October is Respect Life Month
‘Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation’

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Frequently asked questions about the extraordinary synod of bishops

Q. When and where is it?  
A. Oct. 5-19, 2014, Vatican City

Q. What is this?  
A. The synod is a meeting of Pope Francis, bishops, clergy and laypeople.

Q. What is its purpose?  
A. Pope Francis has written that the synod will discuss the “challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children and the role of the family in the life of the Church.” The discussion will be based largely on responses to a questionnaire sent out to the world’s bishops in November 2013.

Q. Who will attend?  
A. Approximately 250 people, including the presidents or vice presidents of 114 national bishops’ conferences, 13 heads of Eastern Catholic churches, and synod fathers appointed by Pope Francis. The synod also will have nonvoting collaborators and auditors, including married couples appointed by the pope.

Q. What controversial issues will be discussed?  
A. Pope Francis has said birth control and the eligibility of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion will be among the topics of discussion. The latter was also a major topic of discussion at a special meeting of cardinals the pope called in February.

Q. Will the synod change Church teaching?  
A. Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti-Vasto, chosen by Pope Francis to be the special secretary of the extraordinary synod, said that the “doctrine of the Church is not up for discussion, but rather the discussion will concern improving the ‘pastoral application’ of Church teaching.”

Q. Why is it “extraordinary”?  
A. The meeting will not reach definitive conclusions but set the agenda for a larger meeting of bishops, to be held at the Vatican in October 2015. That meeting will generate proposals for the pope’s approval.

Q. What prompted this synod?  
A. In July 2013, Pope Francis told reporters he wanted the gathering to explore a “somewhat deeper pastoral care of marriage,” including the question of the eligibility of divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Communion.

Judge, deacon encourages balance of faith, profession

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Following an ancient custom dating back to the 13th century, attorneys, law professors, high ranking government officials, guests and others who work in the legal field, gathered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, Sept. 24, for the celebration of the Red Mass, which gets its name from the red vestments of the celebrant. The vestments represent the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit, and from the brilliant scarlet robes worn by the Lord High Justices of the Middle Ages.

The Mass is celebrated to invoke divine guidance and strength during the coming term of court, and is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit as the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel and fortitude; these gifts of the spirit being essential in the dispensation of justice in the courtroom, as well as in the individual lawyer’s or civil servant’s office.

Assisting at the Red Mass as a special guest was the Honorable Marc R. Kellams, Circuit Court Judge in Monroe County, Indiana, and deacon of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He serves St. Charles Borromeo
The Gospel of the Family

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

In his apostolic exhortation The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis wrote: The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children.

In light of this cultural crisis, the Holy Father has convoked an extraordinary assembly of the Synod of Bishops to treat the topic: The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization. The Synod Assembly will take place from October 5th to the 19th. It will be followed up by the Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops in October 2015, demonstrating Pope Francis’ deep concern for the challenges facing marriage and family throughout the world.

The Preface of the working document for the Synod affirms that “the proclamation of the Gospel of the Family is an integral part of the mission of the Church.” The Church has the duty to proclaim the truth and beauty of God’s plan for marriage and the family. It has the duty to promote the dignity of marriage and the family. The Church faces much resistance in today’s culture to its teaching on moral issues related to the family. The bishops will be looking at ways to better present the Church’s teaching and to promote its wider acceptance. They will also be looking at how the Church can better support parents and families through its pastoral care.

The Synod will also be addressing some difficult pastoral situations, including cohabitation and de facto unions. It will be devoting attention to the situation of separated and divorced persons as well as those who have divorced and remarried. The working document for the Synod states that “pastoral charity impels the Church to assist people who have suffered the breakdown of their marriage and are living with their situation relying on the grace of Christ. A more painful wound results when these people remarry and enter a state of life which does not allow them to receive Holy Communion.” The document states: “With patience and understanding, the Church must explain to these people that their not being able to celebrate the sacraments does not mean that they are excluded from the Christian life and a relationship with God.”

The Synod will also be addressing the lack of acceptance by many of the Church’s teaching on openness to life, especially in a highly secularized society. In the face of a contraceptive mentality, the working document states that “the Church needs to reflect on how to encourage a mentality which is more open to life.”

The bishops will also be discussing the challenges of the upbringing of children today, particularly their upbringing in the faith. They will be looking, for example, at the challenges faced when parents are living in irregular situations. We must be committed to transmitting the gift of faith to our children and young people.
Pentecost Collection thanks

Dear Friends in Christ,

My deep and heartfelt thanks to all who contributed so generously in our annual Pentecost Collection this past June for the education of our seminarians! The total collected this year is $218,388. These are the amounts collected since the Pentecost Collection began: $251,367 (in 2011), $179,594 (in 2012), and $284,843 (in 2013).

This important collection helps to pay the costs for the education of our 35 seminarians, since the costs significantly exceed the amount budgeted from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. This is because we now have so many seminarians, a blessing from the Lord. I am hoping that we can grow the Saint John Paul II Endowment for Seminary Education since we still have a significant need, despite the Bishop’s Appeal amount and the Pentecost collection. We need all three sources of revenue for this large annual budget item.

Our seminarians are preparing for their priestly mission. This preparation is a long and necessary period of formation so that they will be well-prepared to be sent forth as priests of Jesus Christ. They will return to our diocese ready, God-willing, for the consecration of the Holy Spirit to begin their mission. During their time in the seminary, they are growing in identification with Jesus the High Priest and Good Shepherd. They are receiving a solid human, spiritual, theological, and cultural formation. They need this to be good pastors of soul and teachers of the faith.

Please continue to pray for our priests and seminarians and for me. May the Lord bless you for your generosity!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades
Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Preparations being made for diocesan attendance

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — September 22 marked exactly one year before the start of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, so organizers for the event took the occasion to brief staff of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the latest details.

Registration for the Sept. 22-25 event will begin within several weeks as agreements with speakers for the program are finalized. That part of the planning is ahead of schedule, as registration for the meetings held every three years in a different city typically begins only eight to nine months before the event.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, acknowledged the excitement for the event in the city and said the most frequently asked question her staff hears is, “How can I help?”

That willingness to help will be tested because Farrell estimates 7,000 to 10,000 volunteers will be needed. Probably around a thousand of those will be needed for the four days of discussions and programming that will comprise the World Meeting of Families at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Organizers are hoping for about 10,000 attendees for the four-day meeting, perhaps up to 15,000. It will be the largest convention in Philadelphia next year.

Most volunteers will be needed to help with the large public events expected to be attended by Pope Francis after the meeting, though confirmation of his visit has not yet been made official. After a volunteer coordinator is hired, volunteers will be accepted by the end of this year and mostly next year, with background clearances and training to follow in the summer.

