Pope to dads: Play with your kids, be strong, loving, moral role models

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When their lives are all work and no play, men turn their children into “orphans” who lack a father to guide them, show them love and teach them values, Pope Francis said.

“They are orphans in a family because their fathers are often absent, also physically, from home, but above all because when they are at home they don’t act like fathers, they don’t dialogue with their children, they don’t fulfill their role as educators, they don’t give their children, by way of their example and their words, those principles, values and rules of life that they need like bread,” he said.

At his general audience Jan. 28, the pope continued a series of talks on the family by focusing on the role of the father.

Speaking to some 7,000 people gathered in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope said that in the past, fathers were sometimes too authoritarian, treating their children like “servants” and not helping them take responsibility for forging their own way in life.

“However, as often happens, we have gone from one extreme to another,” the pope said.

“The problem today does not seem to be so much the overbearing presence of fathers as much as it is rather their absence, their hiding” from their responsibility as parents, he said.

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Rally advocates school choice

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Chanting “School Choice” is a “good choice,” supporters, including Catholic school representatives, joined forces to share success stories and held a rally in Fort Wayne on Jan. 27.

The rally, which drew hundreds of students, teachers and parents from Catholic, Lutheran and other private schools from northeastern Indiana to the International Ballroom at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, was timed last week to coincide with National School Choice Week, National Catholic Schools Week and National Lutheran Schools Week.

The school choice movement is actually a nationwide movement “that reflects basic American freedoms — a parent’s choice to determine what’s best for his or her child,” said Mark Muehl, the master of ceremonies for the event who is an Indiana Non-Public Education Association board member, Allen County Non-Public School Association board member and director of The Lutheran Schools Partnership. In Indiana, he noted, school choice comes in the form of scholarship tax credits and choice scholarships.

“Indiana is celebrating the fastest (growing) choice scholarship program in the nation,” Muehl said. But there are many “naysayers” on school choice in the state of Indiana.

“This is an opportunity for us to celebrate our opportunity to choose our school and support one another,” Muehl said of the rally.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as well as St. Charles Borromeo School, were two of the rally’s many sponsors. The Bishop Luers Show Choir sang the “National Anthem” at the rally.

Secretary of the Office of Catholic Education Carl Loesch, one of the rally speakers, spoke of the value of school choice.

“Everyday, parents make choices that affect who their children will become,” Loesch said. “Perhaps the most important choice that a parent can make is what type of education they want for their child.

RALLY, PAGE 10

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

This Lent, every Catholic parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will have Confessions available on Thursday, March 5, from 6-8 p.m. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and His Church.
Obedience to God’s will brings wisdom, joy, hope, pope tells religious

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Total obedience to God’s will brings wisdom, joy and hope, Pope Francis told religious men and women.

“Yes, the happiness of a religious is a consequence of this path of lowering oneself with Jesus and, when we are sad, when we complain, it will do us well to ask ourselves how we are living this dimension of ‘kenosis’ or self-emptying, he said.

The pope’s words came during his homily at a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Feb. 2 celebrating the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which the Church marks as the World Day for Consecrated Life. The Mass also came during the Year of Consecrated Life, which, called by Pope Francis, opened Nov. 30 and will close Feb. 2, 2016.

The liturgy for the feast, once widely known as “Candelpergi,” began with dozens of sisters, brothers and religious priests carrying lighted candles into the basilica ahead of the pope.

In his homily, the pope said Jesus came not to follow His own will, but to obey the Father’s will. “Whoever follows Jesus takes the path of obedience,” which means lowering, emptying and humbling oneself like Jesus, he said.

Living a consecrated life means “lowering oneself in service, that is, taking the same path as Jesus” and becoming a servant in order to serve, the pope said.

But religious men and women also have to be obedient and docile to their religious community, their superiors, their order’s rule and to the Church; “it is a docility and obedience that is concrete,” not something theoretical, he said.

The new and living path the Lord opened for the world for “is for us consecrated men and women the only path that — concretely and without alternatives — we have to take with joy and hope,” he said.

On the one hand, he said, obedience empties and humbles a person, but on the other hand, it lights and safeguards the flame of hope, rendering people creative because they are full of the Holy Spirit.

“The Lord transforms obedience into wisdom with the action of His Holy Spirit,” the pope said.

A life lived in perseverant obedience to God matures into “personal and community wisdom and, that way, it becomes possible also to adapt the rules to the times; in fact, the true ‘aggiornamento’ (updating) is the work of wisdom, forged in docility and obedience,” he said.

“Reinvigorating and renewing consecrated life come by way of a great love for the rule and also through the ability to contemplate and listen to the elderly in the congregation,” he said.

“The way the ‘deposit,’ the charism of every religious family, is cared for by obedience and wisdom together, protecting members from a disembodied and superficial or ‘light’ consecrated life, he said.

Religious life lacking this long, continuous path of obedience and wisdom becomes “a caricature,” he said.

He asked that religious men and women continue to guide people to God, but to also “let ourselves be guided. This is what we have to be: guides who are guided.”

DADS

Continued from Page 1

The world today, especially in the West, seems like “a world without fathers” where men are so focused on their jobs or personal fulfillment that they neglect their families, he said.

The pope recalled how when he served as archbishop of Buenos Aires he would often ask fathers if they played with their kids, “if they had the courage of love to ‘waste’ their time with their children. And their answer was awful, you know. The majority said, ‘Well, I can’t, too much work.’”

Christian communities need to be extra attentive to the crisis of fatherhood in society today and how so many young people feel “orphanned” within their own families, the pope said. So many problems kids have, some of them serious, stem from them not having a decent father figure — a father who is an authoritative, loving guide and role model, he added.

In fact, the more a father needs to work or be away from home, the more important it is he live up to his duty of providing solid, quality guidance, he said.

Another problem, the pope said, is sometimes fathers seem lost or unsure of what role they are supposed to play in the family and “so, being in doubt, they opt out, they withdraw and neglect their responsibilities, perhaps hiding behind a dubious relationship of ‘equal footing’ with their children,” he said.

While it is true fathers need to accompany their kids, he said, they must not forget they must act like a parent, not a best friend because “that is not good for the child.”

Society has a paternal role as well, he said; it must take an active, responsible role toward young people and not leave them “orphans” without prospects for a good education and employment.

Young people who are “orphanned of ideals,” values and hope, the pope said, will fill that void with “idols” and be driven by fleeting pleasures and the illusion of “the god of money,” robbing them of their real treasures within.

Jesus, who promised He would not leave anyone behind as an orphan, is the teacher that can guide families, he said. He is “the hope that the world can change, that love conquers hatred and that there can be a future of brotherhood and peace for everyone.”

Toward the end of the audience, the pope said some people might think his catechesis was “too negative” by looking only at the failures in fatherhood today.

But he promised the following week’s catechesis would look at the beauty of fatherhood, echoing the audience’s Gospel reading from John 3:17: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

The pope said he wanted “to start with the darkness in order to arrive at the light so that the Lord can help us understand these things better.”
Pontifical council to consider challenges women face in society, Church

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Violence against women, cultural pressures regarding women’s physical appearance, attitudes that subjugate women or that ignore male-female differences and the growing alienation of women from the Church in some parts of the world are themes the Pontifical Council for Culture is set to explore.

The council, whose members are all cardinals and bishops, has chosen to discuss the themes, “Women’s Cultures: Equality and Difference,” during its plenary assembly Feb. 4-7. A document outlining the theme was presented to the council in late January, and four women involved in writing it joined Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, council president, at a news conference Feb. 2 at the Vatican.

The cardinal announced to the press that he was planning to establish within his office a special group of female consultants to provide women’s opinions and points of view on a variety of issues.

He also noted that if priests had to follow the Jewish rules for a quorum for prayer — 10 men must be present — then they would not be able to celebrate daily Mass, even though there would be dozens of women present in the Church.

The council’s discussion document, drafted by a group of Italian women and women who have lived in Italy for years, looked at the continuing challenge to find balance in promoting women’s equality while valuing the differences between women and men, the concrete and symbolic aspects of women’s potential for motherhood; cultural attitudes toward women’s bodies; and women’s religion, including questions about their participation in Church decision-making.

The council said the theme was chosen “to identify possible pastoral paths, which will allow Christian communities to listen and dialogue with the world today in this sphere,” while recognizing that in different cultures and for individual women the situation will be different.

While cautioned against generalizations, the document rejects the notions that there are no differences between men and women, and that each person “chooses and builds his/her identity; owns him/herself and answers primarily to him/her- self.”

In preparing the document and the plenary discussions, the council sought input from women around the world. However, the process was not without criticism, particularly for the English version of a video featuring an Italian actress, Nanci Brilli, asking women to send in their experiences. Many women felt the use of a heavily made-up actress ran counter to the point of seeking input about the real lives of most women. The council quickly took the English version off YouTube.

At the news conference, Brilli said, “As a woman, a professional, a mother, I feel like this is the first time we have been asked for our opinion” by the Church. “The women who responded do not want to be cardinals, but want to take part in the discussion.”

