Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on Oct. 5 honoring couples celebrating milestone anniversaries — 25, 40, 50, 60 and even 70 years. Bishop Rhoades told the couples in his homily: “At this Mass, we express our esteem and our gratitude for your faithful witness to the Lord in the sacrament of Marriage.”

“The image of God is the married couple: the man and the woman; not only the man, not only the woman, but both of them together. This is the image of God: love, God’s covenant with us is represented in that covenant between man and woman. And this is very beautiful! We are created in order to love, as a reflection of God and His love. …

When a man and woman celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony, God as it were ‘is mirrored’ in them; He tance and appreciation of divorced and remarried Catholics, cohabitating couples and homosexuals.

“It is necessary to accept people in their concrete being, to know how to support their search, to encourage the wish for God and the will to feel fully part of the Church, also on the part of those who have experienced failure or find themselves in the most diverse situations,” Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest told Pope Francis and the synod Oct. 13.

Cardinal Erdo, who as the synod’s relator has the task of guiding
Same-sex marriage, religious liberty, and Notre Dame

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Last week, I and the other Bishops of Indiana expressed our disappointment with the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on October 6th not to review Indiana’s appeal of the court ruling that the prohibition of so-called “same-sex marriage” is unconstitutional.

The Church continues to oppose the redefinition of marriage to include two persons of the same sex since such redefinition denies the truth and reality of what marriage is: the lifelong partnership between one man and one woman ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. In God’s plan, sexual difference exists, is essential to marriage. Marriage is a unique form of love and commitment, a “communion” in which “the two become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

The Church believes that homosexual persons are certainly equal in dignity to heterosexual persons. The Church teaches that “every sign of unjust discrimination in regard to homosexual persons should be avoided” (CCC 2358). Not allowing two persons of the same sex to marry is not unjust discrimination. The “right to marry” is the right to enter into a relationship that is unique and rooted in a nature that includes sexual difference.

I and many others have been worried about the many possible threats to our religious freedom as a result of the redefinition of marriage. Changing the legal definition of marriage may threaten the liberty of the Church and our institutions in numerous ways. One example could be the government forcing religious institutions to extend any special spousal benefits they afford to actual marriage to “same-sex marriage” as well.

The Church believes that marriage is a unique, lifelong, loving relationship between one man and one woman that is fruitful and generative by (right) reason and revelation. As a Catholic university, it is important that Notre Dame’s understanding of the Church’s teaching on the heterosexual nature of marriage be more than “a view.” The heterosexual nature of marriage is an objective truth known by (right) reason and revelation. As a Catholic university, it is important that Notre Dame affirm that as a Catholic institution, it endorses a Catholic view of marriage, that Notre Dame is committed to defending the Church’s teaching on the true nature of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. I have communicated to Notre Dame my conviction that this affirmation should also include efforts to defend the religious liberty of our religious institutions that is threatened in potentially numerous ways by the legal redefinition of marriage, including the government forcing our Catholic institutions to extend any special benefits we afford to actual marriage to same-sex “marriage” as well.

Living in conformity with our Catholic teaching that marriage is the institution God set up for the purpose of procreation and religious growth in holiness provides “an authentic and rich expression of the Church’s mission. The Church, attempting to support these members of the Church by offering guidance and outreach in the form of meetings, online discussion groups and other resources to people around the world.”

Courage offers pastoral outreach to those with same-sex attraction

BY SARAH MCCARTHY

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For Catholic men and women who experience same-sex attraction, it can often be a difficult and confusing task to understand how they can live out their faith and participate in their religion.

Courage, an international apostolate of the Church, attempts to support these members of the Church by offering guidance and outreach in the form of meetings, online discussion groups and other resources to people around the world.

Founded in 1980 by Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, Courage acts as a spiritual support system for men and women who experience homosexual inclinations. According to its website, http://courage.org, Cardinal Cooke’s goal in establishing the organization was to aid people in “living a fully Christian life in communion with God and others.”

Father Paul Check, the executive director of Courage, said the organization provides “an authentic and rich expression of the Church’s pastoral care for men and women with the homosexual inclination.”

Cardinal Cooke realized two things. One, I think, is to be an integral part of the Church’s mission and that is the only thing that the Church seems to offer men and women with the homosexual inclination is the word no,” Father Check said in a phone interview with the Catholic News Service. “And secondly, I think he realized that this was, in fact, perception or not, an underserved group of people who have as much claim on the heart of Jesus Christ as anyone else.”

Courage has nearly 100 chapters throughout the U.S. and 15 international chapters. Each contingent hosts regular meetings that provide fraternal support, prayer and service in the light of the Gospel, said Father Check, who is a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The moderators of the meetings, usually a priest or chaplain, minister to participants through the use of Scripture, the beatitudes, parables or any of the various resources available to Christians “that are helpful for people to grow in self-knowledge,” Father Check said.

The organization also has adapted the 12-step program from Alcoholics Anonymous, though Father Check noted that does not mean the Church views homosexuality as a sex addiction. I think we want to take care in saying that the 12 steps could be a useful tool for a number of different things, moving away from stereotyping or labeling.”
impresses in them His own features and the indelible character of His love. Marriage is the icon of God’s love for us. Indeed, God is communion too: the three Persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. And this is precisely the mystery of Matrimony: God makes of the two spouses one single life. The Bible uses a powerful expression and says ‘one flesh,’ so intimate is the union between man and woman in marriage. And this is precisely the mystery of marriage: the love of God, which is reflected in the couple that decides to live together. Therefore a man leaves his parents, and goes to live with his wife and unites himself so strongly to her that the two become, as the Bible says, one flesh.”

Bishop Rhoades reflected that when the couples consecrated their love in the sacrament of Marriage, they became one flesh, icons of God’s love. “They became icons of God’s love. They make visible God’s love, the love with which Christ loves His Church,” he said. “This is God’s design, God’s plan for marriage.”

But the frailty of the human condition is also part of married life and it brings about difficulties — financial problems, unemployment, disagreement or problems in communications.

“This is life,” Bishop Rhoades said. “And then, of course, there are our own sins and weaknesses. I doubt that there’s a couple here, which hasn’t had some arguments in their marriages. This is the human condition. But they have persevered, persevered with faith and with the help of God’s grace.”

Speaking of arguments, Pope Francis recently said: “The secret is that love is stronger than the moment when there is arguing, and therefore I always advise spouses: do not let a day when you have argued end without making peace. Always! And to make peace it isn’t necessary to call the United Nations to come to the house and make peace. A little gesture is sufficient, a caress, and then let it be! Until tomorrow! And tomorrow begin again. And this is life, carrying on, carrying on with courage and the desire to live together.”

Bishop Rhoades also reminded the faithful these words the pope says are very helpful for marriage: “May I,” “thank you” and “I’m sorry.”

“Marriage goes forward when there is this courtesy and gratitude and humility,” Bishop Rhoades reflected. “These virtues are essential. And prayer is essential. Husbands and wives praying for each other every day. That helps to make the marriage bond stronger.”

Marriage is a beautiful vocation, the vocation to love in a unique way and forever.

“Yes, we must never forget that even these things are pathways for growth in goodness, truth and beauty, paths to holiness,” Bishop Rhoades said. “The key to success is trust, trust in God and His providence, trust in His grace, the grace received in the sacrament.” Bishop Rhoades noted. “That grace helps one to grow in love, to persevere in the difficult times, and to rejoice in the beautiful experiences that one has.”

“The bishop noted a big challenge facing the Church is many young people fear making the definitive commitment of marriage.

He told the couples, “You show our young people that definitive, lifelong commitment is not only possible — it is worth the risk! You bear witness to faith. It takes faith in God, a strong spiritual foundation, to build a relationship that is faithful and true in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, unto the parting of death. Yes, it is possible to love forever.”

Bishop Rhoades reminded the anniversary couples, “The Lord continues to give you the love that stands at the foundation of your marriage. Each day, He renews and strengthens your love. He does so here today, at this and every Mass. Here at the altar, we remember that Christ loves us to the end, giving up His Body and pouring out His Blood for us. This is the love marriage is meant to express: free, total, faithful, fruitful and self-giving. Jesus nourishes us with His Body and Blood to help us to love as He has loved us.”

