



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Becoming a cardinal is a call to greater love, patience, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a Valentine's Day ceremony to create 20 new cardinals, Pope Francis offered a meditation on Christian love and, especially, what it means for those who guide and minister in the Church.

"The greater our responsibility in serving the Church, the more our hearts must expand according to the measure of the heart of Christ," he said Feb. 14 during the consistory, a prayer service during which he personally welcomed 19 churchmen into the College of Cardinals.

The 20th new cardinal, 95-year-old Colombian Cardinal Jose Pimiento Rodriguez, retired bishop of Manizales, was unable to attend the ceremony and was to receive his red biretta — a three-cornered hat — and his cardinal's ring in his homeland.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI attended the ceremony, sitting in the front row of St. Peter's Basilica alongside the already existing members of the College of Cardinals.

Pope Francis' meditation at the ceremony focused on the famous passage about love from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (13:4-7), which begins: "Love is patient, love is kind."

"All of us, myself first," should be guided by St. Paul's words, he said, because every Christian ministry "flows from charity, must be exercised in charity and is ordered toward charity."

The patience Christian love calls for, he said, is a call to catholicity. "It means being able to love without limits, but also to be faithful in particular situations and with

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

New Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, carries his scroll after receiving his red biretta from Pope Francis during a consistory at which the pope created 20 new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 14.

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RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION CELEBRATED



PHOTOS BY CHRIS LUSHIS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is presented with a Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election ceremony at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, on Feb. 15. Representatives from parishes and campus ministry departments throughout the area announced and recognized over 120 catechumens preparing to enter the Church this Easter Vigil.



The candidates stand with their sponsors as their names are read aloud during the Call to Continuing Conversion. These men and women, while already baptized, are preparing to enter full communion with the Church or to complete their reception of the sacraments of initiation. Bishop Rhoades called on all present to continue in their conversion, to resist becoming lukewarm in faith and to embrace the merciful love of Christ.

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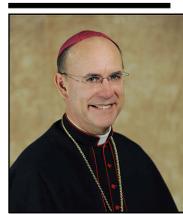
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“Lead us not into temptation”



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, we read about the temptations of Jesus in the desert of Judea. This year, we read the very short version in the Gospel of Mark. Saint Mark tells us that “the Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and He remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.” In the other Gospels, we read in more detail about the three temptations of Jesus by the devil.

Jesus withstood the temptations of the devil. He helps us to withstand the temptations to sin that can lead us away from God. We are comforted by the fact that Our Lord experienced temptation, that He entered into this domain of human life. We read in the letter to the Hebrews that “because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted” (2:18). We also read in that same letter: “For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (4:15-16).

Our Lord allowed Himself to be tempted. He has set us an example of resisting temptation with the help of grace. Out of love for us, the Son of God was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. He taught us to pray to the Father “lead us not into temptation.” This is the sixth petition of the *Our Father*.

Have you ever found this petition strange, to ask God not to lead us into temptation? Surely, God does not lead anyone into temptation. In the New Testament letter of Saint James, we read: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’, for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one” (James 1:13).

Temptation is the invitation to do evil, to sin. God abhors evil, so we cannot say that God leads us into temptation to do evil. God wants to set us free from evil. So what does the petition “lead us not into temptation” mean? It means “do not let us yield to temptation.”

God allows us to be tempted, but not beyond our strength. God allowed the devil to tempt Job as a test of his faith. But God did not abandon Job in this trial. And Job grew and made real spiritual progress through this process of purification. Job did not lose his faith in God even in the deep darkness of his suffering.

Saint Paul wrote the following in his first letter to the Corinthians: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (10:13).

Scripture teaches us that there are three sources of temptation: the flesh, the world, and the devil. The flesh represents the craving of our appetites which can become disordered and, consequently, sinful. That is one of the reasons why fasting and other penances help us in controlling our appetites. The world is really our self-centered desire to use things or people without regard to salvation and the honor and glory of God.

The third source of temptation is the devil. Unfortunately, many do not believe in the existence of the devil or diabolical spiritual beings.



PROVIDED BY WEB GALLERY OF ART, WGA.HU

A detailed portion of Sandro Botticelli's “Three Temptations of Christ” is shown in the fresco above. The art is displayed in the Sistine Chapel and dates to 1481-1482. The Italian painter from Florence lived 1445-1510.

