“He heard the call of the Lord ‘Come, follow me,’” Bishop Rhoades said, “And he did. He did not go away sad. He was a man of joy and goodness. We may think about his life having come to a terrible and tragic end. But that end was just the beginning. He has gone to the heights! He had high goals, the goals that give joy and full meaning to our lives. Christ is calling each of you, like He called James Foley, to work with Him, to make constant progress in faith and love, and to take up your responsibilities in order to build the civilization of love.”

Following the Communion prayer, USF President Sister of St. Francis Sister M. Elise Kriss addressed the congregation with words of encouragement, achievement, inspiration and prayer. She thanked the students and staff for being members of the university community and hoped that they would all “pray for and support one another in the year ahead.”

Deep reverence and some curiosity were present in the students participating in the Mass and convocation. Yeshua Villalobos, a Catholic freshman at USF, said the Mass “felt like a blessing for the new (school) year.”

Trevon Carr, a first-year transfer, came to see what the Mass was all about after hearing about it from his coaches. And sophomore LeeAnn Moeller felt it was “a good way for the whole school to come together.”

A picnic lunch was held for those in attendance following the Mass.

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

- St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- Queen of Heaven Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) of Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 2215 South St Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.
- St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty on Thursday, Sept. 4, after 8 a.m. morning Mass from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., Litany of the Eucharist and Benediction at 6:45 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m. Exhibition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., Litany of the Eucharist and Benediction at 6:45 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m.
Catholic, Orthodox patriarchs visit Irbil to support displaced Iraqis

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

BEIRUT (CNS) — A delegation of Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs visited Irbil, Iraq, to show their support and solidarity with the more than 100,000 Christians and minorities displaced in the country by the advance of Islamist militants.

Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai, patriarch of the Maronite Catholics, said the Aug. 20 trip was “a first step in the implementation of the statement issued by the patriarchs,” referring to a special summit Aug. 7 to address the crisis facing Christians in Iraq and Syria.

“The first and essential clause in the statement is our support for Christians who have left their homes because of the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations,” Cardinal Rai said.

Cardinal Rai left Beirut with Melkite Catholic Patriarch Gregory III Laham, Syriac Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan and Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II.

Upon their arrival in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region of Iraq, the prelates were joined by Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad and local officials, including Kurdistan’s Regional Interior Minister Karim Sinjari and Irbil Governor Nawzad Hadi.

The patriarchs visited refugees and prayed with them at three churches in Irbil hosting refugees from the Ninevah Plain. The refugees fled after being told by the Islamic State militants to convert to Islam, pay the Islamic jizya tax, or be killed. Many were robbed of their possessions before being forced to flee.

“We want all the Christians, Muslims, Yazidis, Sunnis, Shites and Kurds to stay in Iraq and not to leave because this is our homeland, this is our culture, and civilization and we do not want to part with it,” Cardinal Rai told reporters. “The ones who want to help us must work to stop injustice, help us end injustice and help our people regain their rights. This is what we want from the ones who want to help.”

Later, he told them: “We cannot stand idly by and watch as evil oppresses the people. We will carry our cause to the whole world.”

Lebanon’s National News Agency reported that the delegation received a promise from the Kurdish authorities that Christians will be protected “until the last drop of blood.”

The patriarchs stressed that their priority is the safe return of all refugees and for Christians and minorities to be able to remain in their homeland.

“We demand that the displaced be allowed to return to their land with dignity. We will not accept anything less than that,” Cardinal Rai said.

In a news conference before leaving Iraq, the patriarchs expressed support for human rights, including the right of Christians to remain in their homes.

“We cannot tolerate the tragedy we have witnessed here today,” said Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius. He urged the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to visit the regions to determine if the displaced Iraqis could continue to live this way.

Cardinal Rai said: “It is unacceptable to allow terrorist organizations to eliminate entire communities in the 21st century.”

“Do not think of emigrating: save your roots,” the cardinal told Christians. “We are on your side and we will raise our voice to the international community to act against terrorism.”

He called for “the international community to mobilize” to thwart the threat of the Islamic State and other terrorist groups.

Patriarch Sako said militias were not the solution.

“Self-defense is a holy right, but forming militias will ruin Iraq,” Patriarch Sako said. “State security forces should defend the people.”

During an Aug. 18 news conference held on the top of a mountain near Irbil, Pope Francis said his recent appeal to the U.N. to “take action to end the humanitarian tragedy now underway in Iraq” was made with a series of measures he had considered with Vatican officials, including his decision to send Cardinal Filoni to meet with the region’s church and government officials and refugees.

The same day, Cardinal Filoni and Patriarch Sako appealed to the international community to help liberate villages controlled by the Islamic State terrorists and to provide the displaced with international protection.

Franciscan Fest
A Family Afternoon of Fun with the Franciscan Brothers Minor
Sunday, September 14 - 1 to 5 p.m.
at the Our Lady of the Angels Oratory (formerly St. Andrew’s Church),
2610 New Haven Avenue, Fort Wayne...FREE ADMISSION
Dodgeball tournament with the Friars in age categories with prizes.
Live Auction of Dinner with Fr. David Mary Engo and Fr. Jacob Meyer! AND OTHER LIVE AUCTION ITEMS • SILENT AUCTION • 50/50 DRAWING • AND MORE!
Deluxe Hog Roast Dinner at 1:30 p.m. $12 per person - $30 per family
To reserve advance dinner tickets please call Sandy at (260) 433 -1236. Tickets also available at the door but seating limited All proceeds to benefit Confraternity of Penitents Renovation Fund.
Pope names Philadelphia auxiliary bishop to head Toledo Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, to head the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States, publicized the appointment Aug. 26.