Participating for a year in the group that drafted the document, she said, was such a positive experience that it led to a renewal of her faith, but also to a willingness to do the video and open herself to comments. Some people, she said, instead of wanting to dialogue, “felt represented by making insults. That’s their problem.”

Cardinal Ravasi said the reactions from across Europe were mainly positive and garnered a variety of helpful input about women’s concerns, but in Anglo-Saxon countries, especially the United States and Canada, the reaction focused so strongly on the video — and not on women’s concerns and experience — that they decided to pull it.

“Everybody’s done, he said, has garnered strong reaction ranging from enthusiasm to ‘those who even found satanic dimensions’ in what he was doing. Some feel a need to take part in a discussion “by yelling,” he said.

In the section on women and the Church, the document described “multifaceted discomfort” with images of women that are no longer relevant and with a Christian a womanity that seems to value their input even less than the world of business and commerce does.

“Many women,” it said, “have reached places of prestige within society and the workplace, but have no corresponding decisional role nor responsibility within ecclesial communities.”

Council members are not proposing a discussion of ordaining women priests, the document said and, in fact, statistics show ordination “is not something that women want.” However, it said, “if, as Pope Francis says, women have a role, a part in Christianity, this role must find a counterpart also in the ordinary life of the Church.”

The vast majority of Catholic women today do not want a bishop’s “purple biretta,” it said, but would like to see Church doors open “to women so that they can offer their contribution in terms of skills and also sensitivity, intuition, passion, dedication, in full collaboration and integration” with men in the Church.

The preparatory document looked at how much pressure women face regarding their body image and how women’s bodies are exploited in the media, even to the point of provoking eating disorders or recourse to unnecessary surgery.

“Plastic surgery that is not medico-therapeutic can be aggressive toward the feminine identity, showing a refusal of the body in as much as it is a refusal of the ‘season’ that is being lived out,” it said.

“The plastic surgery is like a burqa made of flesh.” One woman gave us this harsh and incisive description,” the document said.

“Having been given freedom of choice for all, are we not under a new cultural yoke of a singular feminine model?”

The document also denounced violence inflicted on women: “Selective abortion, infanticide, genital mutilation, crimes of honor, forced marriage, trafficking of women, sexual molestation, rape — which in some parts of the world are inflicted on a massive level and along ethnic lines — are some of the deepest injuries inflicted daily on the soul of the world, on the bodies of women and of girls, who become silent and invisible victims.”

BY NATE MADDEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a House leadership news conference Jan. 27, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California announced a list of bills to combat human trafficking that he expected world leaders to discuss at the House of Representatives by week’s end.

“Human trafficking affects so many of the vulnerable throughout the world,” said McCarthy, so “we have 12 bills, bipartisan, Republicans and Democrats, to protect the most vulnerable out there.”

He said in the week ahead, the House would be “strong on legislation.”

“There are unseen prisons in the world that exist even in towns and cities across our country,” said a statement issued by McCarthy’s office. “Though few are aware of the severity of the problem, human trafficking affects thousands of people in America alone.

This week, the House will pass 12 anti-human trafficking bills,” the statement said, “to improve the tools available to law enforcement, identify and develop best practices to prevent human trafficking, help victim survivors recover, train government employees on how to properly detect and respond to human trafficking and much more.”

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was the sponsor of two of the 12 bills, both of which passed unanimously Jan. 26.

One was the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, or H.R. 514, and International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking, H.R. 515. H.R. 514 aims to “prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State, according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the federal government, and for other purposes,” according to the wording of the measure.

The 2000 law, said a statement released by Smith’s office, was the congresswoman’s “landmark law” because it created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking, with a significant focus on its international dimensions.

H.R. 515 seeks to protect children who may be at risk from roving convicted sexual predators seeking to go abroad in search of victims.

The bill is named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old from Hamilton, New Jersey, in Smith’s district who was kidnapped, raped and brutally murdered by a neighbor, the statement said. “Megan’s assailant was a convicted, repeat sex offender living across the street, unbeknownst to residents of her neighborhood.”

Public outrage over the murder, combined with “the hard work by Megan’s loving parents,” Richard and Maureen Kanka, the New Jersey Legislature passed the original Megan’s Law requiring public notification of convicted sex offenders living in a community.

Smith’s home state was the first in the nation to have such a law.

According to Smith’s office, today all 50 states and U.S. territories have a Megan’s Law, “an important tool in preventing more children from becoming victims.”

Smith praised the new Congress for putting “human trafficking top priority” and “making it a high priority of the administration.”

“Human trafficking affects so many of the vulnerable throughout the world,” the statement said, “and Congress makes combating human trafficking top priority.”

According to Smith’s office, the Administration is taking a “$32 billion once year” investment in investigating and arresting “human traffickers”.

Smith praised the new House leadership’s focus on the trafficking as “the most profitable form of industry, second only to drug trafficking.”

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‘I am your brother,’ Burlington’s new bishop tells Vermont Catholics

BY CORI FUGERE URBAN

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) — The former auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was installed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Burlington during a joyful celebration of the Mass Jan. 29.

“To my new friends in Vermont I say, ‘I am your brother, Christopher,'” Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said to one of many rounds of applause during the nearly two-hour celebration at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington.

The name means bearer of Christ, and that is what he wants to be for them.

He addressed the challenge faced in Vermont and elsewhere of declining membership in the Church and a cultural trend away from revealed religion to a personification of many rounds of applause during his Mass of Installation at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington.

Bishop Coyne was a professor of sacred liturgy and homiletics at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, from 1994-2003 and adjunct faculty from 2003-2006.

He was director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Boston from 2000-2002 and secretary for communications/principal spokesman for the archdiocese from 2002-2005.

When Bishop Coyne accepted the mandate, he was handed a crosier, a sign of his office; it belonged to the first bishop of Burlington, Bishop Louis de Goesbriand.

He succeeds Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, who was installed last January as the ninth bishop of Rochester, New York.

A native of Woburn, Massachusetts, which is in the Archdiocese of Boston, Bishop Coyne was a professor of sacred liturgy and homiletics at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, from 1994-2003 and adjunct faculty from 2003-2006.

He was director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Boston from 2000-2002 and secretary for communications/principal spokesman for the archdiocese from 2002-2005.

When he was named to lead the Burlington Diocese in December, Bishop Coyne had been auxiliary bishop of Indianapolis since January 2011.

He was apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from September 2011 to December 2012, after Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein retired early for health reasons and until Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin was named to head the archdiocese.

Bishop Coyne is chairman-elect of the communications committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; he will succeed Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City in November 2015 and serve a three-year term as chairman.

He also is a member of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, a subcommittee on lay ecclesial ministry and the subcommittee for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

Rita Coyne, of Woburn, said her son’s installation as bishop of Burlington is the “culmination of all I knew he could be and do.”

“He realizes his potential and wants to do so much good,” she told the Vermont Catholic, Burlington’s diocesan magazine.

Asked to name his three best qualities, she replied: “He is very open to new ideas. He believes in the future. And he trusts in God deeply.”

Father Timothy Naples, a pastor, said the bishop will “definitely be a good influence for reaching out in new ways and using more technology.”

He said because today’s technology makes it possible to reach out to more people, he hopes Bishop Coyne can encourage all parishes and all Catholics to use it more, but added that not everyone can be reached by social media so more traditional means are still necessary.

The bishop began using social media when he was a parish priest, finding it a successful way to communicate. “If you’re going to engage people and get the message out,” digital media is an effective tool, he said at a press conference before the Mass of Installation.

The night before his installation, Bishop Coyne participated in a vespers service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington, attended by ecumenical and interfaith leaders.

Attending the prayer service was a pastor from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Father Jonathan Meyer. He said the bishop is open to invitations and attended the parishes he served several times for events including a county fair.

“He’s a good man, and I am very thankful for the role he played in my Priesthood and life,” Father Meyer said. “He is very approachable and relatable and at the same time fatherly and a strong priest of God.”

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Faith-based organizations to receive exemption under proposed legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to ensure that faith-based institutions can enter into state contracts while maintaining fidelity to their mission passed a Senate panel (7-0).

The measure, Senate Bill 127, would clarify a question that the Indiana Attorney General’s (AG) office has raised regarding whether faith-based organizations may maintain that their employees adhere to their tenants of the faith when the institution enters into a service contract with the government.

During the contract renewal process, Holdman said that Indiana Wesleyan University had a contract for two years with the Department of Workforce Development to provide job training for individuals who were referred to them. During the contract renewal process, an attorney in the AG’s office said these contracts were not permissible under Indiana law because employees of Indiana Wesleyan University are required to sign a tenants of faith agreement as a condition of employment.

Holdman said that it has been a practice for close to a century, however the AG’s office said that contracts like these could constitute a violation of Indiana law.

Holdman said, “Senate Bill 127 would create a carve-out exemption in Indiana law that is consistent with a religious exemption provided in federal law.”