The French poet Charles Baudelaire wrote that “the devil’s most cunning trick is to convince us that he does not exist.” In 1972, Blessed Pope Paul VI surprised many when he said that one of the greatest needs in the Church today is “the defense from that evil which is called the devil.” Paul VI said that “Evil is not merely a lack of something, but a positive agent, a living spiritual being, perverted and perverting... It is a departure from the picture provided by biblical and Church teachings to refuse to acknowledge the devil’s existence. ... Or to explain the devil as a pseudo-reality, a conceptual, fanciful personification of the unknown cause of our misfortunes.” Pope Francis, sharing Pope Paul’s concern, speaks often about the devil and his lies.

We are deceiving ourselves, or the devil is deceiving us, if we think Satan does not exist. Saint John’s Gospel calls him “the father of lies” (8:44). The Book of Revelation calls him “the deceiver of the whole world” (12:9).

Whatever the source of temptation in our lives (the flesh, the world, or the devil), we pray to God the Father: “lead us not into temptation,” that is, don’t allow us to take the way that leads to sin. Don’t let me yield to temptation.

Help me, Lord, to say no to the devil’s lies, no to selfish desires, no to hurting myself and my neighbor. Help me to say yes to You, yes to life, and yes to love.

The following reflection from our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is a practical interpretation of the sixth petition of the *Our Father*. Pope Benedict writes that when we pray “lead us not into temptation,” we are saying to God:

“I know that I need trials so that my nature can be purified. When you decide to send me these trials, when you give evil some room to maneuver, as you did with Job, then please remember that my strength goes only so far. Don’t overestimate my capacity. Don’t set too wide the boundaries within which I may be tempted, and be close to me with your protecting hand when it becomes too much for me.”

During Lent, we do battle with the temptations that have their sources in the flesh, the world, or the devil. Victory is only possible through prayer and with the help of God’s grace. May the Lord strengthen us in this battle. Let us with confidence approach the throne of grace, asking the Lord to “lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. Amen.”

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practical gestures. It means loving what is great without neglecting what is small.”

St. Paul says love is “not jealous or boastful” and truly being neither, the pope said, “is surely a miracle of love since we humans — all of us, at every stage of our lives — are inclined to jealousy and pride since our nature is wounded by sin.”

Not being “irritable or resentful” can be a challenge for a pastor, especially when dealing with other clerics, Pope Francis told the new cardinals.

“Charity alone frees us” from the temptation of snapping at others and, especially, from “the mortal danger of pent-up anger, of that smoldering anger which makes us brood over wrongs we have received,” he said. “This is unacceptable in a man of the Church.”

St. Paul’s statement that love rejoices over what is right, the pope said, means “those called to the service of governance in the Church need to have a strong sense of justice, so that any form of injustice becomes unacceptable, even those which might bring gain to himself or to the Church.”

The new cardinals and all Christians, he said, can find a synopsis of their calling in St. Paul’s affirmation that love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Christians, the pope said, should be “persons always ready to forgive; always ready to trust, because we are full of faith in God; always ready to inspire hope, because we ourselves are full of hope in God; persons ready to bear patiently every situation and each of our brothers and sisters, in union with Christ, who bore with love the bur-



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

New Cardinals Manuel Macario do Nascimento Clemente of Lisbon, Portugal, John Dew of Wellington, New Zealand, and Pierre Nguyen Van Nhon of Hanoi, Vietnam, leave in procession at the conclusion of a Mass with Pope Francis and new cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 15. The pope created 20 new cardinals at a consistory the previous day.

den of our sins.”

The 20 new cardinals come from 18 nations, including three — Cape Verde, Myanmar and Tonga — that had never had a cardinal before.

Only one of the cardinals works in the Roman Curia: French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, head of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s highest court.

With the creation of the 20 new cardinals, the College of Cardinals expanded to 227 members, 125 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

After the new cardinals professed their faith by reciting the Creed and formally swore fidelity and obedience to the pope and his successors, they approached Pope Francis one by one to receive their biretta, their cardinal’s ring and the assignment of a “titular” church in Rome, which makes them part of the Roman clergy.