Preparation for the papal visit is continuing, and Farrell described some details of that portion of the week:

Pope Francis would arrive Friday evening, Sept. 25, 2015, at the close of the World Meeting of Families with a public welcomed ceremony at Independence Hall in Philadelphia with perhaps 40,000 in attendance.

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to join the pope Saturday night, Sept. 26, at a public Festival of Families cultural celebration along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia’s center city. It will feature musical and dance acts and other family entertainment, along with with selected families from around the world giving witness to their family’s faith.

“It will be one of the most beautiful events of the week,” Farrell said.

Capping the week of festivities will be the public Mass celebrated by Pope Francis also on the Parkway Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. No time has been set for the Mass yet, and multiple other details remain in flux as it is still a year away. But Farrell did say that “well in excess of 1 million people are expected.”

She and her team of organizers are working to “create the most meaningful set of events so that people are still talking about this decades afterward, just as we are Pope John Paul II’s visit” to Philadelphia in 1979, Farrell said, an event she also attended as a teenager.

“I thought that was a once in a lifetime event, and here we are planning it again,” she said.

Another dire need for the event is how to accommodate the thousands of people coming to Philadelphia. Only about 11,000 hotel rooms exist in the immediate Philadelphia area, Farrell said, so it will be important for people to generously open their homes for guests.

Home Stay, a Dublin, Ireland-based firm, will facilitate the process of matching a host family with people traveling to the area.

Other events will include a Family Fest by Philadelphia’s leading cultural institutions including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Franklin Institute, among others. Each is planning family-themed exhibits and extended hours during the week.

As an example, the Kimmel Center for the Arts will host a film festival.

A family 5K run is also planned, as are bus tours of the five national Catholic shrines in the Philadelphia region.

The Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is also in the process of preparing for the 2015 World Meeting of Families. “Your our family are invited to join Bishop Rhoades, ourselves and other pastoral ministers and families for this historic event,” wrote Fred and Lisa Everett, co-directors from the Office of Family Life in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The diocesan Office of Family Life is coordinating efforts not only to assist families in making a pilgrimage, but also to assist all families in the diocese in their spiritual preparation for the fruits of this international encounter,” reported the Everett’s in the Sept. 21 issue of Today’s Catholic.

In addition, the Everetts will be writing a monthly column, “Love Is Our Mission,” in preparation for the World Meeting of Families. “Over the next 10 months, we will be providing updates and excerpts (in the column) from this catechesis, which is published by Our Sunday Visitor,” Farrell wrote. “Our office will also be assisting parishes in purchasing bulk orders that can be used in various settings by parents, married couples or even individual families.”

In Philadelphia, the events and activities of the World Meeting of Families underscore its two main goals: “to strengthen families and to witness to the value of the family as the building block of society,” Farrell said during the informational meeting she led on Monday.

The meeting was just the first of about a dozen such meetings to be held in October in parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Organized mostly by deaneers, World Meeting of Families staff will inform parish pastors and other leaders such as school principals, directors of religious education and pastoral council members on how to host families and how to prepare parishioners for next year’s event.

Materials for the parishes to help prepare parishioners are available on the website of the World Meeting of Families: www.worldmeeting2015.org.

Organizers also will distribute 300 prayer cards to parishes. The cards display the official icon for the event and the official prayer, available in 18 languages. Farrell said prayer was an important part of the preparation for next year’s event. She suggested parishioners light a candle at home and say a prayer, for people to pray the official prayer together before meetings and, especially, together at home with their family.

Matthew Gambino is director and general manager of CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Tim Johnson contributed to this story.
Pilgrim statue inspires renewed Marian devotion

BY KATHY KERSHNER

SOUTH BEND — “What is the most important question in the world today?” began William Sockey, custodian of the USA Pilgrim Virgin Statue. Speaking to an assembly of Saint Joseph High School students, Sockey professed, “Does God exist? That’s the fundamental question that is being discussed. Because if He does exist, it makes all the difference.”

Former Vice President of the World Apostolate of Fatima (formerly known as the Blue Army), Sockey has been the caretaker of the National Pilgrim Statue for six years. It is his austerely to protect the statue and to traverse the country heralding a message of peace, conversion and salvation through prayer and sacrifice.

The statue is an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as she appeared to Sister Lucia of Fatima, Portugal, Blessed by Pope Francis in October of last year. Presentations of the history of Our Lady of Fatima, the importance of prayer, sacrifice and reparation were given by William Sockey (pictured left of the statue) and Carol Bunt (pictured right of the statue) to theology classes at Saint Joseph High School during a month-long diocesan tour.

The central messages of Fatima, Sockey suggested, are “to be convinced of the existence of God, to realize the truth of the Catholic faith, and to be motivated to participate in the salvation of souls through the simple daily offering of prayers and all of our daily suffering.”

“The only thing that matters in the whole universe,” he exhorted his teenage audience, “is how many souls make it to heaven. Our principle job is to renew the face of the earth by bringing souls into the state of grace, primarily through prayer and sacrifice.”

The students listened in rapt attention as Sockey described the appearance of the Angel of Peace, who prepared the little shepherd children for the Blessed Mother’s coming. The description of Mary and her instructions to the children, the heroic response of Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta to her call for prayer and sacrifice, the subsequent arrest of the children by the political authorities and the amazing miracle of the sun that took place on Oct. 13, 1917, kept his Saint Joseph audience reverently attentive.

Emily Anderson, a junior at Saint Joseph High School, agreed, “as the presenter said, one of the major questions today is, ‘Does God exist?’ I felt that the presentation was important because Fatima was and still is such an important part of Catholic (devotion). It is distinctive proof that God is there and looking out for us every single day. By having students go to this presentation, I feel like many are going to reevaluate their faith because this event is so extraordinary and awe-striking. By raising awareness for it, more young people can see how God works in our daily lives.”

Stanley Liponoga, IV, the principal of Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, noted similar reactions to the visit of Our Lady’s statue to his school on Sept. 17. “It was a powerful presentation and moving for all of our students to hear the miraculous stories,” he said. “A student said to me, ‘I felt a really powerful presence when I venerated Mary (the statue).’ Other students expressed amazement over the presentation. Christ was alive in them. It was great to hear them continuing the conversation during their own social time.”

Carol Bunt, corresponding secretary, World Apostolate of Fatima, Fort Wayne-South Bend Division, sought to impress the students assembled of the graces that can be gathered simply by venerating blessed images of Our Lady.