Born June 11, 1959, and raised in the Philadelphia neighborhood of Manayunk, Bishop Thomas, 55, has been an auxiliary bishop in his hometown since 2006. He was ordained for the Philadelphia Archdiocese in 1985, after attending the local St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and obtaining his licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

He was named to what has been a vacant see since October, when Bishop Leonard P. Blair left. He joked about having Francis, to his predecessor in the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops, for his ordination as a priest, and studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

At a news conference in Toledo Aug. 26, Bishop Thomas expressed his gratitude to Pope Francis and Ann Thomas grew a faithful shepherd and spiritual father. He was named to what has been a vacant see since October, when Bishop Leonard P. Blair left. He joked about having Francis, to his predecessor in the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops, for his ordination as a priest, and studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

self is by “simply stating ‘I am a Roman Catholic bishop,’ I think should say it all.”

In Philadelphia, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said the appointment “demonstrates the confidence our Holy Father has in Bishop Thomas’ pastoral and administrative skills.” He said that since he arrived in Philadelphia almost three years ago, he has “witnessed (Bishop Thomas’) wisdom, intelligence, personal warmth and keen affection for the people of God.”

The Diocese of Toledo has been given a true gift in Bishop Thomas,” the archbishop said. “I know he will serve them well as a faithful shepherd and spiritual father.”

Bishop Thomas was ordained a priest by Cardinal John Krol in 1985 and ordained an auxiliary bishop by Cardinal Justin Rigali in 2006. The son of the late Francis and Ann Thomas grew up in Holy Family Parish. He graduated in 1977 from Roman Catholic High School before entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Following his ordination as a priest, and studies at the Gregorian University, he worked in the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops for 15 years. He returned to Philadelphia in 2005 as pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Stratford before his ordination as a bishop a year later. As an auxiliary bishop, he was responsible for administrative oversight of the Department for Media Affairs, the Office for Clergy, the Office for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood and for Region II, a grouping of 57 parishes in Montgomery County and Northwest Philadelphia.

In addition to his priestly assignments, Bishop Thomas has served on various archdiocesan boards and remains a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, the Ad Hoc Committee on Catechism, and the Committee on Divine Worship. He is also a member of the National Advisory Council for the Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and the Episcopal Advisory Board for the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

Bishop Thomas will shepherd a diocese that is home to 124 parishes and 320,000 Catholics out of a total population of 1.46 million. Founded in 1910, the diocese covers 19 counties in northwest Ohio between Cleveland and Detroit, an area roughly four times larger than the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. It borders the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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**Faith • Family • Fun**

_Fort Wayne Bishop’s Parish Festival_

Friday, September 12, 2014 Adults Only - Silent Auction
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

$10 ticket: Admittance to Tent
1 free drink ticket, entry to a door prize raffle and light Hors d’oeuvres

Silent Auction, Casino, Beverage Sales, Live Music

Saturday, September 13, Family Day

Noon -“Musicals” Themed Talent Show

Noon - 6:00 p.m. Children’s Games and Inflatables
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. BINGO Noon - 6:00 p.m. Concessions

MUSIC by Truckin’ Tim Kelly and Dave Bergeron

Nelson’s Port-a-Pit

Chicken & Ribs 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Sides by Hall’s Restaurant

$10,000 in PRIZES! Cash Raffle 7:00 p.m.

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**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_

**Support your school. Use All Saints SCRIP!**
Archbishop Coakley drops lawsuit after stolen consecrated host returned

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNS) — A stolen consecrated host that was at the center of a lawsuit filed by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and intended for use at a planned Satanic “black mass” in Oklahoma City has been returned. According to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, an attorney representing the head of the satanic group presented the host to a Catholic priest the afternoon of Aug. 21. With the return of the host and an accompanying signed statement from the satanic group leader that the group no longer possesses a consecrated host, nor will they use a consecrated host in their rituals, the Oklahoma City archbishop agreed to dismiss the lawsuit. Archbishop Coakley filed suit Aug. 20 to get the host returned after the Satanic group’s leader made several public statements that its members planned “to defile and desecrate” it during a “black mass” Sept. 21 at the Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma City. “I am relieved that we have been able to secure the return of the sacred host, and that we have prevented its desecration as part of a planned Satanic ritual,” the archbishop said in a statement. “I remain concerned about the dark powers that this Satanic worship invites into our community and the spiritual danger that this poses to all who are involved in it, directly or indirectly.” In early August, Archbishop Coakley asked Catholics to offer prayer and penance to prevent the Satanic group Dakkhma of Angra Mainyu from holding a “black mass.”

Cardinal Szoka, former Detroit archbishop and Vatican official, dies

DETROIT (CNS) — Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, who rose from poor beginnings to reach the highest levels of service to the Church, died Aug. 20 at Providence Park Hospital in Novi. The cardinal, who was 86, died of natural causes. His death leaves the College of Cardinals with 210 members, 117 of whom are under 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. A funeral Mass for Cardinal Szoka was celebrated Aug. 26 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, with Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit as the main celebrant. The late cardinal’s body was to be received at the cathedral the afternoon of Aug. 24, followed by several hours of visitation. An evening prayer service also was planned. Visitations were to resume at the cathedral Aug. 25, with an afternoon rosary and an evening vigil service. While his accomplishments were often larger-than-life, Cardinal Szoka carried lessons learned growing up poor in hard-working Polish-American communities with him as he served as parish pastor, chancery official, founding bishop of a new diocese, archbishop of Detroit and in high Vatican posts. Then-Archbishop Szoka was installed to head the Detroit Archdiocese in 1981. He was named a cardinal in 1988, and was Detroit’s archbishop until 1990, when he began a 16-year tenure at the Vatican — serving under both Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Groups lash out at new opt-out rules for HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life groups that have battled with the federal government since the first rules were issued on contraceptive coverage in 2012 derided the government’s latest rules allowing religious institutions — and potentially some for-profit companies — to opt out of the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act. “Once again HHS (the federal Department of Health and Human Services) continues to violate the conscience rights of Americans while claiming just the opposite,” said an Aug. 22 statement from Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life. “Our own organization is a good example of the challenge posed: Americans United for Life is a public interest law firm that opposes life-ending drugs and devices required under the HHS mandate,” Yoest said. “Nevertheless, because we are not a faith-based group, we may be forced to purchase life-ending drugs and devices following the radical pro-abortion political agenda of this administration.”