In their first official act as car-

dinals, the new members of the college along with their confreres attested to their support for Pope Francis to proceed with the canonization of three women:

- Blessed Jeanne Emilie De Villeneuve, the French founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

- Blessed Mary Alphonsine Danil Ghattas, the Jerusalem-born founder of the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Jerusalem, the first Palestinian religious order.

- Blessed Mariam Baouardy, a Melkite Catholic member of the Discalced Carmelites. She was born in 1846 in Ibillin, in the Galilee region of what is now Israel, and died in Bethlehem in 1878.

The pope announced the canonization ceremony will be held May 17 and also will include the canonization of Italian Blessed Maria Cristina Brando, founder of the Oblation Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Globalization can mean ‘possibility for human solidarity,’ says priest

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Being against globalization is like being against electricity,” said Holy Cross Father Daniel Groody, the Feb. 7 keynote speaker at the Feb. 7-10 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

The choice Catholics have comes in how they acknowledge and practice globalization themselves, said Father Groody, director of Immigration Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies and an associate theology professor at the university.

The globalization of civilization can mean “a new internationalism, linking worldwide financial networks ... the McDonaldisation of world culture — some would say the Wal-Martization of culture.”



CNS PHOTO/NARONG SANGNAK, EPA

A Thai vendor pushes his cart past tourists in Bangkok Jan. 19. The globalization of civilization can mean “a new internationalism” but it also can mean “the possibility for human solidarity,” Holy Cross Father Daniel Groody said Feb. 7 during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

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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.

If you or someone you know needs special assistance in going to Confession, please contact Mary Glowaski at mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org or call 260-399-1458.

Lenten Penance Services

- Christ the King Parish, 52473 State Road 933, South Bend, will have Lenten confessions on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. as part of the parish mission.
- St. Dominic, 803 W. Bike St., Bremen, will have their Lenten Parish Reconciliation Service on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. Confessions in both Spanish and English.
- St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., Fort Wayne, will have their Lenten Penance Service on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. as part of the parish mission.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Saturday, Feb. 21 to Saturday, Feb. 28 — Co-Chair Meeting of International Catholic — Reformed Theological Dialogue, Ghent, Belgium

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receives grants totaling \$28,000

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently received grants totaling \$28,000 from the Black and Indian Mission Fund, Washington, D.C. The grant money will be used to assist Black and Native American students in need at the following respective parishes and schools:

In Fort Wayne:

- Bishop Luers High School — \$7,500 for tuition assistance
- St. John the Baptist School — \$3,500 for tuition assistance
- St. Therese School — \$7,000 for tuition assistance

In South Bend:

- Our Lady of Hungary School — \$5,000 for tuition assistance
 - St. Anthony School — \$5,000 for tuition assistance
- The annual diocesan-wide collection to assist the Black and Indian Missions is taken up on Feb. 22, the First Sunday of Lent.

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GROODY

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Father Groody said, but it can also mean "the possibility for human solidarity."

The priest offered some numbers to underscore the need for human solidarity: 19 percent of the world's population lives on less than \$1.25 a day, and 95 percent lives on less

than \$33 a day. In terms of assets, "half the world has a little more than \$27 to their name," while the top 1 percent has \$500,000 or more. And, according to one statistic Father Groody said he unearthed in late January, "the richest 1 percent of the world will have as much wealth as the other 99 percent by 2016," while the richest 80 people in the world collectively have as much wealth as the world's poorest 3.5 billion people.

Given that military spending worldwide is estimated at close to

\$1.75 trillion annually, "for less than one day's military spending, we could eliminate malaria in Africa," Father Groody said. "For one week's military spending, we could provide education for all the people in Africa who have never attended school."

Father Groody said that justice can be defined as "a right relationship." When something is not right within us, something is amiss, he added. "That's what Christ came for — to bring us into right relationships again."

Likening the most common forms of human interaction to sonar, radar and the global positioning system, Father Groody said: "There are documents that help us in the way of navigation. There's a great gift in the Catholic Church, a great gift in Catholic social teaching." The challenge for Catholics is "how do you take all of these things" and synthesize them, he added.