He asked God to bless the couples on their journey of life and love, “strengthened by the Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ’s love!”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Missionaries help keep people, Church, healthy and holy, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Missionaries do enormous good for the world and the Church by bringing God’s love to the far corners of the earth and by keeping the Church healthy and fruitful, Pope Francis said.

Missionaries, who leave their homes and even risk their lives, “have done immense good for the Church, because once the Church stops moving and becomes closed up inside herself, she gets ill, she can be corrupted, either by sin or that false knowledge separated from God that is worldly secularism,” he said in a homily Oct. 12.

The pope presided over a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica as a celebration of thanksgiving for the canonizations of Sts. Maria de l’Incarnation and Francois de Laval, two 17th-century French missionaries who were pioneers of the Catholic Church in Canada.

“People love heroes, especially young people, but most of ‘today’s heroes aren’t that wholesome,’ he said.

The challenge is to help people learn about the heroes of the Church because they’re “great models for all of us. They’re not from Canada and beyond,” said the cardinal.

Archbishop Durocher said St. Francois de Laval, who was born in 1623 and studied in a Jesuit school “was a kind of 17th-century Pope Francis,” setting aside the ornate living of the papacy.

The saint came to Quebec — a town of just 500 people — in 1658 as the apostolic vicar of New France, as Quebec was called, and there he began his missionary work among colonists and the native peoples.

He died in Quebec in 1708.

Cardinal Collins said even Catholics who do not become actual missionaries can still live by the example of a missionary spirit — turning one’s gaze outward toward others and “taking care of the gathered and scattered,” those in the pews and those who have drifted from the Church.

“If we’re doing that we’re really alive and sharing the faith,” he said.
Paul VI beatification highlights dialogue, Vatican II, love for Church

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting Catholics from Pope Paul VI's home diocese, Brescia, Pope Francis said his predecessor's witness "nourishes within us the flame of love for Christ, love for the Church and the drive to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today with mercy, patience, courage and joy."

Pope Francis will hold Pope Paul's witness up to a wider audience Oct. 19 when he beatifies him during the closing Mass of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

With Pope Paul’s beatification approaching, the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first encyclical letter, “Ecclesiam Suam,” and the 36th anniversary of his death Aug. 6, 1978, became the occasion for multiple reflections on his life and legacy in the Vatican media.

"Although he was not always understood, Paul VI will remain the pope who loved the modern world, admired its cultural and scientific wealth and worked so that it would open its heart to Christ, the redeemer of mankind," wrote Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re.

The Italian cardinal, a former papal diplomat like Pope Paul, said that while St. John XXIII is remembered for having convoked the Second Vatican Council and presiding over its first session, it was Pope Paul who was the "real helmsman of the council," presiding over the last three of its four sessions and guiding its implementation.

Both Cardinal Re and Pope Francis repeatedly refer to Pope Paul as a man sensitive to the problems and anxieties of modern men and women, a sensitivity Cardinal Re said led the pope to "seek dialogue with everyone, never closing the doors to an encounter. For Paul VI, dialogue was an expression of the evangelical spirit that aims to draw close to each person, that aims to understand each person and tries to make itself understood by each person."

"Ecclesiam Suam" laid out the vision for his papacy, looking at ways the Church could and should continue God's action of setting out to encounter humanity and bring people to the fullness of truth and salvation.

"How vital it is for the world, and how greatly desired by the Catholic Church, that the two should meet together, and get to know and love one another," he wrote.

But in the turbulent 1960s, it was not that easy. A 1977 biography of the pope by NC News Service — the former name of Catholic News Service — said, "He described himself as an "apostle of peace," but Pope Paul VI knew scarcely a peaceful day as he worked his way to the papacy in 1963 to succeed the universally popular Pope John XXIII. Giovanni Battista Montini faced an anxious world experiencing a period of self-criticism and upheaval. His years as pope were most notably marked by the Second Vatican Council — its hopes, reforms and crises."

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul’s June 21, 1963, election, Pope Francis told pilgrims from Brescia that the late pope "experienced to the full the Church’s travail after the Second Vatican Council: the lights, the hopes, the tensions. He loved the Church and expended himself for her, holding nothing back."

A reserved and reflective man who was trained as a Church diplomat and spent most of his priestly life in the Vatican, Pope Paul's papacy was marked by public and often bitter debates over changing sexual morality, the validity of the Church’s traditional teaching and the changes in its liturgy called for by Vatican II.

The Mass most Latin-rite Catholics celebrate today often is referred to as the Paul VI Mass. Under his leadership there was a complete revision of liturgical texts, something he said was a source of joy, but also was a source of some of his deepest anguish. In the last years of his pontificate, he repeatedly reiterated the need of those who made further, unauthorized changes to the Mass and those who completely rejected the council's liturgical reforms.

Pope Paul's connection with the themes expected to be raised at the synod on the family Oct. 19 include the encyclical for which he is most known by many people, "Humanae Vitae." The 1968 encyclical, usually described as a document affirming the Church’s prohibition against artificial contraception, placed that conclusion in the context of Catholic teaching on the beauty and purpose of marriage, married life and procreation.

In his day — before the globalbetroting Pope John Paul II was elected — Pope Paul was known as the "pilgrim pope." He was the first pope in the modern area to travel abroad, visiting six continents in seven years.

His travels and his meetings with bishops from around the world led him to speak out forcefully against the nuclear arms race, the starvation of millions of people while the rich got richer, a worldwide move toward liberalized abortion and the war in Vietnam, Israel and Lebanon, not to mention terrorism and guerrilla warfare in many other countries.

Under his leadership, the Catholic Church made huge strides in promoting Christian unity and formalizing its ecumenical dialogues, as well as improving relations with Jews, Muslims and other world religions.

He was born Sept. 26, 1897, in Concesio, a farm town outside the northern Italian city of Brescia. Known as studious and pious from a young age, Giovanni Battista was admitted to the Brescia seminary in 1916, but was allowed to live at home because of his frail health. Six months after his ordination to the priesthood in 1920, he was sent to Rome for graduate studies. In 1922, he was selected to attend the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, where the Vatican trains its diplomats. After a year at the academy, Pope Paul VI sent him to the Vatican nunciature in Warsaw, Poland, an assignment cut short because of his health. He returned to the academic world and his health came to be seen as so precarious that he could not celebrate masses in Poland as much as he wanted to.

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Because of Ebola crisis, people ‘can’t even go to church,’ says priest

BY JENNIFER BRINKER

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Father McDonald Nah is praying that the people of Liberia are just as resilient with the Ebola outbreak as they were following the country’s civil war more than a decade ago.

Father Nah is a priest of the Archdiocese of Monrovia, Liberia, who is currently studying Catholic education administration at St. Louis University. The priest, who resides at a downtown parish, St. Nicholas, with another Liberian priest, Father Urey Patrick Mark, is expected to return to Liberia next summer after he completes his studies.

Father Nah said that people in Liberia have been isolated because of the severity of the virus, especially those who have been in close proximity to someone who has died from the illness.

People “can’t even go to church,” he told the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis Archdiocese. “Usually in Liberia, when someone is sick ... they go around to visit with the sick. But they can’t visit them at all. It has created something they have never seen before. I was in Liberia during the war, and apart from people dying, we could visit. You could go places. But with this situation, you can’t at all.”

A priest for 11 years, Father Nah has served in two Liberian parishes, Sacred Heart Cathedral in Monrovia and St. Peter Claver Church. The people of those communities have become like family to him. He personally knows 16 people who have died from the Ebola virus.

“It’s been tough to be away from them,” he said, adding that he keeps in touch with people back home through texting and social media. “You feel there’s ... nothing physically you can do to actually be of help to them.”

Earlier this year, Father Mark, a member of the Society of the Divine Word, was asked by his community to serve on a new mission team in the Diocese of Cape Palmas, Liberia. However, plans have been put on hold as the situation evolves. He is expected to lead to the Divine Word motherhouse in Tecsty, Illinois, in November.

“TODAY’S CATHOLIC

The whole timing with the new mission and the Ebola situation has created a serious panic in the subregion,” said Father Mark, who recently learned that his uncle died from the illness. In a recent conversation with his superiors, Father Mark said he likely won’t go to Liberia until the first quarter of next year, “or whenever it’s safe to enter.”