She explained, “We can’t all go to Fatima, so today Fatima has come to you. Take this time to realize whenever there is a special image of Our Lady, like this statue of Our Lady of Fatima, she has many blessings that she wants to hand out. So take this time to ponder some situations in your life for which you would like to have Our Lady’s graces and ask her for them.”

Students finished the presentation by praying aloud the prayers offered on the World Apostolate of Fatima website (wafusa.org).

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Human Dignity & Life Initiatives
Educators called to ‘greatness of soul’

**BY KATHY KERSHNER**

MISHAWAKA — Catholic Mission Day united South Bend diocesan educators for the celebration of Mass and consideration of the role of Catholic education in building up the Body of Christ. Hosted by Marian High School on the feast of Padre Pio, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades used the example of the great saint of Pietrelcina to exhort his Catholic educators to strive to both foster and teach the virtue of magnanimity.

“Greatness of soul, magnanimity: that is what characterized the lives of the saints. The saints were often simple, small, ordinary people, but they had the sincere desire to give the best of themselves. In so doing, God used them to do extraordinary things,” said Bishop Rhoades.

Drawing from a recent homily of Pope Francis, Bishop Rhoades explained that Catholic education has at its heart a mission of facilitating an encounter with Jesus Christ, “our Great Teacher and model of life.”

Modeling a life of virtue, creating engaging lesson plans, striving for excellence in every word and deed, these are hallmarks of an authentic teacher. In doing these things in great love, he encouraged, “we strive to teach our children and young people to travel the road of life as disciples of Jesus, pursuing truth, beauty and goodness.”

In order to equip his educators for this work of ministry, the Secretariat for Catholic Education Carl Loesch arranged for a keynote presentation that asked those present to consider patterning their teaching methodology on God, Himself.

In his presentation, “The Way God Teaches,” Dr. Joseph White, clinical psychologist, catechist and author, offered a strategy of teaching modeled by God throughout salvation history. White reasoned that God has revealed, through Scriptures and the Incarnation of His Son, a manner and method of teaching that can be imitated. Citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, he pointed out that it is the Church’s mission to be “a visible and actual continuation of the pedagogy of the Father and of the Son.”

He went on to elucidate five aspects of the way God teaches and showed point-by-point how all education should be personal and invitational, multisensory, communal and familial, structured, systematic, comprehensive and self-perpetuating.

The co-author of “Alleluia! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus,” an early childhood curriculum for ages 3 through kindergarten and the Alive in Christ catechetical series for grades 1-8, White, along with Our Sunday Visitor, introduced to grade school and high school catechists, textbooks and an interactive website that was written and organized around the five aspects of divine pedagogy that had been discussed earlier in the day. Described as a curriculum centered in Christ, White declared, “The primary mission of a Catholic school is to put students in touch with the person of Jesus Christ. We do this by teaching as Jesus taught. This will look different depending on the grade level and subject taught.”

Tara Schmitt, a catechist at St. Pius School, Granger, ordered a sample of the Alive in Christ series for her fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes. “It looks like they have created a curriculum that is engaging, offering prayerful opportunities as well as providing sound catechesis. From what I saw today, they have put a great deal of effort in providing an interactive on-line dimension including music, liturgical prayer and videos as well as customizable on-line lesson planning.”

In addition to the catechetical resources offered during the day, myriad opportunities for reflection were offered to teachers in the afternoon breakout sessions, as well. Participants were able to choose between topics ranging from the teachings of Pope Francis to creation and evolution, symbolic meaning in religious art to the educational impact of Marian consecration. Professors and theologians from within the diocese offered thought-provoking and inspiring lectures and discussions.

“The speakers encouraged us to learn from the way God teaches and relates with us,” Carl Loesch commented. “The breakout session speakers included people like Rev. Raphael Mary, Mgr. Heintz, Dr. Sloum, Deacon Mel Tardy and many others who were outstanding.”

“Catholic Mission Day gave us a chance, as Catholic educators, to step back and reflect on our overarching mission: to invite others, through our words and deeds in so many varied settings, to embrace and live out a deeper relationship with Christ,” said Joanie Rymsza, catechist from Christ the King School, South Bend. “I appreciated Bishop Rhoades’ call to us to the practice of magnanimity, both with regard to our mission and in our individual day-to-day relationships with our students and peers.”

Fort Wayne area educators assembled for Catholic Mission Day on Sept. 22 at Bishop Luers High School.

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**KATHY KERSHNER**
Pope: Greed, throwaway culture fuel ‘hidden euthanasia’ of elderly

BY CAROL GEITZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis warned against the abandonment and neglect of the elderly, calling it a “hidden euthanasia” rooted in today’s “poisonous” culture of disposal and an economic system of greed.

In the presence of his predecessor, Pope Francis also thanked retired Pope Benedict XVI for staying at the Vatican and being like “a wise grandfather at home.”

“They don’t take care of their grandparents and don’t treat them well is a people problem,” he said. “Because they lose the memory (of the past) and they sever their own roots,” he said.

The pope’s comments came during a special encounter and Mass for older people in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 28. Some 40,000 grandparents, their sons and women, and their families attended “The Blessing for a Long Life” event, organized by the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Pope Francis specifically invited Pope Benedict to attend the event, making it the third time he has invited Pope Benedict to attend events in the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The wisdom and love of older people are instrumental for building the future, and they can even cheer up the young people, the pope said.

“It’s very good for you to visit an older person. Look at our kids. Sometimes we see them being listless and sad; (if) you go visit an older person, they become happy,” he said.

“Older people, grandparents have an ability to understand very difficult situations, a great talent. And when they pray about these situations, their prayers are strong and powerful.”

But there are many who instead prey on their fragilities, and the pope warned against the “inhuman” violence being waged against the elderly and children in areas of conflict.

Harm can also be waged quietly, he said, through many forms of neglect and abandonment, which “are a real and true hidden euthanasia.”

People need to fight against “this poisonous throwaway culture,” which targets children, young people and the elderly, on “the pretext of keeping the economic system ‘balanced,’ where the focus is not on the human being but on the god of money.”

While residential care facilities are important for those who don’t have a family who can care for them, it’s important these institutions be “truly like homes, not prisons,” the pope said, and that their placement is in the best interest of the older person, “not someone else.”

These retirement homes should be like “sanctuaries” that breathe life into a community whose members are drawn to visit and look after the residents like they would an older sibling, he said. The pope also thanked an older couple from Qarqosh, near Mosul, Iraq, for their presence and urged people to continue to pray and offer concrete aid to those forced to flee from such “violent persecution.”

Married for 51 years with 10 children and 12 grandchildren, Mubarak and Aneesa Hano said they were chased out of their Iraqi town by Islamic State militants.