An Aug. 22 fact sheet from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services outlined the interim final regulations, issued after two Supreme Court actions: a June 30 ruling that under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act a closely held company may be exempted from the contraceptive coverage requirement as a religious right, and a July 3 temporary stay granted to Christian-run Wheaton College in Illinois from complying with the HHS mandate.

Panic, hunger spread among quarantined West Africans in Ebola areas

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Hunger and panic are spreading among people unable to work because of restrictions aimed at containing the spread of Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone, say Church workers in West Africa. In Liberia’s capital, Monrovia, Church groups “are trying to get food and distribute it to families who have asked us to help, but movement is heavily restrict-
ed and there is little we can do,” Salesian Father Jorge Cisalti, provincial superior in West Africa, said in an Aug. 22 telephone interview from Accra, Ghana. Neighborhoods in Monrovia have been sealed off under terms of the government-imposed state of emergency. The World Health Organization has estimated that more than 2,600 people in West Africa have been infected with Ebola since March. More than 1,400 people have died from the virus. Food prices in Liberia are “rising steeply and people are hungry,” Father Cisalti said, noting that “markets in the city that are usually bustling are now empty and no trading is happening.” People are unable to get to work, and “while they still have to buy food, they have no money because they can’t work,” he said. “There is great fear of spread of disease where there are large groups of people,” he said.

Are you celebrating your 25th, 50th or 60th Wedding Jubilee in 2014?

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate two Wedding Jubilee Masses

In South Bend, the Mass will take place at the Cathedral of St. Matthew, Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow at St. Matthew School.

In Fort Wayne, the Mass will take place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. with a reception to follow at St. Mary’s at Jefferson and Lafayette.

Office of Family Life 1528 West Dragoon Trail Mishawaka, IN 46544 or call (574) 234-0687 or email haustgen@diocesefwsb.org

R.S.V.P. no later than September 26, 2014 for South Bend and October 3, 2014 for Fort Wayne.
Scripturally-based spiritual renewal training for the fifth season
Pastoral Services for RENEW
Dr. Laura Kolmar, director of Parishioners invited to
wsb.org, or call 260-399-1452.
contact the diocesan coordinator, parishes and the world!" The Spirit is "Amoving!"
the ARISE process to still consider participating in the ARISE Together in Christ experience so far. One facilitator from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Albion commented, "The deep connections that were made through faith sharing were comforting to all in the group and caused life altering experiences for many. We saw Christ’s presence in others and felt that the Holy Spirit guided us as we traveled the path of faith sharing with our groups."
Another leader at Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend provided this perspective: "Our ARISE groups are growing so much. One group collected money and gave it to the grade school principal for individual student needs (coats, boots, hats, etc.) Several other groups are donating time to cook and serve a meal once a month at the local homeless shelter. The Spirit is a-moving!"
Dr. Laura Kolmar, the RENEW International formation workshop director of operations since 2000. During her tenure she has been an inspiration and a wonderful person to work with."
A retirement luncheon was held in Tebbe’s honor on Aug. 25 at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, where Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented her with an icon of the Blessed Mother.
Kathy Voirol will take up operations upon Tebbe’s retirement, having transferred from her position in accounts receivable and circulation with Today’s Catholic newspaper.
Elder Awareness Day to focus on issues of aging
HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center in Huntington presents “Elder Awareness Day” on Friday, Sept. 12, in an effort to raise public awareness to the social and psychological issues of aging.
The featured artist for the day is storyteller Emily J. Guerrero. She provides a one-woman play called “Monarchs and Matriarchs,” a story that speaks to the value of intergenerational relationships. There will also be two breakout sessions during the day.
Manchester University professor Cheri Krueckeberg will present “Honoring Aging Bodies and Minds,” while grief counselor and educator Lili Carroll will present “Grief and Growing Older Gracefully.”
The program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 at Victory Noll Center. The cost is $35 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch, and also a copy of James Gambone’s booklet “Generations.”
Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.
Enrichment, support program offered for divorced Catholic adults
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne is hosting a 12-session spiritual enrichment and support program for Catholic adults who have experienced divorce. The group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of month from 7-9 p.m. in the East Meeting Room and will run from September through March.
The program in based on the DVD series The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide, which features noted experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Christopher West and Father Donald Calloway.
For more information, contact Julia Thill, pastoral associate, at 260-489-3537 ext. 208, or jthill@ saintv.org. This program is co-sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life.
Sacred Heart School: Where God Lives

Sacred Heart kindergarten teacher Monica Smith presents Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with a card signed by all the students when he visited their classroom on Aug. 20. The students are learning the sign of the cross and every time they hear a siren go off from the nearby fire or police station they stop and say a prayer.

Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart School was built in 1957 — two additions were ultimately added to the building to bring it to its present state. Last year a new security system was installed and a kitchen-remodeling project is underway. The school serves preschool through fourth grade to respect each other in a Christ-like manner. “We hope they carry this and all training received at Sacred Heart and keep it in their hearts and minds to be a success in life,” Faroh said.

Special Programs

Faroh shared about the specials programs in place at Sacred Heart. “We are implementing the STREAM (science, technology, engineering and math) plus religion and the arts,” Faroh said. “This learning philosophy has been Sacred Heart’s academic vision in the past as well.”

The school also has a “Going Above and Beyond” program to help every student achieve to the maximum of his or her ability. Students are assessed throughout the year and the “data drives instruction.” Sacred Heart also offers a conversational Spanish course and Peace Be With You — a diocesan-wide program to teach students in fourth grade to respect each other in a Christ-like manner. “We hope they carry this and all training received at Sacred Heart and keep it in their hearts and minds to be a success in life,” Faroh said.