Seeing the images of people in Liberia being sprayed with chlorine disinfectant after they handled the bodies of those killed by Ebola “shows the dehumanizing face of the virus,” Father Mark said. “Families cannot care for one another because of the virus.”

Traditionally, families prepare a loved one’s body for burial themselves, but the government has mandated that all bodies be cremated. Father Mark, who started a collection of supplies to be sent to the Church in Liberia, said he’s thankful for the U.S. government and others who have stepped in to help “restore humanity” in his country.

To date the U.S. government has committed more than $175 million toward the effort to thwart the Ebola epidemic. The U.S. recently announced it will deploy 3,000 troops to help transport medical equipment, supplies and personnel.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, has increased its support in affected countries and has allocated more than $376,000 toward efforts such as training volunteers and religious leaders, providing hygiene kits and making household visits in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana.

Jennifer Brinker is a staff writer for the St. Louis Review and Catholic St. Louis, the newspaper and magazine, respectively, of the St. Louis Archdiocese.

HANNA SUCHOCKA

FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF POLAND AND FORMER AMBASSADOR OF POLAND TO THE HOLY SEE

DEMOCRATIC POLAND: 25 Years After the Fall of Communism

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 5:30 P.M.
JORDAN AUDITORIUM, MENDOZA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SYNOD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the discussion and synthesizing its results, gave a nearly hourlong speech that drew on the synod’s first week of discussions.

"Homosexuals have rights and qualities to offer to the Christian community," the cardinal said. "Often they wish to encounter a Church that offers them a welcoming home. Are our communities capable of providing that, accepting and evaluating their sexual orientation, without compromising Catholic doctrine on the family and marriage?"

Throughout the week, synod speakers spoke boldly about issues that families face.

The Church needs to find better ways to show how the Gospel message is a way of life meant to bring great joy to families and, and is not a burdensome set of rules aimed at exclusion, one member of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family said.

"Church teaching has to be rediscovered not as a set of rules, but as a true good news, a good news that frees people," said Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher of Gatineau, Quebec, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. "God’s plan for marriage is not a structure in which people have to bind themselves in order to somehow gain God’s love. God’s plan for marriage is a gift of God’s love for us," he told Catholic News Service Oct. 8, on the sidelines of the synod meeting.

Existing diocesan programs and Catholic organizations aimed at helping Catholic families fulfill their vocation clearly are not strong enough to meet modern needs, a Wisconsin couple told the Synod of Bishops.

"We must develop more robust and creative methods to share the message with our children about the nature of human sexuality and the vocation of marriage," said the couple.

In addition, when Catholics talk about vocations and God’s call to each of the baptized to serve the Church and humanity, they cannot speak only of Priesthood and religious life. "Marriage should be included in all programs designed to explore vocations," they noted.

A married couple from Brazil told Pope Francis and the Synod of Bishops that the Church should stop giving "contradictory advice" on birth control and help Catholics obey Church teaching against contraception. On the same morning, one of the synod’s leaders spoke forcefully against a widespread "contraceptive mentality" that has led many couples to think the use of artificial birth control is not a sin.

Arturo and Hermelinda As Zamberlin, married for 41 years with three children, addressed the synod during the morning session Oct. 9. The designated subject for the session was the "pastoral challenges concerning openness to life. We must admit without fear that many Catholic couples, even those who seek to live their marriage seriously, do not feel obligated to use only the natural methods of birth control conditioned by the Church, said the Zamberlines, leaders in their country of an international Catholic movement, Teams of Our Lady.

"We must add that generally they are not questioned by their confessors" on the subject. The Zamberlines, who are participating in the synod as non-voting auditors, said the "rhythm of life" today makes it difficult to find time to learn natural methods of family planning, which they said have acquired an "unjust reputation of being unreliable," because they are badly explained and thus badly practiced.

In official reports of the closed-door talk at the Synod of Bishops on the family, an emerging theme has been the call for a new kind of language more appropriate for pastoral care today.

"The Church constantly faces the tension of upholding the truth while expressing compassion and mercy. Families face this tension all the time," Ron and Mavis Pirola of Sydney told the synod Oct. 6.

"Language appeared many, many times,"Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, the brief, for English-speaking journalists, told reporters Oct. 7.

"There’s a great desire that our language has to change in order to meet the very complex situations" the Church faces. One bishop, whom Father Rosica did not name in accordance with synod rules, reportedly told fellow participants that "language such as ‘living in sin,’ ‘intrinsically disordered’ or ‘contraceptive mentality’ are not necessarily words that invite people to draw closer to Christ and the Church." ("Intrinsically disordered" is a term used by the Catechism of the Catholic Church to describe homosexual acts.)

Ministering to those divorced was also discussed. When Catholics see couples who are patient, kind, never jealous or rude, they “behold the beauty and simplicity and strength of married love,” but the Church also must learn to help and to hear those whose dreams for lifelong love have been shattered, said Scottish Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow.

In their discussions of sexual and medical ethics, participants at the Synod of Bishops on the family are placing emphasis on the concept of “graduality,” as a way of thinking about morality that allows for human imperfection without compromising ideals.

In an address to the assembly on its first working day, Oct. 6, Cardinal Peter Erdo said, that “Humanae Vitae,” the 1968 encyclical by Pope Paul VI that reaffirmed the Church’s prohibition of artificial birth control, “needs to be considered in light of the law of graduality.”

He suggested that it was unrealistic to expect immediate acceptance of the widely flouted teaching. The cardinal quoted “Familiaris Consortio,” a 1981 apostolic exhortation by St. John Paul II on the role of the Catholic family in the world that was inspired by the last synod on the family in 1980. According to St. John Paul, each person is a historical being who “knows, loves and accomplishes moral good in stages of growth.” Several bishops referred to graduality in their discussions during an Oct. 6 synod session dedicated to the theme of “God’s plan for marriage and the family.”

Other topics discussed included a message of solidarity, support and prayers for all families suffering the impact of war and violence, especially in Iraq and Syria. Also discussed were Catholic-Muslim marriages. When a Catholic and a Muslim marry, the strong commitment to family life and their union can be a seedbed for teaching respect for other religions, but fundamen
talists often create insurmountable challenges for the Catholic spouse, said members of the Synod of Bishops.

Pope Francis listens as Italian Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, left, speaks during the morning session of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 13. At right is Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary, relator for the synod.

CNS PHOTO/Paul Haring

COURAGE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from pornography, for instance," he said. "But the presence of the 12 steps is not to imply that we are forcing a template on people, or that we presume that homosexual attractions automatically are some sexual addictions. We don’t believe that."

Instead, "the real heart of the apostolate" and the main purpose of the organization, Father Paul said, is to achieve the "Five Goals of Courage" as outlined on its website: "chastity, prayer and dedication, fellowship, support and (being a) good example/role model."

According to Church teaching, homosexual activity is a violation of divine and natural law and any sexual activity outside of marriage — which is between one man and one woman — is sinful. The Church also teaches, however, that homosexual attraction itself is not sinful and that homosexual people “must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity.”

Father Check referenced the story of Genesis as a way to understand the Church’s views on same-sex attraction.

“When God says after creating Adam, ‘It’s not that good that man should be alone,’ that’s a recognition that as individuals we’re incomplete and we’re made to step out of ourselves and find fulfillment in different ways — in family life, in friendships and in love. Now, one part of that would be spousal love,” he said. “So, with regard to homosexuality, I guess I would say that to act on the homosexual inclination would be to leave someone incomplete because when comparing that attraction, that desire, to our story as it’s given to us in Genesis, it would seem plain enough that the fulfillment that is sought can’t come.”

Father Check said this doesn’t mean that people in homosexual relationships can’t experience real friendships and love.

“What I’m talking about is very particularly, can the erotic attraction to a member of the same-sex lead to a completeness that’s proposed to us there in Genesis 2? Well the story says … no, you can’t,” he said. “And … the Church asks people not to act on those inclinations exactly for that reason. Because the fulfillment that they seek, they won’t find.”