“The cities are empty, homes destroyed, families scattered, the elderly abandoned, young people desperate, grandchildren cry and lives are destroyed from the terror of the shouts of war,” Hano said.

He said he hoped the world would finally learn that “war truly is insanity.”

Hano told the pope that, for 2,000 years, the bells tolled in their parish churches until the militants invaded the northern Iraqi plain and replaced the crosses on top of their places of worship with black flags. Because the bells no longer ring in these abandoned villages, the bells of St. Peter’s Basilica tolled instead at the end of Hano’s testimony.

Pope Francis then consecrated Mass with 100 elderly priests from around the world.

Older people, grandparents have an ability to understand very difficult situations, a great talent.

White Mass to be celebrated in diocese

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the Second Annual White Mass for all medical workers and their families at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 8. A banquet with speaker Matthew Hanley at St. Mary’s Oecchtering Hall will follow the Mass. Hanley will speak on “Iatiological Medicine: Serving Politics, Not People.” Cost for the banquet is $15 per person. Register at www.fortwaynecma.com.

The White Mass will be celebrated at St. Pius X Parish, Granger, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16. Hours’ œuvres will be served at 6:45 p.m. with a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. on “The Role of Human Suffering … Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.”

Pope Francis greets emeritus Pope Benedict XVI during an encounter for the elderly in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sept. 28.
**FORT WAYNE — The Poor Handmaids to come home to Fort Wayne**

FORT WAYNE — The Poor Handmaid Sisters of Jesus Christ and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ are organizing several events called “PHJC’s Coming Home” in various cities over the next few years. The purpose of these events is to reconnect with the people in some of the areas in which Poor Handmaids have ministered and share who they have been over the years, who they are today, and who they hope to be in the future.

Attending this year’s event along with hundreds of volunteers and friends of the organization are members of the OSV Institute Board and staff. Tickets are available for $100 per person by contacting Linda Bramer at 574-287-5048 or visiting www.letloveshine.info.

**Poor Handmaids to come home to Fort Wayne**

The “Grupo de Oracion” (Prayer Group) of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes in South Bend recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Meeting weekly in prayer and holding an annual retreat on Pentecost, the group has also contributed financially to the parish through fundraisers over the years. Attending the anniversary celebration were founding members and current coordinator, Rosa Hernandez, sub-coordinator, Estela Rodriguez and Holy Cross Father Pedro Pacini, pastor.

**SISTER KAREN J. HARTMAN celebrates 60 years of consecrated life**

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Franciscan Sister of the Poor Sister Karen J. Hartman is celebrating her 60th jubilee in religious life. A native of Fort Wayne, Sister Hartman is the daughter of the late Frank and Catherine Hartman and the second oldest of six children. She attended St. Peter Catholic Church and School in her youth and was inspired by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, from whom she professed final vows in 1949. She professed final vows in August of 1949.

Sister Hartman holds a BSN from the University of Dayton, an MSN from Ohio State and a master’s degree in theology from Xavier University. Presently, Sister Hartman resides at St. Clare Convent in Cincinnati and serves as coordinator of the U.S. Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for her community. She is also a wedding ministry coordinator.

Reflecting over the past 60 years of grace-filled moments and movements, Sister Hartman said, “I can only thank and praise God for the many blessings, gifts and opportunities received through my Franciscan vocation. Each ministry has been a deepening of knowledge and experience. To know and love God in all of creation, as I serve my sisters and God’s chosen ones, is my great privilege and joy.”

A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated at St. Peter Church in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. An open house is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5 hosted by the family.

**CHRIST THE KING TO HOST HOLY HOUR FOR AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA**

Christ the King Parish, South Bend, will host an outdoor holy hour at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, celebrating the annual America Needs Fatima prayer, holy hour. The holy hour will take place at State Rt. 933 and Darden Rd. Bring a chair and rosary.
Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, bishop emeritus of Las Cruces, New Mexico, was the main celebrant of an outdoor Mass Sept. 29 at the conclusion of a three-day conference at the University of Notre Dame that focused on Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador. Archbishop Romero, an outspoken critic of the corrupt government of El Salvador, was assassinated while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980. In 1997, Pope John Paul II named him a Servant of God, the first step in a cause for canonization. The conference, which drew international participants, examined Archbishop Romero’s theological contributions and his enduring impact not only on Latin America, but on all peoples. — Ann Carey
Royce Gregerson ordained to diaconate in Rome

BY KAY COZAD

ROME — For seminarian Royce Gregerson, preparing for his Oct. 2 ordination to the diaconate has been a journey of prayer and meditation. “I have been spending time in prayer meditating on the promises that I will make and the words of the Rite of Ordination, and focusing on how I can better live as a Christ-like servant,” he says.

A native of Marion, Gregerson is one of Roy and Karen Gregerson’s three children. After attending Catholic elementary school in Marion he transferred to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in 2000 for his eighth-grade year when he and his family moved to Fort Wayne. Gregerson graduated from Bishop Luers High School in 2005 and Wabash College in 2009. He and his family are active members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

Crediting his family, his Catholic education and the joy and guidance of many faithful priests in his life, Gregerson says God used life’s circumstances to grow his faith at every point in his life. “My parents taught us the faith and gave us a good example of what it meant to be faithful Catholics,” he says, adding that receiving a Catholic education and being surrounded by other Catholics, including inspiring and helpful priests like Father Duane Craycraft and Father Jim Shafer, added to the strong faith foundation that now undergirds his vocation.

Though the young seminarian admits that from an early age he knew that he was being called to the Priesthood, Gregerson says, he did his best to ignore it through high school until he found great fulfillment in serving others while on a service trip. His parents were not surprised when he divined his discernment to the Priesthood and shortly after he began meeting regularly with his pastor, Father Shafer, until his entry into seminary in 2011.

Seminary life has been inspirational to Gregerson, who holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Pontifical College Josephinum and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

“Life in the seminary has been a tremendous blessing for me. The opportunity to live and study with so many other men who are in love with Christ and desire to serve God and His Church, open to His will for their lives is an unrepeatable experience,” says Gregerson.

Currently, he resides at the Pontifical North American College in Rome where he has begun studies for a Licentiate of Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) with a concentration in moral theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. He expects to complete his studies in 2016.

Gregerson recalls the impact his summer assignments at St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, and St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart have had on his vocation. “Probably the most important part of my summer assignments has been an increase in desire to serve as a parish priest,” he says, adding, “The biggest blessing for me, though, from these assignments has always been a steady confirmation of my vocation.”