Sacred Heart has “Casual Day for a Cause” where students can bring in $1 or more to wear causal clothes instead of their...
GOD AND EDUCATION LEAD THE WAY

uniform that day and each month a different charity is chosen to be the recipient. Some past causes have been Juvenile Diabetes, American Cancer Society, Veterans causes and St. Jude’s Hospital.

The school has an annual culture fair and Accelerated Reader celebrations. Clubs include, LEGO, Green Team Ecology Club, drama, chess, tumbling and twirling, Scouting and robotics, which is new this year.

There’s the Sacred Hearts Singers Choir. Athletics for grades 4-6 includes soccer, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track.

“Sacred Heart is a total package, combining spiritual formation with academics success. The faculty and staff collaborate for the betterment of the students,” Faroh said. “Our pastor (Father Phil DeVolder) is a strong spiritual leader, we have a strong HASA (Home and School Association) and school board and an impressive amount of sports, clubs and activities for students. We integrate technology into the curriculum. And we offer scholarships.”

“This was a great school before I came. It’s still a great school and it will continue to be a great school. I say this with confidence because I see all the necessary components — dedicated hardworking staff, hardworking students, a very supportive pastor, very involved parents and very supportive parish community — it’s wonderful!”

The motto for Sacred Heart School is “Where God and education lead the way.” Faroh remarked when he first came and heard the motto he thought, “Wow — that is a perfect motto. Sacred Heart is a tremendously special school — a true blessing from God.”

This sign welcomes visitors to Sacred Heart School in Warsaw and also displays the school’s motto “Where God and education lead the way.”

Sacred Heart School
established 1957
135 N. Harrison St., Warsaw, Indiana 46580
574-267-5874

Principal: James L. Faroh
Pastor: Father Philip DeVolder
Student population: 190 students in grades preschool - 6
Website: www.sacredheart-warsaw.org
Father Fred Pasche retires as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola

BY TIM JOHNSON

ANGOLA — When one asks Conventional Franciscan Father Fred Pasche what he likes best about St. Anthony of Padua Parish, he responds with a hearty, “Everything.”

The pastor of the Angela parish for 17 years and who is celebrating his 50th jubilee as a Conventional Franciscan priest this year, will be retiring as pastor and has been appointed to St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute as an associate for at least one year.

Father Pasche’s 17 years at St. Anthony Parish hold many fond memories. He saw the parish flourish under the Christ Renews His Parish. He told Today’s Catholic the parish is “so completely different from when I came. The people have just been tremendous in the way they responded.”

“When I came here, I had no intention of building a church,” he said. “But that certainly went by the way. We built a church and paid for it in two years.”

“When we started the fund drive (five to six years ago) it started bringing people together,” Father Pasche noted. “I felt building the people’s church.”

The first meeting to discuss the possibility of building a new church attracted over 50 people. “It just took off from there,” Father Pasche noted.

For Father Pasche, one of the highlights of his parish administration was the Newman Fellowship. The fellowship meets at the parish for Mass and Adoration. The students have taken on roles in the parish as well as extra ministerial duties of the Eucharist and lectors.

“It’s been good, it’s been a good relationship,” Father Pasche said.

When Father Pasche arrived at the parish in 1997, the congregation worshipped in a Butler building built in the late 1950s that was meant to be a temporary church. A parish center had been built before Father Pasche arrived and many St. Anthony parishioners thought a new church was needed.

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“This was a good way of keeping contact with the seminarians studying for the priesthood, there are several elderly priests who are retiring from parish administrative service. But their uniriting service to God and man has not ended in retirement.

Many retired priests have enjoyed being present to celebrate Masses at parishes when their priests are on vacation or have no administrator. They offer support in ministries that are as unique as they themselves are.

Father Paul Bueter, retired diocesan priest, says, “The reason I wanted to retire is so I could do more priestly work — celebrate the sacraments and getting to know the people and talking with them.”

Ordained in 1959, Father Bueter has served in several diocesan parishes as well as in Latin America.

Retired since 2009, Father Bueter shares a home and its expenses near St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne with his sister, an arrangement that works well for them both. Father Bueter finds pleasure and fulfillment in staying busy in his service. It is a great joy for him to work with the preschool students at St. Jude School who he reads to and assists with other activities on a regular basis. “I like the kids,” he says, “It’s fun for me.”

Living just a block and a half from Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community allows Father Bueter the opportunity to visit with other retired priests, consecrate Mass and enjoy a weekly lunch with them as well.

Father Ken Sarrazine, one of the retired priests who resides at Saint Anne Home, agrees that consecrating Mass and lunching together is a good way of keeping contact with fellow priests in the area.

Ordained in 1962, Father Sarrazine has served as associate or pastor in nine parishes in the diocese and says he enjoyed every one of them. Now in his second year of retirement he is active in service at Saint Anne Home assisting the residents with their unique needs.

“My role here is to help those, especially those who are new here, to feel at home,” says the priest.

“They all need to know they have value. It’s a privilege to see the smiles break out!”

Father Sarrazine visits with the residents as well as his fellow priests on a daily basis and enjoys celebrating Mass. He says, “I can be as busy here as I was when I was serving God and helping His people as I’m willing to be. … To me, every day is a brand new day and I just look forward to whatever comes.”

Father Bueter agrees and says, “Sometimes I think, ‘You’ve got to slow down.’ But not today! Not today! … As long as I have the energy and health I’m going to use it. I’ve too much life in me!”

Verheyl, Secretariat of the Office of Stewardship and Development and diocesan coordinator of the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, reports that these beloved priests of the diocese are supported in their retirement in part with funds from the annual Bishop’s Appeal.

“The Annual Bishop’s Appeal contributes to the promise of retirement for priests, who have given a lifetime of untiring witness to the faith. Yet, even in retirement, our retired priests continue to serve our diocese in parishes, schools, nursing homes and various other ways,” he says. Their love of God and the Church is an inspiration to all.