The priest talked about encountering an Iraqi refugee last fall in a refugee camp in Bulgaria. The man told Father Groody, "ISIS came to my door. They asked, 'What are you?' 'I am a Christian.' 'Why are you a Christian?' 'Because I'm tired of the war and the fighting. I want peace, and Christ gives me peace.'"

Father Groody said the man told him that the members of ISIS, an acronym for Islamic State, left his house, and the man did, too. But when he returned home he found that "ISIS killed my mom, my dad, my sister and my two brothers."

The story highlighted freedom as a combination of rights and responsibilities, one of several themes Father Groody outlined under the rubric "We are about the proclamation of a God of life and we are about the proclamation of a cavitation of love."

Another theme was an analysis of solidarity. "What does God want for our world?" Father Groody asked. He said the gratuity of God, another theme, was "at the heart of Christian social teaching."

The dignity of the human person, according to Father Groody, is "at the core" of Catholic social teaching. He told the story of a Latin American immigrant who was buffeted by freezing temperatures in the mountains, scorching heat in the desert, as well as hunger and thirst, as he journeyed to the United States, but the worst indignity of all, the immigrant said, was "when people treat you like a dog."

"Every person, even the most heinous person, has dignity before God," Father Groody said.

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Religious freedom bill advances in Senate

STATEHOUSE — Legislation to provide religious freedom advanced in the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee Feb. 9, heard testimony on Senate Bill 101, which if passed would restore religious freedom to Hoosiers. Religious freedom in some cases has been compromised due to contraceptive mandates and legal requirements to recognize same sex couples' unions as a "marriage." Catholic organizations and business owners have been legally forced to act contrary to basic Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life and marriage.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference who testified before the panel in support of the bills said, "Religious freedom doesn't just apply to worship on Sunday or in our homes, but it involves enabling us to live our lives of faith in the community. The Catholic Church has done this for hundreds of years. We are provided an opportunity to serve the common good in the secular sense, while we live out our faith."

Sen. Scott Schneider, R-Indianapolis, co-author of SB 101, said the goal of the legislation is to create a workable test striking a sensible balance between religious liberty and competing prior governmental interests.

"The purposes of this act are two-fold," said Schneider. "It is to restore the compelling interest test and guarantee its application in all cases where free exercise of religion is substantially burdened and to provide a claim or defense to persons

whose religious exercise is substantially burdened by government."

Schneider explained that the religious freedom bill establishes to restore the compelling interest test meaning the religious practitioner must prove that their practice of religion has been substantially burdened. If they prove this, the state may come back and prove that it is a compelling state interest for them to do so. If the state does prove that, the state must do so in the "least restrictive" means. "This sets a foundation and framework for what the government must do and what tests they must pass before it restricts religious freedom," Schneider said. Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn is also a co-author on the bill.

The federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) does not apply to states. Beginning in 1993, states began adopting state RFRA laws. Currently, 19 states have passed RFRA legislation, and 10 states' constitutions have been interpreted to restore the compelling interest test when cases of the exercise of religion are substantially burdened.

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo, minister general of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in Fort Wayne, told the panel that freedom of religion is not simply the right to worship, but to serve. Citing the parable of the Good Samaritan, Father Engo said Christians are called to serve without discrimination. "It has always been the Judeo-Christian faith that has taught us that faith

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

must be expressed, acted upon and lived in the Church, at home and in the public square. St. James tells us, "Faith without works is dead."

"My religious community of Franciscans and I continue this work," said Father Engo. "Our faith cannot be truly alive, if Christians do not have the freedom to not only worship our God, but to serve Him. Serving our God has always been the business of the Church."

Father Engo noted that Indiana is home to three-quarters of a million Catholics, with more than 400 Catholic churches, 20 Catholic hos-

pitals, 20 Catholic nursing homes and well-over 200 institutions of Catholic learning ranging from pre-K to graduate school. "Where there is a need, the Church is there to help," said Father Engo.

Peter Breen, St. Thomas More Society Special Council said that Indiana's RFRA is not about "re-setting a right, but to put a broad fence around it."

Breen, a constitutional lawyer, said, "When we are looking at our core fundamental rights, free speech, free exercise of religion, a prudent lawmaker puts a broad fence around it."

Breen, who serves as a state legislator in Illinois, called RFRA legislation making "rare moments" for legislators.