Being stationed in Rome for the past three years in close proximity to the Holy Father, Gregerson has developed a new and deeper devotion and appreciation for Pope Francis and the workings of the Catholic Church. He feels his world-class education there has been priceless. “There is an academically charged environment in Rome and I’ve been exposed to so many people who have pushed me to learn more, think more critically, and to appreciate the truly vast treasure that exists in sacred theology,” he says, adding that the cultural experience in Rome has broadened his understanding of the Church in America and abroad.

The Oct. 2 diaconate ordination took place in Rome in the Papal Basilica of St. Peter at the Altar of the Chair. “To be ordained at the heart of the Catholic Church, over the site of the martyrdom and tomb of the Prince of the Apostles, is unique and something I will treasure for the rest of my life,” says Gregerson excitedly. Many of his family members traveled to attend the sacred Mass while others at home were offering prayer support. Gregerson’s focus has been on his prayer life and service to God. “I have been trying not to focus too much on the ordination itself and trying to just remain faithful to my daily habits of prayer in the Mass, the Divine Office, the rosary and my meditation each day,” he says.

Inspired young seminarian feels he offers a readiness and willingness to serve the Lord and His Church. “After five years of priestly formation my heart has been conformed more and more to Christ’s and I am ready to offer my life to Him through the promises I will make at my ordination. That willingness and readiness to sacrifice oneself strikes me as the most important thing, more so than any skills or talents I might have,” he says.

His hope during his year as deacon: “I hope that I learn as deacon how better to be a servant for my fellow Christians in imitation of Christ. This year will also be focused in large part on preparing for Priesthood, so I’m really looking forward to learning how to celebrate the sacraments, especially Holy Mass. Within the diaconate itself, I look forward to serving as a deacon during Holy Week, especially the Paschal Vigil.”

The prayers and joy of everyone at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish are with Royce Gregerson and his family as he celebrates his diaconate ordination.
Living the Gospel of Life and the Gospel of Love

BY LISA EVERETT

This past summer at our annual pro-life directors’ conference, we heard a moving story from Dr. John Bruchalski, founder of the Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, Virginia.

As an OB/GYN, he opened this facility in 1994 for the purpose of providing first-class gynecological and obstetrical care to women, especially those facing crisis pregnancies, in the context of the healing ministry of Christ.

Dr. Bruchalski recounted that he had become ill with cancer several years before, and during his leave of absence from his medical practice, needed to find physicians to cover for him when his patients were due to deliver. The only person he could find who was willing and able to cover for him during a particular stretch of time was a doctor who performed abortions.

Little did either of them know how God was planning to use this unusual arrangement for His purposes. During the weeks when the abortionist was covering for Dr. Bruchalski, one of his patients went into labor who was carrying a child with anencephaly, a condition incompatible with life in which a baby is born without major parts of the brain and skull.

The abortionist delivered the baby, who died within hours surrounded by the love of his parents and siblings. A few weeks later, the abortionist angrily confronted Dr. Bruchalski for not having given him a “heads up” about the condition of this baby. After all, this was precisely the kind of baby that the doctor-on-call believed should be aborted! Dr. Bruchalski apologized to the abortionist for having neglected to inform him of all the facts regarding his patient’s pregnancy, and didn’t think much more about the incident.

Several years later, the paths of the two men crossed again, and the doctor who had covered for him during those weeks told Dr. Bruchalski that he was no longer performing abortions.

“It all started the day that I delivered that baby with anencephaly for you,” confided the former abortionist. “I had never seen so much love in my life as I saw in the delivery room that day, and I have never been the same.”

As another Respect Life Month begins, it is good to hear real-life stories like this that remind us that no one, not even an abortionist, is beyond the mercy of God and that love is the most powerful force in the universe, stronger than sin and stronger than death.

By God’s marvelous design, each of us is meant to be “loved into life,” as a priest-friend of my parents was fond of repeating. This refers above all to God, of course, but He shares that privilege with us.

The mutual love of spouses expressed through the “language of the body” is not meant to remain closed in on itself, but to give life to another person who is literally the two of them in one flesh. And that child is created not only in the image and likeness of mom and dad, but above all, in the image and likeness of God, with an inalienable dignity and an immortal soul.

No matter how short or long someone’s life on earth happens to last, we are called to surround him or her with love until the moment they draw their last breath and find themselves face to face with God who is Love. As families, we are called to love people into this life, and to love them into the next, and in all the moments in between, to do our best to love all the people God puts on our path into the life of His kingdom.

We never know how God might be working through the circumstances of our life, particularly the painful ones, to give life — His life — to others. Could that couple whose baby had anencephaly possibly have guessed that the love they lavished on their little one for those few hours was, by the grace of God, the means He used to melt the hardened heart of the doctor who had just delivered their baby? Yet it was precisely their fidelity to the Gospel of Life and their love for their dying baby so strong it was palpable to a stranger, that made it possible for them to become spiritual parents that day to a man who made his living taking life.

Dr. Bruchalski confessed that when he was first diagnosed with cancer and needed to take a leave of absence from his medical practice, he wondered what they would do without him. Well, he chuckled, God did wonders without me! If we, too, are faithful to the Gospel of Life, which is ultimately the Gospel of Love, the Lord will no doubt work wonders through us as well.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Healing from abortion: A father’s story

The following is an account of a Fort Wayne man’s journey to healing after an abortion experience.

The other day I was stopped at a red light and the car ahead of me had a bumper sticker that read, “Abortion: One dead, one wounded.” Not to be cold but I understood who was dead, what confused me — who was the wounded: ONE? Abortion wounds many people. The mother is obviously wounded, but there are many others who feel the same guilt, condemnation and pain from the abortion. The one who doesn’t get mentioned the most is the father.

As a post-abortive man, I felt the same pain, guilt and condemnation that I hear women carry. As a post-abortive advocate for men, I get to speak to different organizations including women’s post abortive groups. The common denominator that both the mother and father experience is guilt and condemnation.

Many women are surprised when I tell them about my feelings about the abortion brought. Many women realize that abortion does hurt the father. I know men can hide their feelings well, but there is a hole in our souls the abortion creates. God created men to provide for and protect their families. Abortion destroys his confidence in his ability to provide those crucial needs in the lives of his spouse and future children.

Soon after the abortion, men don’t realize the negative effects and after time, they don’t want to admit the pain they feel so they are in denial. Work, drugs, alcohol, overachieving, etc., are ways that men show their hurt. Others don’t work or have very low self-esteem. This is the sadness of what abortion has created in our country.