Holdman said, “There was an exemption that was carved out for religious corporations on the federal level.” He explained that foreign corporations doing business in the U.S. said they needed their people working in the U.S. to abide by their tenants of faith or religious beliefs.

“The exemption was established for religious beliefs and for foreign companies,” said Holdman. “This type of exemption dates back to Dwight D. Eisenhower,” and has continued to the present day regardless of the presidential administration’s political affiliation.

Holdman said, “Having been a former Department of Child Services (DCS) director, faith-based corporations provide the support we need for kids that are placed in out-of-home care. If you take a look at that list of providers, the large majority of them are faith-based organizations.”

He added that faith-based initiatives have been common practice around the country for more than a decade if not longer and there’s never been a question. He said, “Basically what they are trying to prevent is a slippery slope that says that we’re now going to prohibit these religious organizations from practicing their faith and provide these needed services to the state of Indiana.”

Sen. Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference who testified in support of the bill, said, “The Catholic Church and its institutions serve a very religiously diverse population and often times we do this in coordination with many local public and private institutions.”

Tebbe said, “The ability of the religious institution to ask that those who work for us act in accordance and harmony with the mission of the Church is a critical need to preserve the integrity of the institution and fidelity to our mission.”

“The Catholic Church and their agencies hire persons based on overall qualifications including religious. Our mission is the extension of our religious charity in a variety of ways and that’s why Congress and the federal government have provided that there be a carve-out or an opportunity for religious institutions to have an exception with regard to employment,” said Tebbe.

Tebbe told lawmakers that Senate Bill 127 clarifies for state and local contracts what federal law and long-standing practice allowed.

“Our healthcare providers, our schools, our Catholic Charities, our ministries, including adoptions, family shelters, food banks, pregnancy centers and a host of other ministries rely on cooperation and collaboration with community agencies and state and local offices,” Tebbe said.

He explained that sometimes these services and collaborations involve contracts that protect all involved.

“Passage of SB 127 would allow us to continue to serve our neighbors and the common good without jeopardizing our integrity and fidelity to our mission,” said Tebbe.

In his closing remarks, Holdman recalling his experience with DCS, said, “The majority of all the providers for out-of-home care are religious institutions, United Methodists, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, nearly all denominations and faiths do that. And even to speak for our Muslims, Buddhists or Hindus, if they were attempting to provide that service or had a contract with the state, for people within their faith, without this carve-out, they would be prohibited from doing so.

Senate Bill 127 received no opposition during the hearing. Tebbe said he expects the bill to pass the Senate by mid-February.

School choice, better access to quality education top goal for senator

BY NATE MADDEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina shared some anecdotes about his schooling during a Jan. 27 event in Washington where he announced that a top high school civics his first time.

When asked by Catholic News Service how his CHOICE Act would affect parochial schools and faith-based home-schooling groups, Scott said they are “not specifically targeted” in the bill, but that he and his colleagues “will continue to look for ways to improve the choice of and access to quality education,” because “the more choices parents have in their children’s education, the more children the children have to learn and succeed.”

The CHOICE Act focuses on expanding school choice options for children with special needs, creating a school choice test program for U.S. military bases, and expanding the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides federally funded scholarships to youth from low-income families in grades K-12 to attend participating private schools in the District of Columbia.

Scott, an evangelical Christian, made history last November as the first African-American from the South to be elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction. He’s also the first African-American to be elected to both the House and the Senate. He was a House member when Gov. Nikki Haley was appointed to the office after former Sen. Jim DeMint resigned in November 2012. Scott had to run for election in 2014 to fill the last two years of DeMint’s term.

Scott also discussed school vouchers, stating that while he would, “in (a) perfect world, like to see a voucher system where funds could be used for both public and private schools,” he wasn’t sure about the viability of a private school voucher proposal in Congress, nor had he “come to a conclusion about what I will advocate for publicly.”

Currently, 13 states and the District of Columbia have some form of a school voucher program and just as many have instituted some form of educational tax credits supporting the creation of scholarships for K-12 students.

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California bill would legalize assisted suicide for terminally ill
SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — California legislators have introduced assisted suicide legislation modeled on Oregon’s assisted suicide law, energized by the heart-breaking story of Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old woman with brain cancer who moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Oregon to end her own life Nov. 1. Before her suicide, Maynard, 29, created videos urging for assisted suicide legislation that drew tens of millions of views, and her mother and husband are now campaigning for legalization. California S.B. 128, as it is called, would allow doctors to prescribe a lethal dose of medication to terminally ill patients who want to commit suicide. Written by Democratic Sens. Bill Monning and Lois Wolk, the bill has sparked strong opposition. “Assisted suicide is not a progressive social cause,” said Diane Coleman of Not Dead Yet, an organization of people with disabilities who oppose assisted suicide. “There are a lot of ways to look at this, but the first thing is to look at the deadly risk of the profit-driven health care system and the other is the sad reality of elder abuse.” If the legislation passes, “some people’s lives will be ended without their consent, through mistakes and abuse,” said Marilyn Golden, Berkeley-based senior policy analyst with the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund. “No safeguards have ever been enacted or proposed that can prevent this outcome, which can never be undone.”

Farmers must care for an earth more vulnerable to climate change
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Farmers must strike a delicate balance between reaping the precious gifts of the earth and protecting them for future generations, especially given the threat of climate change, Pope Francis said. At the same time, the ongoing problem of poverty and hunger affecting “a vast part” of the world demands that today’s “system of food production and distribution be rethought,” he told delegates to a national conference of Italians who own or work on farms, ranches and commercial fisheries. Pope Francis met Jan 31 with members of COLDiretti, an Italian trade group that represents farmers, ranchers and commercial fisheries. Pope Francis said in a message to hundreds of people gathered in the Cathedral of Frascati Jan. 27 for the formal opening of Lubich’s Sainthood cause that step, drawing conclusions from the past and from the witness of history, that “the initial feeling of loving and being loved is as important in one’s faith, they become ‘spiritually inert.’”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Deacon Jean Marie Uzabakiriho, who was born in Rwanda and is a fourth-year seminarian at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., elevate the Eucharist Feb. 1 during an annual Black History Month Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. The liturgy also marked the National Day of Prayer for the African-American and African Family.

Pope says keep faith fresh, don’t become ‘lukewarm Christians’
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Remembering that first encounter and the initial feeling of loving and being loved is as important in one’s faith life as it is in marriage, Pope Francis said during his early morning Mass Jan. 30 that “lukewarm Christians” that “the desire to do great things” for God and for others is necessary for keeping one’s faith burning brightly. Reporting on the homily, Vatican Radio said Pope Francis warned that when Christians do not keep in mind that original experience of grace and faith, they become “spiritually inert.”

Catholics join in marking 70th anniversary of Auschwitz liberation
WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Catholic leaders joined in commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, where 1.2 million mostly Jewish prisoners were killed by the Nazis during World War II. “We cannot overlook how God was present in the hell of Auschwitz, we must remember God’s last word is one of peace,” said Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland. “Peace is a gift from God, for which we have to ask him. This is why we gather today to pray before taking the next step — and we must take that step, drawing conclusions from the past and from the witness of history,” the cardinal preached at a Jan. 27 Mass in the Vatican’s Church-run ecumenical Center for Dialogue and Prayer. The Mass was concelebrated by the Vatican’s nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, and attended by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and around 150 former camp inmates. Cardinal Dziwisz said questions still needed to be asked about human responsibility for Auschwitz atrocities, but added that the camp’s liberation was also a reminder that peace could be achieved by human effort. He said numerous great initiatives had launched to ensure future generations remembered the past while “preparing the future” helped by survivors who recalled “the cry of the victims falling silent as they were brutally suffocated.”
Around the Diocese

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES IN NORTHRIDGE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD INVITATIONAL

IN NORTHROP SCIENCE OLYMPIAD INVITATIONAL

FAITH ALWAYS, ACTION NOW campaign concludes with $105 million raised

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College has announced the conclusion of Faith Always, Action Now, a comprehensive campaign, which raised a total of $105 million in gifts and pledges, nearly $25 million more than the initial goal. The campaign began in December 2014. It is far by the largest fundraising campaign in Saint Mary’s 171-year history of educating women.

“This remarkable achievement is because of the generosity of our alumnae, friends, faculty and staff who made gifts and pledges to the campaign that exceeded the initial goal of $80 million,” said Saint Mary’s College President Carol Ann Mooney ’72. Mooney noted that generations of students to come will have access to a Saint Mary’s education and experience enhanced educational opportunities.

“Building endowment for scholarships was a key component within the campaign and I am happy to report that we received $35 million for endowed scholarships,” Mooney explained in letters to the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff and alumni donors. “This endowment will strengthen our ability to provide financial assistance for the increasing number of academically talented young women for whom a Saint Mary’s education is financially unattainable.”