Diocesan priests continue ministries even in retirement

BY KAY COZAD

ABA helps fund priests’ retirements

FORT WAYNE — As the ecclesiastic community in the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend expands with an increase in the numbers of seminarians studying for the priesthood, there are several elderly priests who are retiring from parish administrative service. But their uniriting service to God and man has not ended in retirement.

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Psalm 91 prayer cards inspire prayer across country

By Kathy Kershner

SOUTH BEND — Genevieve Szynski’s family believes that “the family that prays together … wants everyone to pray together.” Or so her prayer card crusade would lead one to believe. A personal prayer devotion turned ministry, Genevieve has been praying Psalm 91 every day for well over 30 years. It began soon after hearing the soulful testimony of a fellow prayer-group member giving an account of an encounter with death. Faced with the terror of an advancing tornado, “she knelt down, got her Bible and started reading the 91st Psalm, and it never touched her house. It went right around her.”

“Wow,” marveled Szynski, contemplating the power of Psalm 91 to protect her and her loved ones, “so I’ve been reading the 91st Psalm every day since.”

She described, with fervor, the feeling of the protective power of the Lord working in her life as a result of her devotion. From near-misses on the highway to emerging unscathed from a collision that demolished her car, “and a lot of little bitty things that have happened, I knew that the Lord was with me all the time.”

The joy of such trust might have been enough for 87-year-old Szynski, but it would seem that the Lord has commissioned her to share the Psalm with the world. “I was praying my 91st Psalm and the Lord put it on my heart to have the Psalm printed and to pass it on to others,” she proclaims. Not knowing the first thing of modern technology, design or printing, she called on her daughter Bridget Beutter for help. “She told me in January, I had one year to do it!” Beutter relates.

Originally, Szynski thought to make only enough to share with her five children and 16 grandchildren. The card would be a Christmas present. They were each to be given two, one for the home and one for the car, and each was to promise her to pray it every day — once at home for security and protection and once in the car for safety during travel. But soon 42 prayer cards turned into 1,000 when Szynski learned that her son and granddaughter intended to support the survivors of the Boston Marathon Bombing by attending this year’s race — on the one-year anniversary of the tragic event.

So son, Chris, and granddaughter, Sarah, along with Genevieve caught a plane and soon found themselves distributing the cards to as many as would accept them in the streets of Boston. Her offerings were all met with acceptance and gratitude. Since then she has come to believe that the Psalm should be distributed far and wide. Packets of 25 each have been sent for distribution to residents of nursing homes in Florida, friends in the Virgin Islands as well as victims of the wildfires in San Diego.

But wherever Genevieve is, the feeling of the protective power of the Lord working is territory to be evangelized. “If we meet somebody and we think they need the 91st Psalm,” she explains, “we take one out and give it to them.” No one has ever refused.

“I find it fascinating that someone mom’s age is ministering to people,” daughter Bridget Beutter confides. But it seems that this ministry is calling other generations of the family to the task. Granddaughter Olivia Szynski is also a devotee of Psalm 91 and a card-distributing member of the ministry. A recent graduate of Indiana University, South Bend, 22-year-old Szynski’s concentration of study in the criminal justice system makes her friends and teachers obvious candidates for the Psalm 91 prayer card. Many of her teachers have performed difficult and dangerous work within the criminal justice system and she feels strongly that “just giving it to them and having them think about asking for protection” is an extremely worthwhile thing to do. “Because a lot of people just want to start their day and don’t think to ask for protection and ask God to keep them safe throughout their day. I feel that giving them this prayer card really helps a lot,” she shared.

Given an opportunity to witness to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Genevieve offers, “All I can say is pray and read the 91st Psalm for protection, … and pray for our country, definitely pray for our country, I think we really need it.”

Genevieve would like to share her prayer cards with anyone who would like to have one. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Genevieve Szynski, P.O. Box 164, South Bend, IN 46624 and she will send a prayer card. Any testimonies to the protective power of Psalm 91 in the lives of those who have prayed it would also be welcome at psalm91stories@yahoo.com or “like” her on facebook by searching Psalm Stories, South Bend, Indiana.

When I go to pray…

My Chapel is down the hallway

As a community sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame offers ways in which you can strengthen your faith. Attend Mass and rosary, worship privately or join a group for Bible studies.

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

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54515 State Rd. 933 North, I.O. Box 303, Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 251-2235 • www.holycrossvillage.com

Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame is a ministry of the Brothers of Holy Cross.
Disciples strengthened through the Church

The Book of Ezekiel is the source of the first biblical reading for this weekend. Ezekiel’s name was “apopros.” It was in effect a prayer, being translated as “May God make (him) strong.” Ezekiel needed strength to be a prophet in a time of great tension for his people.

Reading 1

Ezekiel’s name in essence was a prayer — asking for God’s strength. Ezekiel knew his limitations and also the challenges that he would face as a prophet. He knew that he needed God’s strength.

For weeks, we have heard advice about being good disciples. To be genuine disciples, we too will need strength from God.

For its last reading, the Church acts in the name of Jesus, speaking our weaknesses and our limitations and also the challenges that we face. It is a prayer — asking for God’s strength.

KROKOS, PAGE 13

On faith and life, a wrong turn by the Senate

Mikes Krokos

No parents or family members should have to deal with the reality that the heinous and barbaric way in which their loved one is taken from them is temporally available for a worldwide audience to view on YouTube.

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Debunking the debunker

Editor’s note: Unfortunately, an advertisement appeared in the Aug. 24, 2014 issue of Today’s Catholic promoting a lecture at Saint Mary’s College by Reza Aslan. The following offers information that provides a good perspective on the speaker and his book.

When I saw that Reza Aslan’s portrait of “Jesus, Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth,” had risen to No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list, I must confess, I was both intrigued and puzzled. For the reductionistic and debunking approach that Aslan employs has been tried by scholars of at least the past 300 years, and the debunkers have been themselves debunked over and over again by serious scholars of the historical Jesus.