The abortion advocates say that women who are affected emotionally by the abortion are emotionally weak. Nothing is said about the effects of abortion on men. For decades we have sat in the back struggling with the emotions but kept our mouths shut. There had to be something wrong with us and we did not want to let people know we were hurting. Therefore we became dysfunctional husbands, fathers, employees and employers. Who knows how many divorces, suicides and mental illnesses have occurred because of the right of women to kill their babies.

There is healing that can come for men as there is for women. God does forgive us, but He first asks that we forgive ourselves. His healing is wonderful and I know firsthand how His healing touch feels. Men, I know how stubborn we can be; it took me 27 years to be healed. However, the blood of Jesus cleanses all sins and we cannot believe the lies of the enemy. Even today the enemy attacks me, but the work of the hand of God in my life took the nerves out of the event like a root canal. The abortion remains, like the tooth, but there are no feelings of guilt and condemnation. It is a painful process, but in the end the results remove anything for the enemy to attack.

I have spoken to many groups about the effects of abortion on men over the last five years. One night I was speaking to a church group and told them the story of the bumper sticker. I told them that the bumper sticker should have said one dead, two wounded. However, what about the parents who would have been grandparents, siblings that would have been aunts and uncles, and friends who could have been godparents? After the meeting, an older couple came up to me. Both were crying and they thanked me for talking about grandparents. They felt a great loss and no one ever acknowledged them. They were very grateful. So, in reflection, maybe the bumper sticker should read: “Abortion, one dead, and many wounded.”

Add the persecution of Christians to Respect Life Month

BY FREDERICK EVERETT

With the fall of the international communist movement over 20 years ago, there was well-grounded hope that the global persecution of Christians might soon become a thing of the past. There was heady talk back then about the “inevitability” of democracy and a new global birth of freedom that would accompany it. The world, it seemed, was on an upward swing.

Unfortunately, as recent events testify, the promise of that time has proved to have been a pipe dream. Christians are not only still persecuted, but the death of Christians and the destruction of their communities has widened, deepened and multiplied. According to author John Allen, the past year will likely have seen upwards to 100,000 Christians killed for their faith. Unquestionably, the global war on Christians has become a pressing issue for the respect of human life.

Besides giving money to Catholic Relief Services or the Knights of Columbus to help Christian refugees, what is a Catholic Christian to do? One way to respond is to become more educated about the plight of Christians throughout the world. There are several organizations that have websites that deal with these afflicted communities. Catholic Near East Welfare Association (www.cnewa.org), Aid to the Church in Need (www.churchinneed.org) and In Defense of Christians (www.indefenseof-christians.org) are just three examples of agencies helping persecuted Christians.

Unfortunately, even with some increased coverage in the mainstream press recently, this story remains grossly under-reported. The Pew Research Center’s 2014 report found that between June 2006 and December 2012, Christians faced harassment and intimidation in 151 countries. This represented the largest number of any religious group. In addition, Christians are the only religious group that is persecuted in all 16 of the countries high.
share of those in the lion’s den.”

One new and very exciting initiative that has started in our diocese under the direction of Professor Philpott has been named Under Caesar’s Sword: How Christian Communities Respond to Repression. In collaboration with the Religious Freedom Project at Georgetown, the Notre Dame Center for Civil and Human Rights has been awarded a grant of over a million dollars to discover and draw attention to the ways in which Christian communities around the world are responding to the severe violation of their religious freedom. The center has pulled together a team of 15 top-notch scholars to research and report on repressed Christian communities around the world, including those in China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, India and many other countries. However, the center does not plan to allow this effort to be merely an academic exercise with a report that will simply be gathering dust on a shelf. One of the project’s main goals will be its extensive efforts to disseminate its findings as part of its efforts to raise awareness of and be in solidarity with persecuted Christians. The project will be producing a documentary on Christian responses to persecution; developing curricula on the topic for churches and schools; and publishing a readable report of the findings to be distributed around the world, including to persecuted churches. The project will also be posing the question about how Christians worldwide can build a culture of solidarity in which the sacrifice of the martyrs will be remembered and honored.

To learn more about this project, visit its website: http://human-rights.nd.edu/research/ucs/.

Frederick Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Indiana Catholic Conference urges support for No Taxpayer Funded Abortion/Abortion Insurance

INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana Catholic Conference) — On Sept. 15, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report revealing that over a thousand health care plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) cover elective abortions and that many health plans do not inform enrollees about the inclusion and cost of abortion coverage. These problems flow directly from defects in the ACA. On Jan. 28, the House joined together two measures that would correct these problems and passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act (H.R. 7).

The Senate must act. Either take up and pass H.R. 7, or pass the separate bills, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (S. 946) and the Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act (S. 1848). On Nov. 12, the Senate will return after the elections for a lame-duck session.

The Indiana Catholic Conference asks that readers contact Senators Coats and Donnelly by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call their local office and ask them to please co-sponsor and support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, S. 946, and the Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, S. 1848. Tax dollars should not be used to fund or promote abortion, and, at a minimum, abortion coverage in health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act should be fully disclosed to enrollees.

Additional contact information:

- Senator Dan Coats can be found at http://www.coats.senate.gov/contact/
- Senator Joe Donnelly can be found at http://www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email-joe.
It was you who created
My inmost self, and put
Me together in my
Mother’s womb, for all
These mysteries I thank you,
For the wonder of myself, for
The wonder of your works.
Psalm 139, 13 - 14

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
South Bend

Marleigh’s mother was planning to have an abortion
until she came to Women’s Care Center.

Knights for Life
Marian High School
Mishawaka, IN

"This is my body, which will be given for you."
Luke 22:49

Our parish is dedicated to
The Mother of Our Saviour
The Star of Hope
The Comfort of the Afflicted
And the one chosen to guide us through
the sorrows of life, including the agony
brought about by abortion.
Queen of Peace, be with us.

St. John the Baptist
New Haven, IN

Since 1973, over 50 million babies have died by abortion.
It’s time to stop the violence!
Pray to end abortion...
and begin emotional
and spiritual healing.
St. Mary of the Assumption
DECATUR
and St. Joseph School

May our Respect Life prayers
invite the Holy Spirit to
visit those who mistakenly
believe that their support
of abortion is righteous.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
South Bend

“...you formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother’s womb.”
Psalm 119:13

Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration
Sponsoring Hearts of Mary Province
Mishawaka, Indiana
www.safam.org

“...you formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother’s womb.”
Psalm 119:13

"You formed my
inmost being:
you knit me in my
mother’s womb.”
Psalm 119:13

St. Mary Parish - Huntington

Discernment Retreat
Young Adult Women
(age 18-35)
October 24-26, 2014
7:30pm Friday to 1:00pm Sunday

High School Retreat
October 18-19, 2014
9:00am Saturday to 1:00pm Sunday

Come and See
Young Adult Women
(age 18-35)
January 7-10, 2015

Registration
Sign up online: www.ssfpa.org/retreat
or contact
Sister M. Lois Delee at (574) 259-5427 or srloisdelee@gmail.com
*Bed linens, towels and meals are included in accommodations*
Please bring clothes that are modest and appropriate for Mass.