‘Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change’ to be offered Feb. 5

SOUTH BEND — St. Augustine Church will offer the documentary “Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change,” on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the parish, 1501 W. Washington St. in South Bend. It is the little known story of African American nuns and Black women who, in 1965, staged a prayerful, nonviolent protest to help parishioners of Christ the King in South Bend and other African Americans to vote.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in the nation (and Catholics) by leaving their convents to march with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in the South Bend area of Selma, Alabama, for the rights of African Americans to vote. The event will conclude with a short, family-friendly ecumenical prayer service. Contact the church office at 574-707-1231.

Father Neil Wack appointed Holy Cross director of vocations

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Father Neil Wack, pastor of Christ the King Parish in South Bend, has been appointed director of vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, effective July 1, 2015. Father Wack carries on the work of Holy Cross Father James Gallagher, who has been appointed director of campus ministry at the University of Portland.

“Father Wack brings to life a rich heritage and history of Catholic education and service,” said Cardinal William Levada, emeritus archbishop of Portland.

Father Wack’s appointment follows his service as associate director of vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross at the University of Notre Dame.

“With Father Wack as pastor, Christ the King grows to over 1,400 families and more than 500 students — that vitality is phenomenal, and we are eagerly excited for that spiritual stamina to carry over into our Vocations Office,” said Father O’Hara.

When I was approached by the Provincial Superior, Rev. Thomas J. O’Hara, CSC, to consider this assignment, I did what many would do,” said Father Wack. “I prayed for a while, and asked for advice from people I trust. After that brief time, I concluded that if my community is calling me to take this step, I need to do it — and I will do what the Holy Spirit is calling me to do. I have tried to echo Mary’s ‘yes’ to the angel Gabriel in what I do as a religious and a priest.

After earning a degree in computer science, Father Wack entered the seminary at the University of Notre Dame in 1994 and was ordained a priest at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in 2004. He was assigned to a parish in Colorado, and then was transferred to his home parish of Christ the King in South Bend in 2005. He was named pastor in 2007. Under his leadership, Christ the King School, from which he graduated in 1984, has continued to be one of the flagship schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

USF Jesters preparing spring performance

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis will present their annual spring performance on March 7 at 6 p.m. and March 8 at 3 p.m. at the USF North Campus auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

“The theme of this year’s show, “Right as Rain,” focuses on goal setting and making choices. The story is about Mary who is excited about spending time with her friends at a baseball game. When the game is rained out, Mary makes a series of bad choices about how to handle the situation and ultimately decides to create a machine to make the clouds go away. Of course, the machine doesn’t work and Mary realizes she doesn’t need to control the weather after all. Jester performers will tell the story through music, dance, theatre, visual art and puppets.

Supported by the University of Saint Francis since 1978, the Jesters is a performing group of people with mild to severe developmental disabilities. The purpose of the Jesters is to enhance quality of life for people with disabilities by engaging them in the creative arts. The vision is to develop self-expression, self-esteem, socialization and other life skills, while providing learning opportunities to the USF community and the community at large. In 2013, the program expanded to include the Junior Jesters group, which includes younger performers ages 6-14 with developmental/physical disabilities. More information about the USF Jesters can be found at arts.sf.edu/community-programs/jesters.

The Jesters program and this year’s performance is provided with support from the AWS Foundation and from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Tickets are $10 and are available now. Call the USF School of Creative Arts at 260-399-7700, ext. 8001, for more information.

USF to present lecture, ‘St. John XXIII: Beloved Revolutionary’

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Liberal Arts and Sciences invites the community to the presentation, “St. John XXIII: Beloved Revolutionary,” on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. in Brooks Hall Ballroom on the USF main campus at 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne.

Sister Jacinta Kreek, assistant professor of theology at USF, will discuss the pontificate of Blessed Paul VI (1963-1978) in light of the encyclical “Recentius Ecclesiae Diocesanae” (1969), which focuses on the church’s role in the modern world.

“I am hopeful that the two recent encyclicals of Pope Francis — ‘Laudato Si’’ and ‘Amoris Laetitia’ — will move the church towards the mission of the church,” said Kreek.

Sister Kreek earned her PhD in theology from Catholic University of America and has taught at the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College. She is the author of “Paul VI and the Bible.”

For more information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu, or on the web at philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series.
Bishop Luers students receive sacraments during pastoral visit

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School community had much to rejoice about on Jan. 28, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his annual pastoral visit to the Fort Wayne high school. Not only was it National Catholic Schools Week, but it was also the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of Catholic Schools. Most importantly, the Knights witnessed the beauty of sacraments as 10 students were confirmed, four celebrated their first Communions and a new member was welcomed into the Catholic faith.

Along with concelebrants Father William Sullivan, pastor of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Father Daniel Durkin, pastor of St. Henry, Fort Wayne, and Father Ben Muhlenkamp, chaplain and parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, a full gym at the all-school Mass displayed not only their school spirit, but as Bishop Rhoades explained, “the deepest meaning of Luers Spirit” — bringing students closer to their faith. In his homily, Bishop Rhoades focused on the life of the Church’s great “Angelic Doctor,” St. Thomas Aquinas.

The bishop detailed that St. Thomas was a quiet, humble student nicknamed, “the dumb ox” (also because he was rather stout). However, his teacher in Paris and later, Cologne, St. Albert the Great, prophetically exclaimed, “You call Thomas the dumb ox, but in his teaching this ox will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world.”

Bishop Rhoades continued, “And so it happened, the works of St. Thomas Aquinas, considered by many as one of the greatest theologians and philosophers in the history of the Church, have been studied and taught through the centuries.”

The bishop explained his personal connection and appreciation for the works of the man who became a saint — not for his extraordinary intelligence, but because of his holiness and virtue, for they answered many questions of the faith for him during his discerning process early on in his college years.

Bishop Rhoades also referred to the day’s Gospel from Mark, Jesus’ parable of the sower and challenged students to ask themselves: “What kind of ground am I? Am I hearing God’s word and acting on what I hear? Is my life bearing good fruit? Or is my life hard and thorny ground where God’s word is not taking root and bearing good fruit?” the bishop asked.

He continued, “Today we celebrate that the seed of God’s word has fallen on rich soil here at Bishop Luers High School.”

Before the Nicene Creed, Landan Yount came forward, along with his sponsor and was brought into the Catholic Church. The Confirmations followed and then the first Communions.

Those receiving the sacraments were a diverse group of all grades and from different parishes, including Most Precious Blood, St. Paul of the Cross, several from St. Patrick and two from St. Therese.

Along with their normal religion classes, the students met before and after school to prepare.

Yount, a junior, who transferred from Columbus City to Bishop Luers his sophomore year, summarized his decision to become Catholic, “I wanted to grow in knowing God and become a better person.”

Colleen Huberty, her husband and two sons, from southeast Wisconsin were in attendance. Her oldest son, Sam, is a junior on scholarship at the Fort Wayne Ballet and now attending Bishop Luers. With a grateful heart, she explained, “It is such a blessing for our family that Sam could be confirmed at this high school. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, young people are confirmed when they are juniors and we didn’t want him to miss this important year. It was a big part of our decision to move him here.”

Marsha Jordan, superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Carl Loesch, Secretary for Catholic Education, were also present at the Mass.

At the end of Mass, the Bishop added his thanks in Spanish and continued his tradition of opening the floor to question and answers. Although he preferred answering questions about the faith, the bishop was open to personal questions, which the student body took full advantage of, quizzes their shepherd on everything from his Super Bowl pick and high school sweetheart to what kind of tennis racket he uses and whether or not he buys his own groceries.

They also asked the bishop about more profound matters such as his most memorable Mass, a time when he had to stand up for his faith, when he first heard the call to the Priesthood and his favorite way to pray.

School chaplain, Father Ben Muhlenkamp took a turn and asked the bishop what he most wants to be remembered for, to which Bishop Rhoades responded, “That I was a man faithful to Christ.”

After Mass, the bishop ate lunch with student council members, then made his annual classroom visits.

Steps included Debra Baum’s Catholic social teaching group and Tyler McAtee’s morality class as students continued to delve into questions about the Catholic faith and current events. Concerns about the dangers that have come from the loss of “objective moral norms” and frustration about the bias in media when the coverage of the March for Life was given little attention were hot topics.

Bishop Rhoades discussed the diocesan lawsuit against the HHS Mandate, which intrudes on religious beliefs and violates religious liberties. The compatibility of faith and reason in the New Evangelization was also on the table. Repeatedly, the bishop urged students, “Never be afraid of any question. Always pursue the truth.”

The visit concluded following a meeting with the theology staff, campus ministry group and Tiffany Albertson, the new principal of Bishop Luers High School.

Several Bishop Luers High School students were confirmed, received their first Communion, and one joined the Church, at the all-school Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Jan. 28 during his pastoral visit to the school. Those students included Landan Yount, Johnny Zuniga, Graciela Diaz, Diana Hoya, Dylan Hoya, Adrianna White, Cynthia Castro, Sam Huberty, MeMe Rustrian, Pedro Perez and Fabiana Cotten.
Light of Learning teachers, administrator honored at luncheons

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE, SOUTH BEND — Honoring its annual tradition during Catholic Schools Week, Quality Dining, Inc., hosted the Light of Learning Luncheons in Fort Wayne and South Bend to celebrate excellence in Catholic Education. Teachers, principals and benefactors of Catholic schools are honored at the event, which also kicks off the Quality Dining’s Catholic School coupon book fundraiser through the You Can Lend a Hand Program. The program, in its 33rd year, has raised over $9.6 million to benefit Catholic schools in Indiana and Michigan. Books are available from Catholic school students at $3 each now until Feb. 28.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the keynote speaker at both luncheons.