Here is how the method works: a scholar focuses on one aspect of Jesus’ life, like the miracles, and the Gospel passages that emphasize that aspect and declares them historically reliable, and then casually characterizes the rest of the Gospels as the non-historical musings of the evangelists and their communities. So in the course of the last three centuries, Jesus has been presented as, exclusively, an eschatological prophet, an itinerant preacher of the kingdom, a wonder-worker, a magician, a social revolutionary, an avatar of enlightened ethics, a cynic philosopher, etc.

To be sure, evidence can be culled from the Gospels for all of these interpretations, but the problem is that these portraits invariably fail to present “Jesus in full,” the stranger, beguiling, elusive and fail to present “Jesus in full,” the brilliant, subtle, humorous, compassionate, mysterious, courageous, and complex figure that emerges from a thorough reading of the New Testament.

The Jesus that Aslan wants to present is the “zealot,” which is, to say, the Jewish insurrectionist intent upon challenging the Temple establishment in Jerusalem and, above all, the Roman military power that dominated the land of Israel. His principal justification for this reading is that religiously motivated revolutionaries were indeed thick on the ground in the Palestine of Jesus’ time: that Jesus claimed to be ushering in a new Kingdom of God; and that He ended up dying the death typically meted out to rabblerousers who piloted a threat to Roman authority. Jesus, he argues, fits neatly into the pattern set by Menahem, the heroic defender of Masada, Judas the Galilean, Simon of Giora, Simon bar Kokba and any number of other revolutionaries who claimed Messianic identity and who, in the end, were ground under the Romans. On this reading, Jesus indeed died on a Roman cross, but He didn’t rise from the dead; instead, His body was probably left on the cross to be devoured by dogs or the birds of the air.

Now questions immediately crowd the mind. What about Jesus’ extraordinary stress on non-violence and love of enemies (hardly the stuff we would expect from a zealot)? Oh, it was made up by the later Christian community that was trying to curry favor with Roman society. What about Jesus’ explicit claim that His kingdom was “not of this world”? Oh, those were words placed in His mouth by John the evangelist. What about His practically constant reference to prayer, the spiritual life and trust in divine providence? Oh, that was pious invention. What about the stories of His outreach to the Woman at the Well, the man blind from birth or the raising of the daughter of Jairus, actions having precious little to do with anti-Roman activism? By now, you can guess the answer, and I trust you see the problem: hundreds of the Gospels and the early Christian witness have to be cut away in order to accommodate the portrait that Aslan presents.

The most massive difficulty with Aslan’s interpretation is that it cannot begin to account for the stubborn fact that no one except specialists in the history of religion would regard Christianity as no other than the book under consid-

eration. I would recommend studies by E.P. Sanders, James M. Robinson or James Dunn, Richard Bauckham, Ben Witherington III or N.T. Wright. What they will show you is that the real Jesus remains far more interesting and compelling than the superficial caricature offered by Reza Aslan.


WORD ON FIRE

FATHER ROBERT BARRON

FAITH

GENTILE COLLECTOR I SAY

For the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: about agreements and disagreements. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

The most massive difficulty with Aslan’s interpretation is that it cannot begin to account for the stubborn fact that no one except specialists in the history of religion would regard Christianity as nothing other than the book under consideration. I would recommend studies by E.P. Sanders, James M. Robinson or James Dunn, Richard Bauckham, Ben Witherington III or N.T. Wright. What they will show you is that the real Jesus remains far more interesting and compelling than the superficial caricature offered by Reza Aslan.


CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 12

while he was still in captivity, confirmed something else he felt: that prayers were being offered by countless others for him and his fellow captors’ safe release. “I replayed that called hundreds of times in my heart — my mother’s voice, the names of my friends, her knowledge of our situation, her absolute belief in the power of prayer. She told me my friends had gathered to do anything they could to help. I knew I wasn’t alone,” Foley wrote.

If you think about it, we’ve all been there. Or know someone who’s been there.

A broken relationship. The loss of a job. A life-threatening illness affecting us or someone we love. When we or someone we know reaches the lowest of lows in life, how often do we feel alone?

Foley faced the challenge a second time after he was kidnapped in November 2012 while covering the civil war in Syria. His family earlier last week received a letter they said James wrote to them while in captivity. A fellow captive memorized the letter and shared it with the Foley family when he was released in June.

It reads in part: “I know you are thinking of me and praying for me. And I am so thankful. I feel you all especially when I pray. I pray for you to stay strong and to believe. I really feel I can touch you even in this darkness when I pray.

What the journalist’s life lessons taught him — and so many of us who doubt — is that through the power of prayer and the love of so many, we are never alone.

We cannot deny James Foley’s tragic death shows us there is grave evil in this world. But as Bishop Peter A. Libasci of Manchester, New Hampshire, said during a memorial Mass celebrated on Aug. 24, we must learn from his life.

“Jim went back (into the war zone) again that we might open our eyes,” Bishop Libasci said at Our Lady of the Holy ROSARY Parish in Rochester, New Hampshire, his family’s parish. “That we might indeed know how precious is this gift. May Almighty God grant peace to James and to all our fragile world.”

We continue to offer our prayers for Foley’s family, and we remember these words the journalist shared to close his reflection about his time in captivity in Libya in 2011: “If nothing else, prayer was the glue that enabled my freedom, an inner freedom first and later the miracle of being released during a war in which the regime had no real incentive to free us. It didn’t make sense, but faith did.”

Mike Kirk is the editor of The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Reprinted with permission from The Criterion.
BISHOP DWENGER CUTS RIBBON ON NEW GYM
Bishop Dwenger High School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly renovated gymnasium on Friday, Aug. 22. The student body, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, donors and supporters gathered for this event immediately following the first All-School Mass, which was celebrated in the gym. The Mass celebrated the feast day of the school’s patroness — Mary, Queen of all Saints.