Women’s Care Center
Helping women choose life!
Centers in Fort Wayne, South Bend, Elkhart,
Mishawaka, Plymouth and Bremen
womenscarecenterfoundation.org
Making our marriages better

OctOber 5, 2014

Gallup poll some years ago indicated some common complaints of husbands about their wives. The list looked something like this:

• nag
• infrequently have words of encouragement or praise for their husbands
• spend too much money on themselves and their personal interests
• account for every penny with everyone else in the family
• go out too often without their wives
• stay out late at meetings and engagements, resulting in their wives feeling lonely and left out
• show less and less interest in their husbands as the wives grow older, yet still seem to be super courteous and attentive to younger women
• are domineering
• spend too much money on themselves and their personal interests
• account for every penny with everyone else in the family

Javier Abad and Eugenio Fenu, in “Marriage, A Path to Sanctity,” write, “Wives would do well to take a close look at these complaints because, many times, in order to explain why their husbands grow indifferent and even negative about them for apparently no reason at all. … (Likewise), husbands should go over (the common complaints of wives) … and see if there might not be some area in them for (their own) improvement.” These complaints are not true with all spouses in all marriages, but since they were discovered to be common ones, it’s not a bad idea to review them and consider their relevance in our own lives.

... A husband should always be warm and considerate. He should also know how to show appreciation for the small tokens of his wife’s affection — the shoes she has just shined for him, the favorite dish she has prepared as a surprise, some }

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

Catholics in Indiana should prepare to vote

ELECTION 2014

GLEN TEBBE

Be principled and not partisan in political and social issues

Politics is often ideological, emotional and divisive. The Catholic Tradition does not offer an ideology but a moral framework in which to evaluate policies and candidates. The Church asks that Catholics engage using faith and reason and to form one’s conscience through study and prayer. First one must seek out what is right by studying Scripture and Church teaching. Secondly, one must use reason to study the issues in the light of faith, and lastly prayerfully ask for God’s guidance and His will to be done.

Opposing evil and doing good are essential obligations

Catholic social teaching is holistic. One must always oppose intrinsic evils that directly threaten the sanctity and dignity of human life such as euthanasia, genocide, torture and racism. In like manner, there is an obligation to contribute to the common good in solidarity with those in need. The right to life is linked to the basic needs that every human being needs to live and thrive. In addition to the basic human needs, defending religious freedom, supporting marriage and family, welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment provide for the common good. While evil must always be opposed, that does not mean that the pursuit of good from doing good. Both are required.

Because no candidate is perfect, it is difficult to find one that complies with all values and principles of Catholic social teaching. In the end one must form one’s conscience through study and prayer and then vote based on the best judgment of which candidate will do the best job of protecting from evil and promoting the common good. So can one be principled and not partisan? Yes, by studying Scripture and Church teaching. The Church calls to be guided by faith and reason in every circumstance and to choose the candidate who does the best job of protecting from evil and promoting the common good.
Healing words for the wounded

A recent article on communicating the pro-life message leaves me in agreement — but sometimes shaking my head in disagreement. While it rightly states that words are powerful and can shape opinions, it also says to always use words like “kill” and “sin” in reference to abortion. The article should have mentioned the importance of being aware of our audience when we choose what words to speak — and when we choose whether to speak at all — and to simply listen. While never avoiding the fact that abortion ends a life, as pro-life people we should be aware that our audience will almost always include women who have had an abortion or people who have been involved in one. We should take special care to use words of love and mercy, rather than judgment and condemnation, in order to better help those in need of Christ’s healing touch and to help prevent greater loss of lives and souls.

Abortion’s impact is extensive. After 41 years of legalized abortion in the United States, the death toll is over 55 million children. Because of repeat abortions, about 35 million women have lost one or more children to abortion. In addition, a roughly equal number of men have fathered a child who was abortedly. They, too, may blame themselves for their loss, we can witness to their child’s life and affirm their right to grieve. Showing kindness and offering assistance to those leaving abortion facilities might even help prevent repeat abortions by encouraging them to turn to pro-life groups for support with a future unexpected pregnancy.

One caller to Project Rachel demonstrated the importance of a compassionate attitude. She said, “I had done a fine job of beating myself up for years and I certainly didn’t need the person on the other end of the phone to make me feel any worse. But, when I finally called, it was not like that at all. The voice on the other end was warm and full of hope for me. My journey of heartbreak ended on that day that I made that phone call.” Our use of language that conveys God’s love, warmth and mercy can bring hope of His forgiveness and healing to those struggling from a past abortion.

The Church offers help for those suffering from abortion’s aftermath through a diocesan-based ministry usually called Project Rachel. If you are hurting from past abortion(s), contact Project Rachel at 855-722-4554 or visit http://sites.diocesefwsb.org/projectrachel/.

Mary McClusky is the assistant director for Project Rachel Ministry Development at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activities, go to www.usccb.org/prolife. Join the Project Rachel Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty by visiting www.usccb.org pray or text “FAST” to 55000.

Improvement in the decoration of the house, etc. He should also keep physically fit and conserve personal enjoyment only in their own benefit. What a win-win! Of course this exemplifies that God’s wisdom still applicable today! The secret to making our marriages better, then, is as simple as a nightly marital examination of conscience. Pondering the list of successes and failures of the day is a discipline that will reap all of us great rewards. In honestly evaluating our actions, we can take personal responsibility for them, and learn how to improve. This is a pleasure-filled duty to be sure. Overlooking the faults of our spouses while focusing on fixing our own always leads to greater marital happiness.

According to an article in Scientific American, numerous studies show that fulfilling intimate relationships such as marriages are the single most important source of life satisfaction. So, nurturing our spouses actually leads to our own happiness. What a win-win! Of course this exemplifies that God’s own plan of harmony is always to our benefit.

Have you ever watched a couple of children bickering? Who really knows how a couple of children bickering? Trying to boss me around. …” As parents we counsel our children, “The bigger person makes the first move to forgive. Let’s not worry about how this started. Just let it go.” We need to listen to our own advice and apply it to our spousal relationships. A short memory and a heart of love provide fertile ground for us to grow to flourish.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/
Outnumbered, outsized, CYO Panthers never give up  

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Week after week, the St. Vincent Panthers may be outnumbered and outsized, but Coach Kevin Thompson’s unit never gives up. After suffering a one-point loss to Central Catholic (CC), 24-6, St. Vincent once again fell to CC on Sunday Sept. 28, in Week 6 by action of a score of 22-12.