He said at the luncheons, “It is an event that reminds us of the gift of our Catholic schools and their important mission in the Church. That mission would not be fulfilled without the exemplary service of the outstanding educators whom we honor today.”

“That mission would not be fulfilled without the generosity of so many who financially support our schools,” Bishop Rhoades added.

“And that mission would not be fulfilled without the commitment of our pastors who make Catholic education a priority in our parishes. I thank all of you.”

Also, at the luncheons, recipients of the Msgr. J. William Lester Award were recognized. Cindy and Keith Turner were the Fort Wayne area recipients of the award. The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration were the recipients at the South Bend event. Franciscan Sister M. Angela Mellady, provincial superior, accepted their award. The award honors Msgr. Lester’s spirit and legacy to the Catholic schools in the diocese.

Light of Learning teachers honored at the 2015 Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education Luncheon, held in Fort Wayne at the Hotel Fort Wayne on Jan. 27, included the following honorees: front row, from left, are Kathleen Schnurr, Scott Newman, Judith Prince, Jessica Sharp, Zachary Pepe and Dorothy Kissell; second row, Carl Loesch, Director Secretariat for Catholic Education, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; Theresa Kiracofe, Susan Curtis, Kathryn McIlwain, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Mary Elizabeth Linn, Michelle Story and Susan Rost; third row, Nathan Conroy, Katelin Pleus, Vanessa Proulx, Mary Berghoff, Lindsay Kostoff, Lea Howard, Jill Scheumann, Tegan Fredrickson and Marsha Jordan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Susan Rost, St. Louis Academy; Besancon; Susan Curtis, St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla; Jill Scheumann, St. Joseph School, Decatur; Lea Howard, Huntington Catholic School, Huntington; Michelle Story, St. Bernard School, Wabash; Dorothy Kissell, Sacred Heart School, Warsaw; Nathan Conroy, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; and Scott Newman, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne.

The South Bend area celebration was held Jan. 29 and included the following teachers and administrative honorees: Jenelle Miller, Christ the King School, South Bend; Julie Kaniewski, Corpus Christi School, South Bend; Jennifer Sosinski, Holy Cross School, South Bend; Mary Ann Dornbos, Holy Family School, South Bend; Melissa Wroblewski-Jay, Our Lady of Hungary School, South Bend; Susan Dean, St. Adalbert School, South Bend; Christopher Fowler, St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend; Joany Zielinski, St. John the Baptist School, South Bend; Tamra Wesolowski and administrator Stephen Donndeğer, St.ude School, South Bend; Catherine Knabenheue, St. Matthew Cathedral School, South Bend; Jill Lindley, Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka; Ann Schramski, Mishawaka Catholic School, Mishawaka; Christine Fox, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Elkhart; Jennifer Howe, St. Vincent de Paul School, Elkhart; Pamela Ritten, St. Pius X School, Granger; Mary Beth Kolter, St. Michael School, Plymouth; Katherine Dyer, Marian High School, Mishawaka; and Amy O’Brien, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend.

In attendance at the South Bend 2015 Celebration of Excellence Luncheon in at the Hilton Garden Inn in South Bend on Jan. 29 are the following: front row, from left, Stephen Donndeğer, Jennifer Howe, Jenelle Miller, Julie Kaniewski, Katherine Dyer and Carl Loesch, Director Secretariat for Catholic Education; second row, Christine Fox, Jennifer Sosinski, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Marsha Jordan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Ann Schramski, Susan Dean and Christopher Fowler; third row, Joany Zielinski, Mary Ann Dornbos, Jill Lindley, Pamela Ritten, Tamra Wesolowski, Mary Beth Kolter, Catherine Knabenheue, Amy O’Brien and Melissa Wroblewski-Jay.
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RALLY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

— public, nonpublic, charter, religious. Education is the furrow of great price. Education is the treasure. Education affects a lifetime.”

“Each educational choice makes a difference,” Loesch said. He related how his great grandfather could not read. His grandmother attended a small country school through eighth grade. Loesch’s grandparent chose to send his father to a country school in rural southern Allen County. His father left the farm to go to college. His father’s choice to attend college changed Loesch’s life and the lives of his siblings.

Loesch and his siblings attended and received an exemplary education through Catholic schools. He said, “All of us are productive citizens serving our communities in business, science, medicine, public service. And who knew that the great-grandchild of a man who couldn’t sign his name could serve as the Secretary of Education.”

“Education is indeed a great treasure and each choice makes a great difference,” Loesch noted. “Education changes lives for generations.”

Loesch told the story about when he was serving as a principal at Marian High School in Mishawaka. A father brought his two daughters to the Catholic high school to be enrolled. When the eldest of the daughters saw the cost of tuition per student, she offered to attend public school so her sister could attend Catholic school. The school accepted both girls. At that time, choice legislation was being introduced. Thanks to choice scholarships and generous donors, the eldest girl graduated from Marian last year and is now in college studying to be a bilingual teacher.

“That choice of our community to grow and to invite that girl to our school will effect not only her, but all of her future students,” Loesch noted.

“When all of us continue to say ‘yes’ to school choice, ‘yes’ to educational opportunities, ‘yes’ to allowing parents with limited resources the same choices that all of us would love to have for our children. And in doing so, we say ‘yes’ to the future of our community.”

Celine Fernandes, a junior at Bishop Luers High School, the oldest of four girls — two who attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the other at Bishop Luers, told rally participants she likes that Luers offers her the ability to practice and grow in her faith, as well as receive an “amazing” education and make friends along the way.

Fernandes quoted her mom who says, “Opportunities are not lost. They are taken by someone else who knew to take them.”

Loesch said the school choice program offers Fernandes that opportunity. “It provided me and my sisters to go to incredible schools and to grow in our faith.”

“My parents are very grateful as well,” she said. “They know we will get the preparation we need in college and in life. I believe that the program should continue to allow other children … to have the best education and faith possible. It will allow them and so many others to have the preparation they need.”

Fernandes was joined by other students and parents whose children attend Catholic or non-public schools who spoke in support of the school choice program. Part of the rally was a call for action, asking voters to write to their Indiana legislators to encourage them to support the school choice program to continue to make the program accessible and successful. For more information, link to the Institute for Quality Education at www.Indiana Non-Public Education Association at http://inpea.org.
Stuck in an elevator

My husband got stuck in an elevator last week. He had flown home, cross-country, after a long business trip and was ascending in the elevator to reach the sixth floor of the parking garage at Midway Airport. He had just picked up a sandwich. His bag was thrust over his shoulder, and his thoughts were turning toward home. He was looking forward to finally sitting down and resting after a few intense, litigious days. Suddenly he just picked up a sandwich. His bag and was ascending in the elevator to a distant place to pray. Since there was nothing, he said.

“Hello. I’m stuck in the elevator. I’m stuck!” David said.

There was a pause. “Who’s stuck, David?” David looked at the light inside. “I think between three and four…”

David shifted his bags and studied the control panel. He found the emergency button and pressed it several times. After a few moments, he heard a voice.

“Yes, may I help you?” the man on the other side of the intercom nonchalantly asked, as though they were simply at the library circulation desk pointing someone in the direction of non-fiction, self-help books.

“Yes, I’m in the elevator. I’m stuck!” David said.

There was a pause. “Who’s stuck, David?”

David looked at the light inside. “I think between three and four…”

He pressed all of the numbers on the other side of the intercom. “How many of you are there?”

“Hi honey. I’m stuck in an elevator.”

“How many are in there?”

“Just me!” yelled David, now starting to laugh.

“How many are in there?”

“Yes, I’m fine!” David shouted back.

“How many of you are there?”

“One!” David answered.

“What?”

“One!”

David shouted louder.

Jesus brings us God’s mercy and perfection

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mk 1:29-39

T he Book of Job is the source of this weekend’s first reading. This book furnishes few details about the identity of Job. It is nonetheless one of the great literary works in the Old Testament since it so remarkably captures the struggle experienced by many believers as they try to match their faith in the merciful God to problems in their lives.

Scholars disagree as to when this book was written. A misreading of Job has led to a phrase that has gone into English common speech. It is reference to the “patience of Job.” Clear in this regard are so great that Paul’s obligation, correspondingly intense, makes him the people’s slave.

For its final reading, the Church offers us a selection from St. Mark’s Gospel. It is the story of the Lord’s curing of Peter’s mother-in-law, Matthew and Luke have their versions of the same story.

The story is clear. Merely by touching her hand, Jesus cured the woman. Jesus went fully cured, in fact, that she immediately rose from her sickbed and began to wait on Jesus and the disciples. She was healthy again, but she used her health to care for others. For all Christians, the impulse to serve others is true health.