Fiona Devan, representing Cummins Engine spoke in opposition saying that the RFRA bill would cause potential liabilities in their ability to attract the best and brightest because it sends an inhos-

pitabile or discriminatory message. It could also disrupt their company's policies to make reasonable religious accommodations for their employees, which currently they are making.

Jane Henegar, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, Indiana Chapter, also opposed Indiana's RFRA bill. She said that while the ACLU has for many years defended religious liberty, in more recent years the civil rights community has consistently expressed concerns about religious liberty protection, such as RFRA's. They might create unintended consequences, namely a violation of civil rights.

Constitutional lawyers who testified stated that Indiana's proposed RFRA law does strike a reasonable balance between free exercise of religion and any state compelling interests including civil rights laws.

Senate Bill 101 is expected to be voted on by the Senate the last week of February.



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Bishop says ruling means Church not free 'to practice what we preach'

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — A three-judge panel's Feb. 11 ruling on a court challenge to the contraceptive mandate "says that the Church is no longer free to practice what we preach," Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said. The panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a decision by a federal judge last November to grant the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses a temporary injunction against enforcement of the mandate. Under the federal health care law, most employers, including religious ones, are required to cover employees' artificial birth control, sterilization and abortion-causing drugs, even if employers are morally opposed to such coverage. "I am deeply disappointed in this decision," Bishop Zubik said in a statement. "Such a ruling should cause deep concern for anyone who cares about any First Amendment rights, especially the right to teach and practice a religious faith. Some of our Catholic beliefs are counter-cultural. Our employees work for us understanding that and, in many cases, giving thanks that they work for an institution that upholds those very values." The Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses filed suit against the government over the mandate citing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The appeals panel ruling would require Catholic institutions, such as Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, to facilitate access to contraceptive coverage through its employee health care plans or else face massive fines.

Poll shows majority support religious freedom in marriage debate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A recent Associated Press poll shows that while a plurality of Americans support the legalization of same-sex marriage, a majority believe that the religious liberty of those who object to such marriages, including owners of wedding-related businesses, should still be respected. The poll, which was conducted between Jan. 1 and Feb. 2, shows that 44 percent of Americans favor legalization of same-sex marriage, 39 percent oppose it and 15 percent "neither favor nor oppose" legalization of such marriages. Respondents also were asked this question: "In states where same-sex couples can be married legally, do you think that wedding-related businesses with religious objections should be allowed to refuse service to same-sex couples, or not?" Fifty-seven percent of those polled said that "they should be allowed to refuse service," and only 39 percent said "no, they should not be allowed" to do so. Four percent refused to respond. The poll's results on legalizing same-sex marriage show "that support for the truth about marriage is too low and, thus, we all must renew our efforts at explaining what marriage is and why marriage matters," said Ryan T. Anderson, William E. Simon fellow in religion and a free society at the

NEWS BRIEFS

DISPLACED IRAQI YEZIDI CHILDREN GREET CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE WORKERS, U.S. BISHOP



CNS PHOTO/DALE GAVLAK

Displaced Iraqi Yazidi children greet Catholic Relief Service workers and a delegation of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led by Bishop Oscar Cantu, during a visit to Shariah Collective, Iraq, Jan. 17.

Heritage Foundation. "It's not that people have heard the case for marriage and rejected it — it is just that they have never heard it," he told Catholic News Service.

Catholics urged to remember 'common good' in vaccine debate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A nationwide measles outbreak that began at an amusement park in Southern California has fostered an ongoing debate about people's social obligation to have themselves and their children vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella and other diseases. According to the latest figure from the Centers for Disease Control, the current outbreak has resulted in 121 cases in 17 states and the District of Columbia and raised anew concerns about parents who won't immunize their children for a variety of reasons. Over the years, the Catholic Church has raised moral concerns about vaccines manufactured with human cell lines derived from voluntarily aborted fetuses. It has urged Catholics to push for the development of morally acceptable vaccines, but in the absence of such alternatives, has said Catholics must not reject immunizations and "sac-

rifice the common good of public health" or their children's well-being. Just six weeks into the new year, the United States already had a sixth of the total number of reported measles cases for 2014 — 644. The statistic is even more striking when compared to the number of reported cases from 2001 to 2011: The median number was 62. The CDC's website states that "in 2000, the United States declared that measles was eliminated from the country" as the result of "a highly effective measles vaccine, a strong vaccination program that achieves high vaccine coverage in children and strong public health system for detecting and responding to measles cases and outbreaks."