In June, Courage premiered “Desire of the Everlasting Hills,” a documentary that tells the stories of three people who transitioned from living homosexual lifestyles to becoming connected to God and choosing to live chaste lives in accordance with the Church’s teachings on homosexuality. Themes of self-understanding and faith pervade the film as the two men and one woman share what it is like to experience same-sex attraction and the members of the Church.

Father Check said the movie’s purpose is to put a face on the issue of homosexuality within the Church.

“We see homosexuality with a face,” Father Check said. “We’re trying to … perhaps suggest to people gently that the Church’s teaching is not something sterile or severe, but rather takes into account human weakness as well, of course, as human greatness and virtue.”
SJRM opens new health center

MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center has announced the opening of Our Lady of the Rosary Health Center in downtown South Bend.

The new health center is located at 234 South Chapin St., in the same plaza as the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the new health center on Oct. 3, following a brief dedication ceremony.

Our Lady of the Rosary is a primary care practice, offering an array of family medicine, prenatal and obstetrical care. The new health center is designed to complement the services offered at Sister Maura Brannick Health Center along with laboratory and X-ray.

Dr. Michelle Pearson, currently practicing at River, on Family Medicine, will oversee the medical care in the office. In addition, the Family Medicine Center is working with Our Lady of the Rosary to provide collaborative services.

Our Lady of the Rosary Health Center accepts most insurance plans, Medicaid and Medicare and began accepting patients on Oct. 6.

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious elects new officers and Board of Directors

BELLEVILLE, Illinois — The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious assembled at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, Illinois, on Sept. 25, for the 2014 CMSWR National Assembly. On Sept. 26, elections to the board of directors were held, followed by the election of new officers. The CMSWR Board of Directors for 2014-2015 includes the reelection of Sister M. Angela Boland, CSC, as the national provincial superior of Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka.

Redeemer Radio names Matt Rowan director of development

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio has announced that Matt Rowan has accepted the position of director of development.

As director of development, Rowan will lead and direct all strategies and activities for donor cultivation, solicitation and communication. Responsible for donor relations, he will also be developing new fundraising programs to support the growing operational capital and long-term needs of the organization.

Rowan previously served as program manager for the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, as well as development director and senior executive for the Boy Scouts of America in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Indianapolis. His extensive experience in nonprofit fundraising and development will serve him well as he cultivates the organization’s base of donors in this era of exciting growth for Redeemer Radio.

A new look at Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — “Change is good!” Holy Cross College President Brother John Paige used these words while highlighting the new look at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana.

While many colleges and universities are struggling, Holy Cross is experiencing growth in student enrollment and in physical presence within the community. The latest addition to the college’s campus is a new women’s residence hall scheduled to open in August 2015.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Oct. 10 to formally kick-off construction of the new building. Members of college’s board of trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students and special guests were present to celebrate the expansion of Holy Cross.

At the groundbreaking, Brother Paige noted that this new dormitory project will contribute to the growth and development of the city.

“Life is Precious” benefit to be held Oct. 30

SOUTH BEND — The St. Joseph County Right to Life 23rd Annual “Life is Precious” Benefit Dinner will be held on Thursday, Oct. 30, with social hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. in the Century Center, South Bend.

The keynote speaker will be Scott Klusendorf, president of Life Training Institute, who travels throughout the continent training pro-life advocates to persuasively defend their views in the public square. A passionate and engaging speaker, Klusendorf contends that the pro-life message can compete in the marketplace of ideas if properly understood and articulated.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who will support the many, varied programs, which cultivate a culture of life, including advertising aimed at helping women in crisis pregnancies get the help they need.

Dinner tickets are $45 and can be reserved by calling 574-232-LIFE (5433) or online at www.prolifenewlifemichiana.org/dinnerickets.

Catholic women of the NCCW gather

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan — Nearly 600 Catholic women leaders from around the country gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Sept. 24-27 for the National Council of Catholic Women’s 2014 National Convention.

The annual gathering of women leaders had nearly 600 registrants — representing Catholic women nationwide and Canada — who attended talks and educational seminars, worshipped and enjoyed fellowship.

Executive President Rebecca Woodhull said, “This has been a joy-filled convention. You can just feel the energy of the ladies in every session. The Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel are with us!”

Speakers and authors Dr. Ralph Martin and Teresa Tomeo offered keynote addresses at the convention.

Other speakers in the schedule included motivational speaker and humorist Sheri Woldt; Justice Korbel, award-winning reporter and columnist for the Phoenix Catholic Sun; Jane Knuth, author of “Thrift Store Saints; Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time”; and Vicki Thorn, the founder of Project Rachel and the executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

A new program for evangelization, “We Are Called to Witness,” specifically created for women by the NCCW Leadership Commission, was unveiled at the convention. This program is designed to help members and affiliations discover and actively participate in sharing the Good News, the joy of Jesus. The comprehensive program will be translated into three languages and will be available on the NCCW website, nccw.org.

Convention attendees donated diapers along with baby layette items to HELP Pregnancy Crisis Aid, Inc. of Grand Rapids.

Established in 1920, the National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Visit the NCCW website at nccw.org.

Safe Harbor Widow Group to host retreat

FORT WAYNE — Safe Harbor Widow Support Group will host a fall retreat for widows on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8-11 a.m. at the Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center, the building nearest St. Vincent de Paul Church at 1502 E. Walther Rd. in Fort Wayne.

The retreat will begin with 8 a.m. Mass at the church if desired, followed by a continental breakfast at 9 a.m. in the Life Center. Kay Cozad, grief educator, will speak on the topic, “Not a Dash, But a Journey.” Registration is required by Oct. 22, by calling Judy at 260-489-4875 or emailing judymockenhaupt@hotmail.com. Free will donations will be accepted.

Teen Conference ‘Get Inked’ to make writing fun

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary’s College Department of English and the Michiana Writers’ Center will sponsor a teen writing conference for students in grades 8-12 titled “Get Inked” on Saturday, Nov. 8. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and take place in Madeleva Hall. The events start and end in Carroll Auditorium in Madeleva.

The cost is $40 for students to attend the daylong event, which includes lunch and an autographed copy of the book “What She Left Behind” by young adult author and keynote speaker Tracy Bilen. To register or for more information, go to http://www.michianawriters.com.

To reserve a spot, register soon. Space is limited. Those students registered by Friday, Oct. 17, will be given precedence, but registration will be accepted until all slots are filled. Contact the teen writing conference coordinator/director of English and the Michiana Writers’ Center Kathy Huggs-Coulthard, via email michianawriterscenter@gmail.com or at 574-220-8798 with questions.
Bishop Rhoades encourages protection of life, religious liberty at Red Mass

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

NOTRE DAME — “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, this is our Christian vocation.” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered this challenging reminder to those present at the South Bend Red Mass, celebrated on Oct. 6 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, in honor of all those who work in the legal profession.

The Red Mass, which Bishop Rhoades celebrates on each end of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend annually, derives its name from the red vestments worn by the priest, which represent both the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit and the scarlet robes traditionally worn by justices from the 13th century, when the feast was first established. Notre Dame Law School faculty and students participated during the special ceremony as lecturers and ushers and gift bearers.

Throughout the Mass, Bishop Rhoades invoked the Holy Spirit to bestow His gifts of wisdom, courage and right judgment upon all lawyers, judges and those serving in civic offices, as well as upon students and professors of law, political science and constitutional studies.

Emphasizing the words of St. Paul, Bishop Rhoades said, “We are all given to drink of one Spirit. The Holy Spirit unites us as one Body in Christ. Amid our diverse ministries, offices and roles that the Spirit bestows, that same Spirit unites us.”

Bishop Rhoades further stressed the need for living an “integrated Christian life.” He explained, “As lay faithful, your vocation to holiness expresses itself in a particular way through your involvement in temporal affairs and your participation in earthly activities. The big temptation, of course, is to separate your spiritual life from one’s everyday professional life. You are Christians and you are lawyers, judges, civil officials, professors or students. But this does not mean that you therefore lead two parallel lives. We are to bear witness to the Gospel everywhere.”

Bishop Rhoades continued by identifying four separate ways of living out this call to holiness. He began by stressing the “serious duty in our democratic system to ensure through laws and judicial means the protection of human life and dignity, a dignity that comes from our Creator. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your witness to the inviolability of human life, your defense of the right to life and human dignity, not halfheartedly, but with maximum determination.