While the cure is extraordinary, Mark does not make the fortunate mother-in-law the centerpiece of this reading. Rather, Jesus is the focus of the story. Christians have remembered the miracle long. Indeed, archaeologists have found traces of this mother-in-law’s house in Capernaum. They confirmed their discovery by the fact that ancient Christian inscriptions were found on the walls.

As the story continues, Jesus heals the sick and drives demons away. He ordered the demons not to speak and they obeyed.

Jesus went to a distant place to pray. Since there are no deserts in the vicinity of Capernaum, Jesus must have gone some distance, or at least to a barren place. Simon and the others pursue Jesus, longing to be near the Lord, needing the Lord. When at last they find Jesus, the Lord reminds them that the messianic role is to reach all people.

Reflection

The Church continues to introduce us to Jesus, a process begun weeks ago at Christmas and underscored in the lessons of the feast of the Epiphany and in those of the feast of the Lord’s Baptism.

Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, with all the power thus implied. His role is to bring to humanity God’s mercy and perfection. The condition of Peter’s mother-in-law, and the anxiety with which Peter and the others search for Jesus, tell us about ourselves. Conditions occur in our lives, as overwhelming as they are to us for the same reasons.

Je suis Charlie?

I slamic extremists touched a particularly sensitive nerve in the West last month with the murders of cartoonists from the satirical French weekly, Charlie Hebdo. They provoked a rally in Paris that French officials called the largest ever. President François Hollande was joined by the heads of European states, and by both the Israeli prime minister and the president of the Palestinian Authority.

The slogan “Je suis Charlie” (“I am Charlie”) appeared spontaneously on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and elsewhere. It makes just enough that we all can subscribe to the sentiment, but not as us for the same reasons.

The violent suppression of false speech is a little like Moses striking the rock twice. It demonstrates a lack of faith.

John Locke, another 17th-century English Protestant, made a different argument. He maintained that if we are interested in converting our opponents to our point of view, force will be unavailing: “True and saving religion consists in the inward persuasion of the mind. … And such is the nature of the understanding that it cannot be compelled to the belief of anything by outward force.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Liberty, which echoes Milton’s and Locke’s arguments. It adds the distinctively Catholic note that coercion, especially in matters of faith, is inconsistent with the dignity of the human person.

To speak frankly, Charlie has not been a very admirable persona. But we honor a bigger principle, not him personally, in saying “Je suis Charlie.”

COMMENTARY

Je suis Charlie?

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.
Evangelical challenges of Vatican diplomacy

The bilateral diplomacy of the Holy See is unique in world affairs, in that it has little or nothing to do with the things with which diplomats typically occupy their time: trade issues, security matters, visas. Rather, the reason why the Vatican engages in bilateral diplomacy is to secure the freedom of the Catholic Church to be itself in the countries with which the Holy See has, or wishes to have, diplomatic relations. To be sure, in crisis situations, the Holy See’s representative in a crumbling or violence-ridden state can also serve as an honest broker amidst contending local parties, or a voice for persecuted Catholic communities, or a channel for humanitarian assistance.

But whatever the situation, the Holy See’s representative in Cuba and China.

In Cuba, the role played by Vatican officials and the archbishop of Havana, Cardinal Jaime Ortega, in facilitating the recent agreement between the United States and Cuba to restore full diplomatic relations has significantly raised the stakes for how the local Church in Cuba, and the Holy See, play their respective hands in the last days of the Castro regime.

Those “last days” may, alas, be a matter of years; still, that Castroism has no future seems obvious to everyone except the brothers Castro. Some Catholic leaders in Cuba are understandably concerned to use what openings may now be available to build up the Church’s infrastructure in that long-suffering island. But if that build-up involves a kind of relationship with the present Cuban regime that precludes strong, vocal and visible Catholic support for those hard-pressed Cuban human rights activists who form the core of the post-communist Cuban civil society of the future, the evangelical mission of the Church in a post-Castro Cuba could be seriously imperiled.

Building-with-resisting, and thus helping accelerate the change toward a post-Castro future: that is the challenge for Cuban Catholicism, which will face the daunting task of re-converting Cuba in the 21st century. The local Church should be firmly supported in both aspects of that work, the building and the resisting, by the Holy See.

Then there’s the new thaw in the Holy See’s relations with the People’s Republic of China. It’s no secret that senior Vatican diplomats have long sought full diplomatic exchange at the ambassadorial level with the PRC; the theory is that such diplomatic recognition will give China and China. It’s no secret that senior Vatican diplomats have long sought full diplomatic exchange at the ambassadorial level with the PRC; the theory is that such diplomatic recognition will give the Catholic Church a more secure place at the table as China determines its future. But here, too, are evangelical concerns to be considered.

Full diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the PRC would require the Vatican to sever its diplomatic ties with Taiwan — the first Chinese democracy in that ancient country’s 5,000-year history. And while there is nothing inexorable about a transition to democracy in mainland China, there does seem something inherently unstable about communist regimes — especially if they’ve been sitting atop a substantial middle class that’s not going to accept political disenfranchisement indefinitely. If and when a Chinese democratic revolution happens, too close a relationship with a faltering communist regime with a long history of persecuting Christians and pro-democracy activists could be an obstacle to the evangelization of China — which, when it fully opens itself to the world, will be the greatest field of Christian mission since the Europeans came to the western hemisphere in the 16th century.

We may be sure that Evangelical Protestants and Mormons, who will not be burdened by having had diplomatic relations with the PRC, are already thinking hard about their missions in a post-communist China. That, too, should concentrate Catholic minds on how the alleged benefits of a deal between the Vatican and the current regime in Beijing are to be weighed against the potential perils to the New Evangelization in a post-communist China.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Paul Miki and Companions

1562 - 1597
Feast February 6

Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruling Japan in the name of the emperor, became alarmed at the growth of Christianity resulting from St. Francis Xavier’s mission, begun in 1549. Because of his orders, 26 Christians had their left ears cut off, were marched through towns with blood dripping from their heads, then were crucified and pierced with lances on a hill outside Nagasaki. The martyrs were Franciscans, Jesuits, Japanese laymen and one Korean; their bloody garments were kept as relics. Paul Miki, a distinguished preacher who was the son of a samurai, was the most prominent of the Japanese Jesuits. The martyrs were canonized in 1682; their feast was added to the General Roman Calendar in 1969.

LIFE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

It was the weirdest phone call I ever got. "Wait! What? Don’t hang up!" I said. "I have to go. My phone is dying." I was still laughing, recounting the details of the day. And I was laughing, almost uncontrollably with each new detail. We were having so much fun. And then it hit me like a ton of bricks — some people think marriage today is outdated and confining. Some might even say it’s like being stuck in an elevator.

Saint of the week: Saint Francis Xavier

Feast October 3

Francis Xavier, a Jesuit on the mission to Japan, was one of the greatest missionaries of the modern world. He is prayed to by those who are searching for direction, guidance or protection in their work. Francis Xavier is one of the most beloved saints of the Catholic Church.

GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS A WORD SEARCH BASED ON THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Jesus’ work of healing near home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THESAURUS

B: Jesus’ work of healing near home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.
Central Catholic cheerleading squads prepare for competition

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — When preparing for the football season last fall, a group of coaches saw the potential of combining the four Central Catholic school cheerleading squads for the Bishop Dwenger High School cheer competition to be held on March 20.

“I am so lucky to be part of the coaching team. We have been amazed at how these girls have come together to form a squad. There is no rivalry between schools at all. The girls truly care about each other and being a group,” marveled Coach Caprice Ramirez.

So, with the help of Ramirez, Suzie Brinker and Channin Henry (St. John the Baptist, New Haven), Rosie Ramirez, Amanda Naatz and Danielle Gonzalez (Most Precious Blood), Beth Peters (Queen of Angels) and Amber Joley (St. Jude), the Central Catholic Cheer Squad has been busy cheering on their basketball teams this winter and preparing for their upcoming joint competition.

“We do a great job of working together for the good of the girls,” Ramirez added.

And the girls are bonding as well. Ramirez detailed, “Since all four schools are relatively small, many of our girls do more than one extracurricular activity. Our girls are always the first to greet each other with a hug and hello and show each other respect both during cheer and on the basketball and volleyball courts. It is nothing for a cheerleader from one of the schools to come up and give a hug to a coach from a different school before a game. There are no lines where these girls are concerned.”

She continued, “We have varsity cheerleaders who have volunteered their time to help the fifth graders prepare for their performance in March in addition to hours of their own practice. The fifth graders really look up to the older girls. We even have several girls who aren’t in basketball who go to games for opposing schools to cheer on their fellow cheerleaders.”

An example of the girls’ Christian attitude and amazing spirit was displayed during a recent matchup between the St. Jude and Most Precious Blood junior varsity boys’ basketball game. The Eagles only had one cheerleader, while MPB had three. It took no time before the girls decided to combine and cheer for both teams together. At another game, Queen of Angels cheerleaders were reported cheering for the opposing cheer squad during their half time routine and waving back and forth between quarters.