Pope opens cardinals' discussion of Curia reform; new offices explained

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The reform of the Roman Curia should promote "greater harmony" among the Vatican offices, not primarily to save money or promote efficiency, but to solidify the unity of the Church and strengthen its ability to evangelize, Pope Francis said. The pope arrived in the Vatican's synod hall a half

hour before the consistory, or meeting of the world's cardinals, was set to begin Feb. 12. Fewer than two dozen cardinals were there before him and the pope greeted them before standing at the front of the hall to welcome each of the others as they arrived. Nineteen of the 20 churchmen Pope Francis was to induct into the College of Cardinals Feb. 14 were present — sitting in two rows behind the other cardinals; the Vatican said a total of 165 new and old cardinals were present. Including those who were about to receive their red hats, the College of Cardinals has 227 members. Most of those who were not in attendance are quite elderly or infirm and were unable to attend. Pope Francis scheduled the meeting primarily to discuss with the cardinals the proposals his nine-member international Council of Cardinals had developed for the reform of the Curia. The proposals include the creation of two new large, high-profile Vatican offices: the Congregation for Laity, Family and Life, and the Congregation for Charity, Justice and Peace, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. The charity and justice congregation would include the existing pontifical councils for health care and for migrants, but also would have a new section dedicated to "safeguarding creation."

Governor puts off executions, says system 'riddled with flaws'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia praised the announcement by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf Feb. 13 that he is granting a reprieve for death-row inmate Terrence Williams, who was scheduled to be executed March 4. In a memo, Wolf said he would extend the reprieve to each of the 186 inmates on the state's death row as their scheduled executions approach, all pending the outcome of a study of the use of the death penalty in Pennsylvania. Archbishop Chaput said he was grateful to Wolf "for choosing to take a deeper look into these studies and I pray we can find a better way to punish those who are guilty of these crimes. Turning away from capital punishment does not diminish our support for the families of murder victims. They bear a terrible burden of grief and they rightly demand justice," said the archbishop. "But killing the guilty does not honor the dead nor does it ennoble the living. When we take a guilty person's life we only add to the violence in an already violent culture and we demean our own dignity in the process." Wolf said there was no question Williams was guilty of the 1984 murder he committed at age 18 and for which he was convicted and sentenced to death in 1986. But the governor said he was granting the reprieve "because the capital punishment system has significant and widely recognized defects."

Anticipation building for papal encyclical on environment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The much-anticipated encyclical by Pope Francis on the environment, expected sometime this spring or early summer, is generating a lot of buzz in Washington and elsewhere. At the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, a Feb. 9 panel discussion on climate change and other environmental issues had to be moved to a larger room. "We usually get 15, 20 people," said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, prefacing his remarks. Surveying the scene in the larger room, he added, "It's never been this full." In St. Paul, Minnesota, in November, there were hopes that an address by Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Institute for Justice and Peace, at Catholic Rural Life's "Faith, Food and the Environment" symposium would give listeners an early glimpse into the mind of the pope in hopes that the cardinal and the pope were of like mind on the topic. However, Cardinal Turkson was reassigned to coordinate the Vatican's response to the Ebola crisis and never made an address. But in Washington, like-mindedness can be hard to come by. "Already there are people criticizing the pope" over the encyclical "and they haven't even seen it," Misleh said.

St. John the Baptist, New Haven, to hold mission

NEW HAVEN — All are invited to attend the 2015 “Come Follow Me” Lenten Parish Mission at St. John the Baptist, New Haven, from Feb. 22-25 starting at 7 p.m. Noted Catholic speaker Redemptorist Father Greg Schmitt will hold hour-long discussions that will inspire the faithful and those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Free babysitting and refreshments will be available, and transportation will be provided for those in need. For more information, call the parish office at 260-493-4553 or email scottwarden@msn.com.