CYO football league welcomes new team

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) kicked off Week 1 football action at Havenhurst Field Aug. 24. But even more exciting than the onset of the 2014 season was the fact that the opening game of the day was extra special as history was made and Catholic alumni in Fort Wayne had a new team for which to cheer. In their very first outing, the Central Catholic Irish got off to an impressive start as they took the field and claimed their very first victory with a 24-6 win over a talented squad from St. Vincent.

Head coach and No. 1 cheerleader for the newly formed varsity team, Dave Westendorf, was thrilled with the smooth culmination after long and detailed months spent creating the all-new program, “It was so exciting to get to this point and actually play a game and it was an honor to represent the legacy of Central Catholic High School in this way. The crowd was outstanding and it was very cool for the kids.”

The initial discussions took place at the coaches meeting just before last season. However, all involved felt the timing was not right to make it happen for 2013. Many programs in the league continued to struggle with their roster numbers and the turnout for the younger teams was low in several situations. So, the topic was brought up again in March of 2014 and it was then that the ball got rolling. The concept was voted in and while a permanent team was the intent, the program was granted a 3-5 year trial.

An eight-person committee was then formed, consisting of athletic directors from each of the four schools — St. John, New Haven, St. Jude, Queen of Angels and Most Precious Blood — along with one other member from each school. The committee met nearly every two weeks for the next several months discussing everything from coach selection, uniform and equipment decisions, money matters and all the behind the scene logistics that go along with a new program.

Coach Sam Talarico, who has been an amazing support from St. Charles, actually suggested the team’s label and the committee embraced it as a perfect way to honor the legacy of Central Catholic High School and all it once represented. Purple and Vegas gold were selected as the colors for the unit, while Irish would naturally be the mascot.

“From day one, we have stressed to the boys that they are no longer, ‘St. Jude’ or the ‘Raiders’ but one equal team of St. Charles, actually suggested the term ‘Irish’ and the ‘Raiders’ but one equal team of Central Catholic Irish,” Westendorf detailed. “We have worked hard in team building sessions during the preseason encouraging the team to meet three new players from another school at each practice. And we sent the same message to the parents as we visited each school individually — explaining the concept, how it would all work and answering questions with a goal of getting everyone on board,” the 20-year CYO veteran added.

Prayers were answered and efforts paid off as 73 young men (grades 5-8) turned out for the first conditioning practice in July and significant donations came in from the Fabini Foundation and longtime sponsor of the program, Sue Hyde, to help with the start up.

The larger numbers bring on a whole new mindset and new luxuries for coaches who have listed less than 20 on their rosters in the past. “We are able to have a full scrimmage. And players are challenging to good, healthy competition knowing we are at least two-deep in every position,” Westendorf explained.

Another huge advantage, Westendorf is surrounded by a wealth of experience on his coaching staff including offensive coordinator, Casey Kolkman, defensive coordinator, Casey Kolkman, defensive coach Steve Henry and Jeff Weddle (special teams). Chris Reidy, Matt Peters and Mark Litchfield round out the sideline lineup, while Mike Weissert will take charge of the younger unit.

“While our goal this first year is to build a strong foundation for the future of the program, this team is not just about football. This is about young men becoming part of a Catholic community link that will last a lifetime — something very important they may not “get” at this age, but will someday.”

Due to the large changes this season, Holy Cross Lutheran team is no longer in the CYO league. The league now consists of five teams. Two games will be played each weekend for the 10-week season with the fifth team to be played each weekend for the 10-week season with the fifth team rotating a bye week. Also gone are long-time coaches Mike Gigli and Jim Carroll with their retirement in 2013.

The CYO welcomes Andre Grenier and Chris Bough to the all-star lineup of coaches. In the second game of the day, the two met as St. John, Fort Wayne/ St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJFW) downed St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth/St. Theres/St. Aloysius (JAT) by a score of 18-6. Due to the holiday, games last weekend were played at Bishop Dwenger High School on Saturday morning, Aug. 30. JAT had the bye, SJFW faced St. Vincent in the first match up, while Central Catholic went after their next foe, St. Charles.
Franciscan Fest
Fort Wayne — Franciscan Fest will be Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1-5 p.m. at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, 2610 New Haven Ave. The Confraternity of Penitents renovation fund capital campaign will benefit from a live and silent auction, 50/50 raffle, dodge ball with Franciscan Brothers Minor and hog roast. Tickets are $12 per person or $30 per family. Reservations are requested to Sandy at 260-433-1236.

White Mass planned
Fort Wayne — A White Mass for all medical workers and their families will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A banquet sponsored by the Catholic Medical Guild will follow at St. Mary’s O’chaer Hall for $15 a person. RSVP to www.fortwaynecta.com for the banquet. Banquet speaker will be Matthew Hanley of the NCBE speaking on “Ideological Medicine: Serving Aims, Not Humanity.”

Fall Fest planned
Decatur — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will have a Fall Fest Friday, Sept. 19, from 5-10 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 20, from noon to 5 p.m. in the parish hall. Events include silent auction, food, games, raffle, corn hole, carriage rides and live music by Joe Five from 7-11 p.m.

Class of 1952 plans reunion
Fort Wayne — The Central Catholic High School class of 1952 will celebrate a 62-year reunion at Pine Valley Country club on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 3-8 p.m. Reservations, contact Ned Boylan at 260-755-5299 or email nedgolf@comcast.net.

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Life Center offers Masses and Adoration
South Bend — Masses are held at the Life Center on Ironwood Circle each Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. with Dominican Father Anthony Giambrotto. Adoration is Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30 am until 2:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Societies garage sale
Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Societies of St. Henry and Sacred Heart Parishes will have a garage sale Friday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Henry rectory, 3029 E. Paulding Rd.

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

Blessed Mother Birthday party planned
Knox — The Shrine of World Rosary of Peace will have a guest speaker, Father Ted Nordquist, on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m. (CST). Bring lawn chairs. Food and refreshments provided.

Craft bazaar accepting vendors
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Craft Bazaar is accepting registrations for vendors and crafters for the Nov. 8 event. Tables will rent for $40. Registration information is available at www.bishopdwenger.com or by calling 260-482-1022.