In her first season as coach of the St. Rose/St. Louis cheerleaders, Brittany Minnich had an exciting opportunity with her squad when they got to cheer for the Twins alumni as they took on the K105 Hoosters in a recent fundraising event in front of a full house at the St. Rose gym. The former Trine University cheerleader has also taught the girls several new stunts, lifts and ways to build school spirit.

In her first season as coach of the St. Rose/St. Louis cheerleaders, Brittany Minnich had an exciting opportunity with her squad when they got to cheer for the Twins alumni as they took on the K105 Hoosters in a recent fundraising event in front of a full house at the St. Rose gym.

**MEDIA NOTEBOOK:**

Nintendo — looking forward as well as back

NEW YORK (CNS) — Nintendo, the multibillion-dollar gaming giant, is releasing a sleek new hand-held console, the 3DS XL. At the same time, the company is reissuing some of its classic titles from the 1980s.

The reissues, though, do come with a twist — the games are now “mixes.” The first two retooled versions went on sale in 2013 and 2014 for the Wii U system. Now the “Ultimate NES Remix” has been released for the portable 3DS system. This makes sense, as most of these titles originated — more than two decades ago — on outdated devices.

“Ultimate NES Remix” takes parts from old “8-bit” games, blends them together — and then adds new challenges. Gamers are basically playing snippets from a variety of back-in-the-day standards, with the refinement that unexpected characters and obstacle pop up.

It sounds like chaos. But the anarchic nature of the games serves to introduce clever surprises rather than sow confusion.

For old-school players, this “Ultimate Remix” it’s a joyful blast from the past. There are 16 games represented, including the original “Super Mario Bros.,” “Dr. Mario,” “Excitebike” and “The Legend of Zelda.”

These titles hail from an earlier, more innocent age of gaming. They include mild cartoon violence but nothing that’s morally objectionable. With a price of just under $30, “Ultimate NES Remix” also won’t break most budgets, unlike some more elaborate — and more ethically problematic — newcomers.

Some players have complained that the full content of the original is not included in the new iterations. But these games, while charming, are several decades old, and so could easily become tedious if played in whole.

“Pong,” for example, which once represented the cutting edge of digital gameplay, could almost pass, nowadays, for a soothing accompaniment to contemplative prayer. With the remixed format, players get a few minutes of this or that game; earn stars by speedily accomplishing the task at hand — jumping over barrels in the classic “Donkey Kong;” for example — and then move on.

Simultaneously a glimpse into the past for youngsters and a nostalgic trip down memory lane for their elders, “Ultimate NES Remix” provides a worry-free gaming experience suitable for the whole family.
With pope’s encouragement, Salvadoran bishops begin dialogue with gangs

BY PAUL JEFFREY

SEATTLE (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of El Salvador announced that, with encouragement from Pope Francis, they have undertaken a process of dialogue with the country’s gangs.

Gang members in El Salvador “have a right to be included, to be heard, for they are persons and they have families,” said Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador, during a news conference following Feb. 1 Mass in the city’s Metropolitan Cathedral.

The move came two weeks after several gang leaders — most of them in prison — declared a cease-fire that has already cut murder rates dramatically.

The gangs are seen by many in El Salvador as violent organized crime syndicates, and polls have shown strong support for the government’s “iron fist” approach which, for years, has filled the country’s prisons with tattoo-covered gang members but consistently failed to lower one of the world’s highest murder rates.

Earlier attempts at dialogue involving Church leaders failed, though Bishop Fabio Colindres of the military diocese was a key mediator in talks that produced a truce between gangs that began in March 2012 and dropped the country’s murder rate by more than two-thirds.

The truce fell apart after 15 months, however, something many observers blamed on opposition from the country’s huge private security companies, which lost profits as street violence declined. Yet resistance to the truce also grew among gang members at the base when extortion operations — deprived of the ability to punish noncompliance with death — began to lose their profitability.

A public opinion poll showed support for the truce, Bishop Colindres was chastised in the press for condoning delinquents, especially after he publicly washed and kissed the feet of gang members during Holy Week in 2014.

Father Antonio Rodriguez, a Passionist priest from Spain, also attempted to mediate dialogue between the government and the gangs. He was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in the Mejica neighborhood of the capital, where he ran a large program of rehabilitative facilities and a recreational facility in a poor neighborhood of the capital, where he ran a large program of rehabilitative facilities and a recreational facility.

Yet Catholic leaders have quietly worked behind the scenes with several leaders of the country’s evangelical churches, which have a significant outreach in the prisons. That effort paid off Jan. 26, when gang leaders around the country announced that they had agreed Jan. 17 to a cease-fire, what they called “a unilateral gesture of goodwill” designed to “reduce the violence.”

The National Civil Police reported that between Jan. 1 and 17, there was an average of 14.1 murders per day in El Salvador; between Jan. 18 and 29, the average dropped to 7.6 murders a day. On Jan. 22, there was no murder reported in the entire country, something that had not occurred for more than a year.

Bishop Rosa Chavez represents the Church in the government-sponsored National Council for Citizen Security, which has been discussing gang-related issues since its creation late last year. He said the Church’s participation “has the approval of the pope. He told us to get in there and work for youth to have opportunities and a chance to dream.”

The prelate was careful to point out that the new dialogue should not be considered negotiation.

“The word negotiation isn’t involved here. We’re talking about dialogue, which means to listen and give people opportunities. With dialogue, we can reach the grass roots, the youth in the poor neighborhoods who want to be listened to, and give them opportunities to leave the gangs,” said Bishop Rosa Chavez, according to local press reports.

The government of Salvadoran President Salvador Sanchez Ceren, which took office last year, has repeatedly said it would neither dialogue nor negotiate with the gangs. In January it pushed through the national legislature a packet of new laws strengthening the powers of law enforcement. Government officials recently told police officers that they need not worry about being second-guessed when they use their weapons to shoot gang members.

Bishop Rosa Chavez criticized the government’s posture.

“When one wants to find solutions to violence by using more violence, it won’t work,” he said. “We’ve got to break the molds and change paradigms, or else the deaths will keep piling up, in increasing the pain of the families.”

Bishop Rosa Chavez pointed out that the country’s civil war was finally brought to an end through dialogue between the government and rebel groups.

“Why can’t we overcome violence today by following the same path?” he asked.

Pope recognizes martyrdom of Archbishop Romero

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After decades of debate within the Church, Pope Francis formally recognized that Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero was killed “in hatred of the faith” and not for purely political reasons.

Pope Francis signed the decree Feb. 3 recognizing as martyrdom the March 24, 1980, assassination of Archbishop Romero in a San Salvador hospital chapel as he celebrated Mass.

The decree clears the way for the beatification of Archbishop Romero.

The postulator or chief promoter of his sainthood cause, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, was scheduled to brief the press Feb. 4 about the cause.

Archbishop Romero’s sainthood cause was opened at the Vatican in 1993, but was delayed for years as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied his writings, amid wider debate over whether he had been killed for his faith or for taking political positions against Salvadoran government and against the death squads that were operating in his country. As head of the San Salvador Archdiocese from 1977 until his death, his preaching grew increasingly strident in defense of the country’s poor and oppressed.

Pope Benedict XVI told reporters in 2007 that the archbishop was “certainly a great witness of the faith” who “merits beatification, I do not doubt.” But he said some groups had complicated the sainthood cause by trying to co-opt the archbishop as a political figure.

Seven years later, Pope Francis — the first Latin American pope — told reporters that “for me, Romero is a man of God.” However, he said at the time, “the process must go ahead, and God must give His sign. If He wants to do so, He will.”

During his general audience Jan. 7, Pope Francis quoted words that Archbishop Romero had spoken at the funeral Mass of a priest assassinated by Salvadoran death squads: “We must all be willing to die for our faith even if the Lord does not grant us this honor.”

Although not seen as exercising any pressure to move the cause forward, St. John Paul II made it a point of praying at Archbishop Romero’s tomb in the San Salvador cathedral during visits to the city in 1983 and again in 1996.

During his first visit, he told people gathered in the cathedral, “Within the walls of this cathedral rest the mortal remains of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, a zealous pastor whose love of God and service to his brothers and sisters led to the very sacrifice of his life in a violent way as he celebrated the sacrifice of forgiveness and reconciliation.”

When Pope John Paul returned 13 years later, he told the people that he had wanted to pray again at the tomb of Archbishop Romero, “brutally assassinated while he offered the sacrifice of the Mass.” The pope said he was pleased that the archbishop’s memory “continues to live among you.”

An official decree of martyrdom removes the beatification requirement of a miracle attributed to the candidate’s intercession. Generally, a miracle after beatification would still be needed for canonization.

The same day that Pope Francis formally recognized Archbishop Romero’s martyrdom, he also signed a decree recognizing the martyrdom of two Polish Conventual Franciscans and an Italian missionary priest who were murdered by Shining Path guerrillas in Peru in 1991. Franciscan Fathers Michel Tomaszczyk and Zbigniew Strzalkowski and Father Alessandro Dordi, a diocesan priest from Bergano, were killed in separate incidents in August 1991.