In the first week of play, Thompson detailed, “Opening day didn’t go our way when we played a very well-coached Central Catholic team. The score was close at halftime with CC on top, 8-6, but the Irish controlled the game and the second half.”

In the second meeting, St. Vincent was down just 8-6 at half, led on defense by Henry Hilger and Ryan Richardson who worked very hard to keep the Panthers in the game. The first play of the second half, James Black took a perfectly-blocked ISO (isolation run play) 86-yards for a touchdown. The extra point was blocked, but St. Vincent was right in the game at 8-6. It wasn’t until early in the fourth quarter when CC’s size took over and they scored 14 unanswered points.

In the first meeting the Panthers had given up a mere 12 points thus far this campaign and were taking aim at an always-fierce rival in the Mishawaka Catholic Saints. The maroon-and-gold clad Panthers’ defense was solidified by the biggest of the big play linemen of the league with the menacing Casey Conery, who had to be accounted for on every down, and made his presence known early and often as the Saints’ offense sputtered early.

St. Anthony’s defense did what they do best — utilize all of their talented skill position players. And it was exemplified as quarterback Conor Ratigan tucked the pigskin and scampered 17 yards for the first score and then was followed by the sure-footed kicker Paxson Campbell’s extra points boot making the margin, 8-0.

The iron wall — that is the Panthers defense — again held and then a 20-yard romp by Brady Gumpf was followed by another courtesy of Ryan Schmitt. The Saints started in the hole and scored on the last play of the game, Thompson explained.

Panther Brennan Horvath plows through the Mishawaka Catholic Saint defense.

“St. Vincent is very young this season with just eight eighth graders listed on their roster and only 29 total. And they have just two ‘X players’ so they give up a big size difference up front.”

But despite their record, Thompson is very proud of how hard his kids work. “Each week we ask, ‘Did we get better this week’ and this week, once again, I believe we can say, ‘yes.’"
St. Vincent teacher to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom

BY SANDRA GUFFEY

FORT WAYNE — What do 30 first-grade students at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne and a member of the 122nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard have in common?

They share community circle and read together every day.

They talk about God and their country. They learn how to Skype because their teacher, Master Sgt. Anthony Turner, will serve for up to six months in Operation Enduring Freedom beginning this October.

“My love of God, and I love my country,” Turner said. “All because of that I go.”

Turner, who is 55, grew up in Anderson. He started working on a teaching degree at Ball State University in 1982, but decided to join the Air National Guard in 1986. He went active for four years in Louisiana.

Altogether Turner served for 10 years from 1986 to 1996 while finishing his teaching degree and attaining an associate’s degree in Aerospace Ground Equipment. He is one of the few to have a degree in Aerospace Ground Equipment. “When I entered the military, and they tested us, mechanics was my lowest score. So I thought I’ll do that so I would get better at it,” he said.

Turner confessed his father wasn’t so sure that was a good idea, but the teacher’s philosophy of being a lifelong learner fits the Air Force motto: “Two boots in, we fly, fight and win. We are American Airmen.”

“We are American Airmen.”

Master Sgt. Anthony Turner reads to his first-grade students during story time at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne.

Just like in the military, he is “two boots in. Leaving the kids is the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” Turner said. “I always want to bring education alive for my kids.”

Skype and Facetime will allow him to communicate and help out the substitute teacher, Julie Burns, while he’s gone.

Updated scores and schedules can be found on the league’s website at www.icclsports.org.
Today's Catholic
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What's Happening?

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

Bake and rummage sale planned
South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish, 3526 St. John Way, will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. Sunday will offer a $1 per bag sale. Fresh baked bread on site.

Catholic Business Network Group
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Oct. 3, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed by refreshments provided by Redeemer Radio in the Cathedral Center.

Spanish speaking volunteers needed
South Bend — St. Vincent de Paul will sign up approximately 900 families for Christmas food and toys and needs volunteers to assist the Spanish speaking clients through the sign-up process. Shift options are 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 12:30-4 p.m. during the last week of October. Call Mary Eme at 574-234-6000 ext. 12126 or email m.eme@svdpsb.org.

Fall festival planned
South Bend — St. Casimir, 1308 Dunham St., will have a fall festival on Sunday, Oct. 19. A chicken dinner will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 5-12, children under 5 free accompanied by an adult.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Oct. 9, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12. Proceeds will benefit St. Joseph County Right to Life.

Ladies luncheon for Luers Knight
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host a Ladies Luncheon at the Fort Wayne History Center Saturday, Oct. 19, with a social hour at noon and lunch at 1 p.m. Guest speaker, Tracy Rau, will speak on her faith-filled life journey, “Courage, Strength, and Faith – Stitched Together With Love.” Mary McIntyre, class of ’66, will have “Jewelry by Mary McIntyre” available for purchase.

The luncheon is free of charge but a donation or an item for the Luers Knight auction is requested. Contact Bishop Luers at 260-456-1261 ext. 3142 or email at kskelley@bishopluers.org by Friday, Oct. 10.

Joy Mart II craft show announced
South Bend — Sacred Heart Rosary Sodality will have a craft show and bake sale Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall. On Saturday, Nov. 8, a holiday decor garage sale is planned from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall. Sacred Heart is located at 63568 US 31 just north of Lakeville.

Holiday craft BOOtZaar planned
Mishawaka — St. Joseph Church, 225 S. Mill St., will host a holiday craft BOOtZaar on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each non-perishable food item donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry on that day will be an entry into the raffle, which has over 50 prizes. For more information call 574-255-1757.

South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish, 3526 St. John Ave., will have a fish fry dinner Thursday, Oct. 9, from 5-7 p.m. A "holiday" booth, pastry booth, and comprehensive benefits package.

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Deacon Marc R. Kellams from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis speaks at the dinner following the Red Mass in Fort Wayne on Sept. 24.

Photos by Tim Johnston

Red Mass planned for Basilica of the Sacred Heart

NOTRE DAME — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the South Bend Red Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, on Monday, Oct. 6, at 5:15 p.m. A reception will follow at the Eck Hall of Law, Eck Commons (second floor). The public is invited.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, center, celebrates the Eucharist during the Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sept. 24. Father Mark Gurtner, right, the chaplain of the St. Thomas More Society, concelebrated. At left is Deacon Marc R. Kellams, a special guest at the Red Mass and speaker at the dinner that followed. Deacon Kellams is a Circuit Court Judge in Monroe County, Indiana.