It is incumbent upon us as disciples of Jesus, as Catholics, to defend human rights, the most fundamental being the right to life, and to defend the human being in every phase of development, from conception until natural death, and in every condition, whether healthy or sick, rich or poor.”

Secondly, Bishop Rhoades focused on protecting religious liberty. “Freedom of conscience and religion is intimately linked to respect for human dignity,” he said. “Though we are blessed in our country with a tradition of strong commitment to religious freedom, that commitment is threatened by attempts to limit that freedom, reducing religious freedom to freedom of worship. But genuine religious freedom includes not just freedom to worship. It includes freedom to live our faith, to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness through our works of education, charity and health care, and to do so without compromising our values.”

He continued by stressing the requirements of upholding traditional marriage and defending the family. “Your duty to the Church and to society as members of the legal profession to promote and to defend marriage and family life is a sacred one. We need your firm commitment in this area, your fidelity to the teaching of the Church, a teaching that is rooted in both faith and reason. The family, founded on the communion of one man and one woman in marriage, is endangered today.”

Bishop Rhoades touched upon the action by the Supreme Court that morning, which effectively legalized same-sex marriage in Indiana, highlighting the dangers and consequences of such a decision.

He stressed that “the Church has a firm commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of those with same-sex attraction; men and women who deserve our respect, care and compassion, and who must be defended against any unjust discrimination.”

He concluded, “However, this argument is grounded in the fundamental meaning of marriage. Unfortunately, many are no longer convinced of the unique and irreplaceable value that marriage and the family have in the development of society. We must live our conviction that the family found in the marital communion of one man, one woman, is the cradle of life and love, the place where according to God’s plan children are born and grow.”

Finally, he stressed the need for charity. “Charity is the highest virtue, the mark of the disciple of Jesus, the key to holiness. Your witness of love, especially on behalf of the poor, the sick, the suffering and the needy, is an essential part of living the Gospel in the world.”

He also expressed his gratitude to those in attendance who have generously given to the community through pro-bono work. “I thank you for your witness to the Gospel in so many ways — your faithful and unselfish dedication to the good of others, your commitment to liberty and justice for all and your preferential love for the least of our brothers and sisters.”

Bishop Rhoades thanked all who contributed to making the event a success, specifically Dean Nell Newton, the diocesan Office of Family Life, the Notre Dame Choir, those concelebrating the Mass and all the students and seminarians who were present for the special occasion, especially the members of the Notre Dame Right to Life Club.

Bishop Rhoades then concluded the Mass with a special blessing for all those involved in law, government and civic affairs, asking God’s wisdom to shine forth to sanctify the people of the United States and help work to preserve peace throughout the world.
Area Catholic health care professionals gather to hear Matthew Hanley

BY BONNIE ELEBSON

FORT WAYNE — Health care professionals and members of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana gathered on Wednesday, Oct. 8, to hear remarks by Matthew Hanley, a senior fellow at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, during his visit to the Fort Wayne area.

The evening began with the second annual White Mass for all Catholic Bioethics Center professionals and members of the Catholic Medical Guild. Mass was followed by a banquet at St. Mary Mother of God Church nearby where Hanley was the featured speaker on the subject, "Ideological Medicine: Serving Politics, Not People."

"Ideology and ethics are antithetical terms," Hanley began. While ethics is a set of moral principles or rules of conduct based on right and wrong, ideology is a body of thought guiding a political or social program which derives its ideas from feeling and sensation. Ideological medicine, then, caters to popular whim rather than what is morally right for patients.

Hanley referred to the current Pink October breast cancer awareness campaign as an example. While the campaign promotes "full-on awareness," it promotes mammograms as a safety measure. While mammograms provide early detection of breast cancer, they are not a preventative measure, he argued. Women can help protect themselves from breast cancer by giving birth, nursing those babies and avoiding contraception. While the carcinogenic birth control pill is unavoidable and that man has no capacity to change. Enter the pill, he pointed out.

In conclusion, Hanley said that medical science has a higher view of man. The risks along with the reduction of population as a philosophy is the implication that self-destructive behavior is unavoidable and that man has no capacity to change. Enter the Catholic health care professional who must witness to a higher moral and ethical truth, he said. Hanley added, "I was in awe of the love of the people toward us." His students had been told of the poverty of the people. "It made me feel grateful for what I have, and really empowered me to realize these with 12 Franciscan and Franciscan Sister Bernadette accompanied the group on the trip. The 12-day mission included four lay adult leaders, 30 in all.

"I, too, was most impressed with the people’s openness," added student Jacob Schmitz. "I was in awe of the love of the people toward us." His students had been told of the poverty of the people. "It made me feel grateful for what I have, and really empowered me to realize these with 12 Franciscan and Franciscan Sister Bernadette accompanied the group on the trip. The 12-day mission included four lay adult leaders, 30 in all.

"I was most impressed by the joy of the people," said student team member Christy Nall. "They were so friendly and welcoming. Even though they often had no clue what we were saying; they all were so receptive."

"Too, I was most impressed with the people’s openness," added student Jacob Schmitz. "I was in awe of the love of the people toward us." His students had been told of the poverty of the people. "It made me feel grateful for what I have, and really empowered me to realize these with 12 Franciscan and Franciscan Sister Bernadette accompanied the group on the trip. The 12-day mission included four lay adult leaders, 30 in all.

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The Costa Rica student mission team poses with Dave MacDonald, seated right. They include, from left (first row): Jackson Fischer, St. John Bosco, Churubusco; Anna and Rebecca Doctor (sisters), Divine Mercy, Antwerp, Ohio; (back row) Liam Holly, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne; Clare Wyss, Immaculate Conception, Auburn; Katie Killen, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne; Emma MacDonald, St. Jude, Fort Wayne; and Jacob Schmitz, Noah Meier, AJ Gill and adult group leader Kelsey Morris, all St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne. Karyl Fischer, St. John Bosco, Churubusco, was not available for the photo.

Locally, Catholics on a Mission serves the homeless community in downtown Fort Wayne. It’s really a team effort,” MacDonald said. “Individuals and parishes collect gently-used seasonal clothing, portable snacks and toiletries and drop them by my office each week. Another group makes over a hundred sandwiches — last week it was students from St. Joseph Catholic School, Garrett. “While the clothing and food are important, we’re really sharing Christ’s love, dignity and respect with our brothers and sisters who need them most,” MacDonald noted.

In December 2012 a group of nine students and four adults — including Fr. David Mary Engo and five Franciscan Brothers Minor from the Fort Wayne friary — experienced the team’s first 12-day mission to the poor, remote jungle areas of Costa Rica. The inspiration for the initial trip came about when several students to explore the missionary and religious life through hands on experience.

In America, the homeless population is equivalent to the size of Los Angeles, with over five times as many houses sitting empty across the nation. The homeless population includes people from all walks of life:

• 23 percent are U.S. military veterans.
• 25 percent are children under the age of 18 years.
• 30 percent have experienced domestic violence.
• 20-25 percent suffer from mental illness.
• In Indiana urban communities, a good percentage of heads of households spend half or more of their incomes on rent or mortgage payments.
• There is an estimated 2,500-3,500 homeless individuals in and around Fort Wayne, with currently only 500 shelter beds for emergency shelter.
• People experience homelessness for an average of eight months, but it is not unusual for homeless individuals to have been homeless before.

If you are interested in learning about ways to serve this ministry, contact Andrej Anweiler, coordinator for Social Justice Ministries, at anweiler@diocese-sfwb.org, or 260-969-9146.

— Andrej Anweiler

The homeless in our midst: Who is homeless and why?

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MISSION, PAGE 10

The homeless in our midst: Who is homeless and why?
MISSION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

high school students, many homeschooled and actively involved in the Franciscan Brothers Minor youth group, approached Father Enos with an idea.

Dave MacDonald accompanied the team, which included his daughter, Emma, to Costa Rica last summer. The team, which included his daughter, Emma, to Costa Rica last summer.

Engo with an idea.

youth group, approached Father

the Franciscan Brothers Minor

schooled and actively involved

high school students, many home-

ed that he wondered what would be

next for each of the team members.