Craft show vendors needed
Fort Wayne — Crafters are needed for the Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St., craft show Saturday, Nov. 1. Tables and electricity available for a nominal fee. Contact Teresa at 260-385-4565 for information.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5790, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Sept. 11, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12. Proceeds benefit the Giubult School for Boys and Girls.

Theology on Tap begins third Thursdays
Fort Wayne — “Hope in a World of Unrest” — Theology on Tap, will begin Thursday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Calhoun Street Soup, Salads and Spirits.

Act/Sat prep course offered
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will offer an ACT/SAT prep course Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Sept. 23, and ending Thursday, Nov. 06. The 14 sessions will include test familiarity, pacing, strategies, as well as English, math and science concepts. The class fee is $225 and includes both an ACT text and SAT text for the course. The class is open to any high school student in the surrounding areas.

For information and registration, call Bishop Dwenger High School at 260-496-4700 or click on www.bishopdwenger.com for registration forms.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 5-6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit St. Jude tuition assistance.

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Queen of Angels athletic association plans BBQ cook-off
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a BBQ cook-off and bake-off Saturday, Sept. 6, from 5-9 p.m. Amateur grillers and bakers wanted. No entry fee. Food entered in competition will be sold to benefit the Queen of Angels Athletic Association. Visit www.fwbbq.com or call 260-422-5996 for details.
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Below, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, center, celebrates the Mass for the sesquicentennial of St. Bernard Church Aug. 24. Standing with him, from left, are Father Polycarp Fernando, Father Andrew Curry, Father Ben Muhlenkamp, Father Adam Schmitt, Father William Kummer, Msgr. John Suelzer, Father Tim Wrozek, Father Sextus Don, pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Father Henry Byekwaso, Father Adam Mauman, Father Danney Pinto and Father Sebastian Twinomugabigi.

Father Sextus Don blesses the time capsule to be stored unopened in the church for the next 50 years during the feast of St. Bernard Aug. 20 at St. Bernard Church in Wabash. Looking on, from left, are servers Joe Leland, Chris Orpurt and Rachel Orpurt.

Father Don also blessed the time capsule, which will be stored in the church and opened at the bicentennial celebration.

Many of the priests attending the sesquicentennial had church connections. Father Ben Muhlenkamp served the parish when Father Don was recovering from a heart attack earlier this year. Fathers Tim Wrozek and William Kummer were former pastors. Msgr. John Suelzer and Father Adam Schmitt were associate pastors. Father Henry Byekwaso often serves as pastor when Father Don visits his home country of Sri Lanka after Christmas. Fathers Polycarp Fernando, Danney Pinto, Andrew Curry and Sebastian Twinomugabigi have helped with hearing Confessions. Father Adam Mauman is pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Peru.

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St. Bernard Church parishioners and faithful release 150 balloons after the feast of St. Bernard Mass Aug. 20, which began the celebration for the sesquicentennial.

Former pastor Father William Kummer holds St. Bernard parishioner Joe Ross, with Joe’s mother, Larissa Ross during the lunch celebrating the sesquicentennial of St. Bernard Church Aug. 24. Seated below them are Sandra Celmer, former parish secretary, and her husband Henry.

... The servers and younger kids, hopefully they’ll be there in the coming years.”

Parish secretary Ann Unger felt at peace when the day was over.

“It was a perfect, joy-filled day,” she said.

Ron Trautvetter, a parishioner of seven years with his wife, Kay, of Marion, enjoyed the celebration and felt called to service.

“I was impressed with the bishop because he went to Vernon Manor Home for Children (in Wabash before coming to Mass),” he said.

“He challenged us to be like Mother Teresa and take care of the poor and needy in our area.”

About 150 parishioners attended the feast of St. Bernard Mass Aug. 20, which kicked off the parish’s sesquicentennial. During the Mass, Father Sextus Don, pastor, also reflected on the church legacy.

“We have the privilege to be part of this celebration,” he said. “But this faith community must go on. We have to be an example to the children of the parish. ... Our faith in Jesus Christ must continue.” He also talked about the coming of Christ.

“There are two comings of Christ,” Father Don said. “His first coming into history and the second coming (in the future). But the middle coming of Christ comes to us today (through reading the Bible).”

the magnificent stained-glass windows, particularly those of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the choir, maybe the most beautiful in the diocese,” he said. “St. Bernard, your patron saint, had great devotion to the Mother of God. Your devotion to her continues that of earlier parishioners who adored this church with these beautiful windows.”

Bishop Rhoades also encouraged attendees to remember the past with gratitude, but also to move forward.

“We reflect on the parish’s mission to build up the Body of Christ here in Wabash: to continue to spread the faith, to ensure the strong Catholic upbringing of our children and young people, to reach out with love to those who are not practicing the faith, to serve the sick and the poor, to console the suffering and to help one another to grow in holiness,” he said. “I wish to encourage you in your mission of evangelization. A truly vibrant parish is one that reaches out to others and is not turned in on itself.”

After the Mass, many of those present pondered the day’s events.

“It was wonderful! It was like a homecoming for me,” said Sister Patricia O’Bryan, a Sister of St. Joseph. Sister O’Bryan was principal of St. Bernard School for four years, taught 13 years there and now lives in the Greensburg area.

Emily France, who attended St. Bernard School, and is now children’s choir director and cantor, enjoyed reuniting with Sister O’Bryan.

“She was my music teacher, principal later and first-grade teacher,” France said. “She has always had a huge inspiration in my life; she literally introduced me to Jesus. That part of the day was very emotional for me, to see someone who had made such an impact in my life.”

Mike Davis, who was on the sesquicentennial planning committee, said parishioners began discussion of this celebration Jan. 13. He was pleased with the result.

“I worry about the younger generation,” he added. “Events like this bring their faith back.”

The 150-year anniversary

September 7, 2014

No one eligible is turned away due to inability to pay.