Dates for the beatification of Archbishop Romero and the Peru martyrs were not announced immediately.

Father Salomon Perez speaks with two young skateboarders in a recreational facility he had built next to the St. Joseph of Flores Parish in Tonacatepeque, El Salvador. Parishioners suffered from gang-related crime committed until Father Perez negotiated a truce. El Salvador has had many children leave due to violence and attempts at forcibly recruiting them into gangs.

Dates for the beatification of Archbishop Romero and the Peru martyrs were not announced immediately.
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: flogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Catholics Returning Home sessions planned
Warren — Sacred Heart Parish will offer a six-week series called Catholics Returning Home on Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the parish Living Well Center. The sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. There will be informal sharing and an update of the Catholic faith. For information call 574-267-5842.

Rosary Society plans card party
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Rosary Society will have a card party Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Lunch will be served. Bring your own cards or dice. Advance tickets only are available for $5 after Mass or by calling the parish office at 574-287-8932.

Notre Dame Smoker planned
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 11521 Old Decatur Rd., will have a Notre Dame Smoker Sunday, Feb. 22, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. This stag only event is $20 pre-sale or $25 day of event and includes food and drinks. Activities include casino games, raffles and duck races. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the Milege Restaurant or through Tony Collins by calling 260-452-8262.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

St. Matthew fish fry
South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 20, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets at the door are $8 for adults, $6 for children 4-12 and children age 3 and under are free. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a reduced price by calling 574-289-5539.

Fish fry planned
South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, Feb. 20, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-out tickets are $10 per person, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Spaghetti supper hosted by Knights
Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878 will have a spaghetti supper on Friday, Feb. 13, from 5-7 p.m. at 114 W. First St. Adults $8, Children 5-12 $5, Children under 5 are free. All proceeds go to Hannah’s House in Mishawaka.

St. Hedwig Rosary and Holy Name Societies plan Polish style dinner buffet
South Bend — St. Hedwig will host a Polish style dinner buffet Sunday, Feb. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center on the corner of Scott and Western. Tickets are $11 per person by advance sale only. Call the parish office at 574-287-8932 for Feb. 4. Carry outs available. Cash Bar offered.

Mass Mob to gather
Fort Wayne — Be part of a group bringing “flash mob”-style solidarity and support, plus enthusiasm of the New Evangelization, to churches in the area. A Mass Mob will gather at St. Therese Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., for the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 8.

Corporate Development Executive—Reedemer Radio Fort Wayne

Reedemer Radio, a non-profit, Catholic Radio Group is seeking a motivated and customer focused sales professional to grow our base of underwriting and sports advertising partners as Corporate Development Executive for its 106.3 & 89.9 FM (Greater Fort Wayne) listening area. The chosen candidate will work closely with the Director of Development to establish new business relationships and grow existing underwriting partners through a variety of sales strategies.

The Corporate Development Executive must have strong sales, writing, time management, and communication skills with a team-first approach to assisting the apostolate in its overall mission.

Responsibilities include:
• Identify new prospects and successfully secure advertising/program sponsorship agreements.
• Renew and grow existing partnerships through donor-centered customer service practices.
• Facilitate the production of local, on-air announcements about corporate partners.
• Execute all sales fulfillment demands and provide timely follow-up feedback.
• Interact with Development Team to set revenue-generating strategies that are complimentary to our brand attributes and objectives.
• Develop a sales proposition that fully optimizes the value of our program offerings and audience utilizing i.e. on-air, off-air, online and Catholic marketplace resources.

• Network with valuable centers of influence, media partners, agencies, production companies and producers.
• Provide additional staff leadership for station events including Sharathon (on-air fund drive), and several other special fundraising events.

Requirements include:
• Practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church
• Bachelor’s degree in an aligned field of study
• 3+ years customer-focused selling experience
• Demonstrated volunteer experience in parish and Catholic environment with a good network of readily established contacts
• Obvious zeal for the Catholic faith and strong background in the teachings of the Church

Interested candidates should send resume, references, salary history, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to:
Reedemer Radio
Attn: Dir. of Development
4618 East State Blvd. Ste. 200
Fort Wayne, IN 46815
You may also choose to email all of the above information to: jobs@ReedereerRadio.com

As a religious broadcaster, Fort Wayne Catholic Radio (Reedereer Radio) has established a religious qualification for all employee positions at WBFV. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, WBFV makes reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender, among those who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.

Catholic School Principal
Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School in Lafayette, Indiana has an opening for Principal beginning in June 2015. Central Catholic serves 412 students in grades 7-12. Central Catholic seeks a visionary Principal to sustain a tradition of academic excellence within a Catholic environment. The successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church, hold a Master’s Degree in Education Administration and have administrative experience in a Catholic school. The Principal reports to the LCSS Executive Director. The Principal is responsible for implementing the policies of LCSS and the Indiana State Department of Education. The Principal is expected to provide spiritual, educational, and professional leadership to the school community.

For more information, please visit http://www.lcss.org/about/workforlcss/.

REST IN PEACE

Jeanette C. Wene, 84, St. John the Baptist 79, St. John the Baptist
Janet Ryan
James Patrick Bobay, 88, St. Anthony of Padua
Angela
Eve
Amanda Bianski
Espy, 34, Immaculate Conception
Eugene R. Palkowski, 87, St. Anthony de Padua
Matthew D. Kapsa, 34, Sacred Heart of Jesus
Carl J. Christensen, 79, Holy Family
Andrea C. Palomo, 74, Our Lady of Hungary
Rita L. Zielinski, 88, St. Casimir
Kevin J. Kusz, 55, Corpus Christi
Patricia Ann Zych, 72, Holy Family
Jeanette C. Wene, 84, St. Charles Borromeo
Sister M. Cecilia
do not hallucinate.

Yesterday's Catholic
Reach over 48,000 Catholics in each issue.
FORT WAYNE — The life of St. Maximilian Kolbe will come to the stage at the University of St. Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in a live production of Leonard Defilippis of St. Luke Productions. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Redeemer Radio are the sponsors for the two performances set Saturday, Feb. 28, at 1 and 7 p.m.

Admission is $10 for the lower level, $5 for the upper level, $15 for a family pass on the upper level. The production is suitable for ages 10 and up. The one-man live production of "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz" holds a powerful message for the culture, at a time when religious freedom and values are under attack. The drama poignantly illustrates the life of Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest whose amazing life of service to the Church and courage in the face of attacks against his faith, led to his imprisonment in the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was forced into slave labor, tortured and finally came forward to take the place of a married man, who was condemned to death by starvation.

The newly updated production of Maximilian is a perfect drama for present times, offering the faithful courage and a real sense of hope. Proving that death is not the end, but only the beginning, this story is one of sacrificial love and ultimately, of martyrdom for the Catholic Church. St. Maximilian Kolbe has a powerful yet cautionary message for all — to not take the freedoms for granted, but rather defend them.

Since its re-opening in July 2012, over 25,000 people across America have witnessed the live drama, which includes technological artistry in the form of a majestic orchestral soundtrack, full professional lighting and a video backdrop that sets the story in a historical yet relevant context.

In a letter to the faithful, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said, "I am very happy that the play ‘Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz’ will be performed twice here in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Feb. 28. I encourage the faithful to attend one of the performances to learn about the life and martyrdom of Saint Maximilian Kolbe.”

The bishop noted, “When I was a seminarian in Rome, I attended the canonization Mass of Father Kolbe by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square. Later as a bishop, I visited and prayed in the cell where Father Kolbe died in Auschwitz from an injection of carbolic acid. This great priest and martyr of the 20th century has been an inspiration to me and countless others of courageous witness of Christ, selfless love and passionate devotion to the Immaculate Virgin Mary.”

“I hope you are able to attend the play,” he added. “I hope that many in our diocese will be inspired by the life and death of this ‘Saint of Auschwitz.”

Tickets are available through parishes, the Cathedral Bookstore in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne or through email at district15@indianakofc.org.

INDIANAPOLIS — The first International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking is Sunday, Feb. 8. Churches are asked to use this date as an opportunity for prayer and awareness against human trafficking, which is tied as the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, producing $150 billion per year.

The national human trafficking hotline is available at 888-373-7888 or via SMS Text: HELP to BeFree (233733). Reports can be made to humantraffickinginfo@atg.in.gov.

Saturday, February 28, 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
University of St. Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center
431 W Berry Street - Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Admission: $10 Lower Level | $5 Upper Level | $15 Family Pass (upper level)
Suitable for Ages 10 & Up
Tickets: Available at your local parish or the Cathedral Book Store at Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street, Fort Wayne
Call (260) 399-1442 or email district15@indianakofc.org
Information: www.diocesefwso.org
Sponsored by: Redeemer Radio & The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
All proceeds benefit the Diocesan Seminarian Vocation Fund.

International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking set Feb. 8

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