“Maybe some will be called to a

life of mission work or the religious

life,” he mused. In fact, Anna and

Rebecca Doctor, and Katlyn Fischer,

have all joined the Franciscan Sisters

Minor order he related.

“Each had been discerning the

religious life. Anna planned to join

before we left. Rebecca had been a

cloistered Sister of the Poor Clares

and Katlyn visited a few orders

including Mother Teresa’s in New

York City,” he said.

“Each of us has been changed

in ways yet to be realized,” he con-

cluded.

Follow the group on Facebook: www.

facebook.com/groups/catholic-

sonamission.

St. Louis Academy kindergartners, Evelyn Sordelet, Noah Ames, Teresa Korhman and Chloe Diller pray before the Fatima statue during the Worldwide Children’s Holy Hour on Friday, Oct. 3. Planned by the Catholic Identity Subcommittee of the school board, students participated in the World Mission Rosary, Prayers of Reparation, Prayers for the Canonization of Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta and the Pardon Prayer as they joined children from all five continents to help bring peace to the world after the All-School First Friday Mass.
The Catholic Church teaches that government exists to promote and secure the common good and that Catholics have a responsibility to participate in and fulfill their roles in the civic and public affairs of the community. Participation is a duty to be fulfilled conscientiously by all, with responsibility and with a view to the common good.” — “Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching.” As one expression of this responsibility, most of us will be responsible and exercise our right and duty to vote this November. Yet this is not as simple as it would appear. There is a constant rotation of ads on TV, in newspapers and on the radio. Social media too is clogged with campaign slogans and support for particular candidates. Many become numb to all the noise and tune out; others enter the fray and take sides in the debates and campaign activities. Because we know we will have to make a choice when we vote in November, most of us, in the midst of taking care of family and personal responsibilities, attempt to sort through the maze of contradictory comments and pledges, and the overstated assertions about the candidates, parties and policies. It is difficult: one can get lost in the detail and rhetoric. How does one sort through and determine what issues are substantive and which candidate is more likely to better promote the dignity of persons and strengthen this community? The Church in its role as teacher will not identify particular candidates but it does contribute to the conversations about what is best for society by defending human dignity in all of its stages. And in doing so, addresses related issues such as immigration, health care, marriage, religious freedom, economic justice, education and family. Because campaign ads and candidates typically only speak in sound bits, it is important to focus on the salient issues that will have long lasting impact on our society when deciding on whom to support. One can do this by looking at election, page 12.

Election, candidates and your vote

ELECTION 2014

GLENN TEBBE

Self-reflection in the age of selfies

LENA DUNHAM IS NOT DONE confessing. That’s the headline of the New York Times Magazine profile just published about the actress-turned-memoirist, and it couldn’t be more accurate. Though I’ve never seen an episode of her highly rated, super- raunchy, nudity-filled HBO show “Girls,” I consider Lena something of a cultural case study, given how often she is touted as the voice of my generation. That was born out last year, when the New York Times Magazine interviewed her: “Written with a ferocious, hilarious and occasionally worrisome candor.” Lena’s revelations range from her battle with psychotherapy (beginning when she was 9) to the loss of her virginity — diplomatically summarized by the New York Times Magazine as “one of questionable personal choices.” The critical response that intrigued me most came toward the end of James Parker’s Atlantic review: “There’s something very contemporary in Dunham’s self-exposure, her restless accelerated processing of her own experience.” He went on to render a chilling assessment of Life On Perpetual Broadcast, that 21st-century “That’s modernity: the inside’s on the outside, leaving a vacuum on the inside.” I often wonder about the Facebook effect on the inner life, what it means when the time between experiencing and sharing is reduced to a matter of seconds. Reality TV stars are questioned about their willingness to bare all for national consumption, and I’m amused when these boldfaced confessors insist they don’t share everything with the cameras. Somehow Kim Kardashian’s second go at a nationally televised wedding was supposed to seem restrained because the footage ended right before the actual ceremony and was shot only by friends, not producers. (I can’t help but think of Dave Lettermann’s comment to Ray Allen.)

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

Live in light of the Gospel

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MT 22:15-21

THE 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The second part of the Book of Isaiah provides this week’s reading and first reading. Much had happened since the first section of Isaiah was written. The mighty Babylonian Empire, the instrument of God’s people, literally destroying the two Hebrew kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. His reigning Babylonian dynasties were extinguished. Many people were killed. The Babylonians took a number of survivors to Babylon, the imperial capital. There these exiles, or their descendants, were to languish for four generations. Eventually, however, the Babylonians lost power, being themselves overtaken by a stronger adversary, Persia. The Persian king, Cyrus, who conquered Babylon, had no interest in the exiles from the once Hebrew kingdoms, so he allowed them to return home. For the exiles, it was a day of unequalled joy.

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The Synod of Bishops is meeting in Rome to discuss the evangelization of the family. In the first week, the synod fathers heard from an American couple, Jeff and Alice Heinzner, about their work promoting family life in Wisconsin. Their main point was to emphasize that the Church already has the truth about marriage and family; it just needs a completely new methodology in delivering it effectively to couples. Theirs was, in part, a rebuttal to those who believe that the Church has to water down its teachings and sacramental practices in order to be more attractive.

Pope Francis has made a point to encourage an honest dialogue among the synod participants that is informed by both humility and charity. Based on the main points that emerge from this dialogue, a new working document will be drafted to help focus the discussions for next year’s ordinary synod in October. At the end of that synod, the synod fathers will offer recommendations to Pope Francis, who will then write an exhortation upon the reflections of these synods as well as the experience of the 2015 World Meeting of Families (WMF) in Philadelphia.

While we put together our diocesan plan, you can visit the website for the 2015 WMF to find the latest information: www.worldmeets2015.org. Below is an excerpt from Part 1 of the WMF Catechesis: Created for Joy. The text focuses on the central importance of encountering the Lord, learning to love Him and surrendering one’s life to Him in complete trust. By next month, we hope to have a confirmation by the organizers of the meeting of hotel spaces in downtown Philadelphia that will be held for Catholics from our diocese. Stay tuned!

Catechesis: Part 1

Catholic teaching about marriage and the family flows from the heart of our faith. For this reason, we can begin by reviewing the basic story of the Church. Our God is not inaccessible and remote; we believe that God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the source for the hope, faith, love and joy that should animate Catholic family life. He is the reason we can trust the wisdom of Catholic belief. Everything we offer in this catechesis flows from Jesus Himself. As Pope Francis has recently said of married life, “Promising love for ever is possible when we perceive a plan bigger than our own ideas and undertakings, a plan which sustains us and enables us to surrender our future entirely to the one we love.” But we live in a time of deep worldly skepticism about anything bigger than ourselves and more attractive.

In the Bible, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Human history for the past 2,000 years has turned on the answer. Christians are people who, having met Jesus in a variety of ways — through witness of the saints and the apostles, through Scripture and sacrament, in prayer and service to the poor, in worship and through friends and family — are able to trust Jesus, and who say with Peter, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Among many things that God did in Christ, perhaps the most attractive is that He crucified and yet was raised victorious over death. Because God Himself suffered these things, Christians believe that God is not remote from the human condition. Nor do we believe in a capricious god, or a deity in competition with human beings. The God in whom we trust wants us to flourish. Because of Jesus Christ, Catholics have confidence in God’s love for us. As Pope Francis explained in his first encyclical, To those who suffer, God does not provide arguments which explain everything; rather, His response is that of an accompanying presence, a history of goodness which touches every story of suffering and opens up a ray of light. …

Catholic views on marriage, family and sexuality belong to a larger mission to live in a way that makes God’s love visible and radiant; to live this mission makes everyday life alive with God’s joy. The entire human person — body and soul, our maleness and femaleness, and all that follows from each — is implicated in God’s invitation. The subtitle for this World Meeting of Families is “the family fully alive,” and for good reason. The family is most fully alive when we embrace God’s invitation to be the sons and daughters He created us to be.

Fred and Lisa Everett are co-directors of the Office of Family Life.

Creations for joy: the family fully alive

LOVE IS OUR MISSION

FRED AND LISA EVERETT

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

candidates through the lens of Catholic social teaching and to consider the moral dimensions of public issues.

Significant issues to consider and the candidate’s position:

• Conscience protection for individuals as well as religious institutions to serve the public in accord with religious principles and values

• Social and economic policies that support jobs with good working conditions and just wages

• Comprehensive immigration reform and support for refugees resettlement for unaccompanied children

• The definition of marriage as union of one man and one woman

• Opposition to legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide

• Respect for life includes rejection of violence and death penalty

• Affordable health care for low and moderate income individuals and families

• Support of policies to protect vulnerable persons; prisoner rehabilitation and re-entry programs

• Support of “child benefit” as principle for participation in education programs and parental choice in education of their children

• Opposition to abortion also includes support for mothers and children during pregnancy and infancy

• Stewardship and care of the earth for this and future generations

No candidate will perfectly comport to Church teaching. And all issues do not carry the same weight; opposition to intrinsic evils has a special claim on our conscience. Often one has to choose which candidate is more likely to do the most good or the least harm. Voting decisions should include the candidate’s commitments, character and integrity, because there will be circumstances and issues arise that now are not known, on which the official will have to make a decision. At those moments we, the electorate, are relying on our representatives and public servants to use their prudent judgment in determining the best course of action that will promote and secure the common good. The primary purpose and role of the position, which he/she is seeking.

The CrossWord

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Based on these Scripture Readings: 1s: 45: 1-4; 17: 1-5c; Mt 22:15-21 and Ex 22:20-26; 17: 15-6c; Mt 22:34-40

ACROSS

1 Wing
4 Syrian bishop
8 Poisonous snake
11 Governor
12 Sir
13 Ancient N.A. Indian
14 First woman
15 End
16 of Jesse
17 A4a’s enemy
19 “Your work of _____”
20 Paid
21 Huckleberry
22 Pte nut
25 Central daylight time
26 Can metal

SCRIPIT SEARCH

Scripture for October 19, 2014

Matthew 22:15-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: where Jesus proved too smart for his enemies. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Fred and Lisa Everett are co-directors of the Office of Family Life.
ICCL football opens playoff action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The model was simple — win and advance. The three-word phrase was the emphasis placed on the Mishawaka Catholic Saints and the St. Matthew Blazers as they squared off at Father Bl'y Field at Saint Joseph High School for the opening game of the Inter-City Catholic League playoff action.

Both squads had regular seasons that had major setbacks that would have demoralized many teams, but that was not the case for the combatants as they regrouped, added focus and laid it on the line in hopes of moving on to round two of the coveted championship tournament.

Mishawaka Catholic would be a different team thanks to the long awaited return of Zach Whitfield, their dominating two-way lineman who had been side-lined with a hand injury.

The Saints would be stalled by a penalty giving the pigskin back to their foe almost as quickly as they possessed it.

The Saints would start dishing out a heavy dose of King as the back willed his team down the field getting the squad to the shadows of the goal post. A couple of miscues and then on fourth and goal, Saint quarterback Lucas Ellinger converted on both extra points to create large holes.

The Saints would feature running of big back Ronnie King running off of right guard Whitfield’s hip all day.

The Blazers countered with a swarming defense that relied on everyone’s participation and hoped to bottle up the one-two punch of the purple-and-gold clad Saints.

The Blazers’ game plan worked on the opening drive as Joe Macheca dove on a lose ball and recovered the fumble at midfield. Their offense would be stalled by a penalty giving the pigskin back to their foe almost as quickly as they possessed it.

The Saints would start dishing out a heavy dose of King as the back willed his team down the field getting the squad to the shadows of the goal post. A couple of miscues and then on fourth and goal, Saint quarterback Lucas Fletcher lofted a pass that was broken up by Blazer Christian Tate on the goal line.

After turning the ball over on downs on the 1-yard line setting up the first touchdown by TJ Tippmann. The Cardinals, now 7-0, were led by tailback TJ Tippmann who rushed for 157 yards on 24 carries. Seventh-grader Hayden Ellinger chipped in 30 yards on five carries. Jared Lee and Alec Bunt led the way all day with outstanding blocking. The offensive line, led by Joe Talarico, Peyton Davis, Jacob Ford, Mike Fabini and Sean O’Sullivan created large holes for Tippmann all day long.

Coach Sam Talarico beamed, “It was the best performance by any offensive line that I have had at St. Charles. They were ready to play and they have been on a mission all season long.”

The St. Charles vaunted pass defense took a back seat on Sunday and instead let the offense rest on the legs of Tippmann and Ellinger.

Talarico added, “TJ Tippmann is one of those kids who was born to be a football player. He is a tremendous leader and he was not going to let his team lose today.”

The St. Charles defense shut out a powerful SJFW offense that had been averaging nearly 30 points a game.

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ICCL SOCCER ENTERS TOURNAMENT ACTION

Inter-City Catholic League boys’ varsity soccer entered its tournament on Oct. 12. In highlighted action, St. Joseph, South Bend, beat St. Anthony, 5-0; St. Thomas defeated St. Matthew, 3-1; Christ the King won over Mishawaka Catholic, 8-0; and St. Adalbert beat St. Pius X, 6-0. In girls’ varsity tournament action, Mishawaka Catholic beat Holy Cross, 1-0 on Oct. 11; and Holy Family beat St. Michael, 1-0; St. Matthew won over St. Pius X, 2-0; St. Anthony beat St. Joseph, South Bend, 3-1; and Christ the King beat Mishawaka Catholic, 3-0, in action on Oct. 12.

CYO volleyball wraps regular season, St. Charles’ football winning streak holds

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 2014 volleyball regular season has come to an end and three teams across the different leagues finished undefeated to receive the top seed in the tournament. St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (5-0), St. Vincent 7 (7-0) and St. Elizabeth 8 (5-0) all hope to continue their success in the post season, which concludes with the CYO championship at St. Charles on Saturday morning, Oct. 18.

In Week 8 of CYO football action, St. Charles kept their record unblemished and clinched the 2014 league title with a 16-0 victory over St. John, Fort Wayne/St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJFW).

The Cardinals, now 7-0, were led by tailback TJ Tippmann who rushed for 157 yards on 24 carries. Seventh-grader Hayden Ellinger chipped in 30 yards on five carries. Jared Lee and Alec Bunt led the way all day with outstanding blocking.

Praising his opponents, Talarico said, “Justin Gaston is one heck of a ball player and every time he touches the ball, he is a threat to take it the length of the field. We had to focus on containing him and we did that today.”

The play of the game was a 40-yard pass from Alec Bunt to seventh-grader Patrick O’Keefe who made an acrobatic catch and came down on the 1-yard line setting up the first touchdown by TJ Tippmann.

Tippmann converted the second touchdown in the final quarter of the game and Mike Garrett converted on both extra points to complete the scoring.

Talarico concluded, “This is a special team with a lot of gritty kids who are team players — not ‘me’ players.”

In the first game of the day on Sunday, Oct. 12, St. Vincent got a big win, beating JAT, 8-0.
They ended the drive dead in its tracks as they would not disappoint as the fortitude of the proud Saints and the plain of the goal line after the downs deep in their own territory the Blazer defense would again have to hold off the feisty Saints.

A couple of big defensive plays defined the ensuing drive as Blazer Jacob Lyle snuffed out a pass in the flat and simply blew it up. Then on a reverse, Tate stepped up to the plate and devoured the ball carrier in a textbook-open-field tackle effectively ending the first half with the score tied at zero.

The second half would start with a patented Blazer clock-eating ball-control drive that would feature big runs from Tate, a Saint personal foul and a monstrous push from their offensive line settling the leather-laced sphere inside the 10. It was now time to test the fortitude of the proud Saints and they would not disappoint as they ended the drive dead in its tracks with a tackle for loss Seth Branson at the seven and only 3:17 left in the third quarter.

The Saints’ offense took control as handoffs to King, King and more King were highlighted with a couple sprinkles of running mate Noah Espritu as a march of monumental proportions pushed down the field.

With just over a minute left in the contest, King finally broke the plain of the goal line after the double-digit drive covering 93 yards, propelling the Saints into the lead, 6-0.

The Blazers would have just one more opportunity for redemption, a rush of 10 yards by Tate, a pass play of 10 from Lyle to Randy Moore and a huge attempt from Mike Gibson just off the fingers of the attended receiver stretched the Saint defense and had them on their heels.

Enter Whitfield. The defensive lineman made a tremendous stop and with the Blazers out of downs and timeouts a final pass fell helplessly to the ground ending their come-back dreams and falling helplessly to the ground ending their come-back dreams and falling helplessly to the ground.

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The round two of playoffs continue this weekend at Marian High School’s Otolski Field as the Saints take on the Panthers at 4 p.m. immediately followed by the West Side Catholic Cardinals matching up against the one loss Holy Cross Crusaders.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogant@diocecesfwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Rummage sale planned
Fort Wayne — A rummage sale will take place at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School, 11521 U.S. 27 South, Thursday, Oct. 23, from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 a.m. to noon. A bag sale will be on Saturday.

Trunk or Treating at St. Francis Xavier
Pierceton — St. Francis Xavier, will have Trunk or Treating on Friday, Oct. 31, in the St. Francis Xavier parking lot from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Music ministry to host lasagna dinner
Mishawaka — Queen of Peace music ministry will host a lasagna dinner Friday, Oct. 24, from 5-7 p.m. in the gym, 4508 Vistula Rd. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children. Dine in or carry out.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5522, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 17, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children (5-12) $3.50. Carry-out available.

‘Toward Service’ discernment evening
Fort Wayne — Young adults are invited for an evening of dinner, conversation and guided reflexion called “Toward Service: A Night of Discernment” with the Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ as they return to their Fort Wayne beginnings. The event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Fortezza Coffee, 819 S. Calhoun St. The sisters will delve into personal gifts and what it means to be called to share those gifts through service in everyday living. For information, visit diocesefwsb.org/yam-fw.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

You are invited to the
All Souls Day Mass

In the Resurrection Mausoleum Chapel
of the
Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne
3500 Lake Avenue
Sunday, November 2, 2014 - Noon
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Celebrant

Fort Wayne
Jeanne Schmiermeier, 92,
St. Vincent de Paul
Elizabeth Betty Baker,
94, St. John the Baptist
Gary C. Gamble, 63, St.
Joseph-Hessen Cassel
William Walter
Hagerman, 74,
Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception
Don Edward Getsh, 79,
St. Vincent de Paul
Granger
Ruby M. Patterson, 90,
St. Pius X

Huntington
Theresa J. Briggs, 99,
Sts. Peter and Paul
South Bend
Virginia Kenna, 97,
Holy Cross
Greg M. Olen, 56,
St. Joseph
Gabriel Reyes-Maldonado, 52,
St. Adalbert
Adelle M. Kukla-Schreiber, 95,
St. Anthony de Padua
Mario Beristain, 17,
Our Lady of Hungary

Maurice T. Cocqyut Jr.,
58, St. Bavo
Nandor Mago, 86,
Our Lady of Hungary
James McCarthy, 72,
St. Casimir

ADULT LEARNING CENTER
AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH

The Adult Learning Center is looking for adult volunteers to teach day and evening classes next semester starting on Jan. 6, 2015.

Adult volunteer instructors are needed in various subjects such as: ESL — English as a second language (beginner and advanced), SSL — Spanish as a second language (beginner and advanced), Faith Formation (English and Spanish), and additional life skills classes. Especially needed are volunteer instructors that can teach 2-3 times per week.

If you are interested in sharing your time and talent, contact Terry Stuczynski at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne.

260-432-5113, ext. 355.
Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor Institute

Redeemer Radio 95.7 FM
Coming to Michiana
Hiring three Full-Time Positions

Redeemer Radio, a non-profit, Catholic Radio Group is seeking to fill three staff positions for its new listener supported Catholic Radio Station coming to Michiana. Redeemer Radio will soon have local studios and will be broadcasting on 95.7 FM.

These positions include:
• Operations Manager
• Community Relations Director
• Technical Manager

All serving the greater Michiana Catholic community.

Operations Manager responsibilities include:
• Manage staff and volunteers, introducing a quality Catholic Radio station on-air and in the community
• Install and maintain a strong Catholic faith atmosphere amongst staff, volunteers and donors
• Develop and enhance funding sources for both operational and capital needs while ensuring budget attainment in both revenue and expenses

Community Relations Director responsibilities include:
• Promote and create local on-air announcements about parishes and Catholic apostolates free of charge
• Develop relationships with local Priests and Deacons for locally produced Readings and Reflections and future local programming
• Provide direction for station events including: Sharathon (on-air fund drive), Catholic Schools Week and special Diocese local broadcasts

Technical Manager responsibilities include:
• Production (live recording and editing) of long and short form on-air messages
• Production and broadcast of all live and remote broadcasting
• Equipment maintenance, repair of broadcast and studio production equipment with assistance of technical volunteers and contract engineer in an advance telecommunications/data center environment

To learn more about Redeemer Radio and these positions go to RedeemerRadio.com and click on the careers tab found under About Us.

Interested candidates should send resume, references, salary history, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to:
Redeemer Radio
Attn: Executive Director
4618 East State Blvd. Ste. 200
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

You may also choose to email all of the above information to: jobs@RedeemerRadio.com

As a religious broadcaster, St. Joseph Catholic Radio (Redeemer Radio) has established a religious qualification for all employee positions. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, Redeemer Radio makes reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender; among these who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.
Faith in Uganda

‘When you reach out to a child in need, it’s not just your hand you are offering’

BY MADELINE RICHEY

KAMPALA, Uganda — The streets of Kampala, Uganda, are crowded, filled with the sounds of music and the constant murmur of people talking amidst the noise of traffic. After a while, it fades to white noise, but there is one sound that stands out from the rest, clearly audible even on the busiest streets. It’s the sound of children crying.

There are countless street children in Kampala. They stand on sidewalks — thin, dirty, hungry — begging for money. Most people pass them by, ignoring their outstretched hands. So they scream. Imagine the sound a child makes after hours of standing in 80-something degree heat, crying for attention. There are no tears, but rather their faces dry, voices hoarse and croaking. Sometimes as you pass they grab onto you, latching onto your arm, wailing.

Poverty is a vicious cycle, and from the inside it appears that there are very few ways out. The main one people can see is education for themselves and their children. The only problem is that they can’t afford it.

When parents die, often at a young age from HIV/AIDS or other illnesses caused by poverty, and if relatives can’t afford to care for the children, they’re forced to the streets. Often uneducated, they have no skills to help them fend for themselves. Unfortunately, it’s another cycle. The girls, even as young as 12 or 13, are often raped, and their children face the same fate as their young mothers, thus the small children.

I pass one of them: a little boy of two or three, too young or too tired to speak, just holding out his hand and staring at his empty palm. I give him some coins, stooping to drop them into his outstretched hand. He doesn’t blink, but just stares at me, motionless.

If you didn’t receive an education you’re limited to manual labor or a small family-run store in the local village. You can’t get a job that pays well, which means you can’t pay school fees for your children, and often they will go hungry. And when they grow up, because they are uneducated, they and their children have the same bleak future of self-perpetuating poverty.

So how do we fix the problem?

One answer is child sponsorship. CARITAS for Children is a Catholic nonprofit based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, founded in 1998 by Chris and Barbara Hoar. Their mission is to partner with communities in Africa and Latin America to support children and families through education, health care, and social programs. CARITAS currently runs programs in 12 countries, serving more than 250,000 children and families each year.

CARITAS for Children in Uganda, East Africa, as a volunteer.

I am volunteering at St. Anthony’s, the nursery school run by the Little Sisters of Saint Francis, CARITAS for Children’s ministry partner. I work with the children who are sponsored through our program, and witness firsthand its impact on their families. When they are chosen by a sponsor they’re not only given the chance to receive an education and provide for themselves and their future children, but food as well.

Here in Uganda, where so many people have next to nothing, they believe — with a conviction I have rarely witnessed — that God will provide. When I visit my students in their homes their families rush to offer what little food and drink they have to make me welcome in their home, displaying their joyful and generous hearts. It’s a privilege to witness the joy of these children when they learn they have been sponsored. Someone has just told them that they care about them — that they believe in them — and my faith grows whenever I see the gift God has given to us in each one of these people who are helping each other, children and sponsors alike.