St. Therese to host parish mission

FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Parish will hold a “Be Renewed in the Fullness of Christ’s Love” parish mission March 1-4. All are welcome. The mission will begin in the Parish Hall on March 1 with an opening prayer at 6 p.m. followed by a free pasta dinner served by local Knights of Columbus Council 9496.

At 7 p.m., Franciscan Father Bertin Miller of St. Louis, Missouri, will speak on “Called to Proclaim the Presence, Love and Support of Our God.”

On March 2 at 7 p.m. in St. Therese Church, beginning with an opening prayer, four lay people will address the congregation with short, faith-sharing talks based on Scripture, each followed by an appropriate hymn. The evening will close with prayer, and refreshments served in the parish hall.

On March 3, after an opening hymn and prayer at 7 p.m., a Reconciliation service will be held followed by an opportunity for individual Confession.

The parish mission will close on March 4 with a Mass at 7 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with Spiritan Father Lawrence Teteh, pastor, serving as concelebrant. Following the Mass, fellowship and refreshments will take place in the parish hall.

Childcare is available for children age 10 and under. For transportation needs call the parish office at 260-747-9139.

Annual overnight retreat for young adults slated March 14

SOUTH BEND — The Annual Overnight Retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, will be held Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, South Bend.

The theme for the retreat is “The Way of Love.”

Retreatant will be offered a chance to get away from the busyness of daily life and deepen their relationship with God. The retreat will contain relevant talks, Adoration, Confession, Mass both days and a coffee house social. Included are snacks, lunch and dinner on Saturday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Registration is required by

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP RHOADES SPEAKS OF MARIAN DEVOTION AT THEOLOGY ON TAP IN GRANGER



CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to young adults from throughout the diocese during a Theology on Tap talk at Villa Macri Ristorante in Granger on Feb. 10. Bishop Rhoades’ speech on the Blessed Mother highlighted the Church’s teachings on Mary, the significance of her maternal mediation in the world, his own favorite Marian devotions and advice for growing closer to Mary through the rosary, the scapular and Marian Consecration.

contacting www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-retreats.

Pastoral texts available through Lent

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Anthony Wayne Assembly is sponsoring a daily text message during the Lenten season. Priests throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades have provided text messages.

Text “GO CATHOLIC” to 20300 to receive daily messages throughout Lent. Message and data rates may apply.

Ignited Retreat for teens scheduled for March 6-8

MISHAWAKA — The Ignited Retreat for teens has been scheduled for March 6-8 at Marian High School. Doors will open Friday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., with the retreat beginning at 7 p.m. The retreat will conclude after Mass on Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m.

All teens from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are invited. Don’t miss this opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ in a deep and transforming way. Come grow in faith with hundreds of other high school teens, great priests, brothers, sisters, adult leaders, musicians and

more. Visit www.IgnitedRetreat.com to watch the video and learn more. Registration required.

USF to host restorative justice lecture

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Theology, and Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Jail Ministry are presenting a lecture featuring the topic of restorative justice and its potential to heal social issues. “Voices of Restoration” will be presented on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. in the USF North Campus, 2702 Spring St., Fort Wayne.

The event will feature Misty Wallace, who was a victim of a violent crime some years ago, but chose to dedicate her life to helping others deal with the fear, isolation and resentment that can result from such incidents. Wallace is the Indianapolis regional coordinator of the Bridges to Life program, which works to bring healing to victims of crime, reduce repeat offenses and make communities safer. Since 2000, Bridges to Life has completed 649 projects in 67 prisons and continues to grow.

At “Voices of Restoration,” Wallace will tell her story of transformation, then attendees are welcome to join the discussion as

the effects of restorative justice will be examined.

This event is free to the public. For more information, contact Audrey Anweiler at 260-969-9146 or aanweiler@diocesefwsb.org, or Sister Jacinta Krecek at 260-399-7700, ext. 8123 or jkrecek@sf.edu.

Local advisor earns membership in Million Dollar Round Table

P A R K RIDGE, Ill. — Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Phillip J. Stackowicz, FICF of the Knights of Columbus, John J. Stackowicz



PHILLIP J. STACKOWICZ

Agency in South Bend to earn membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT).

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney for benefiting widows and orphans of deceased members. It has grown to one of the premier life insurance companies in the industry.

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ‘TIES UP CANCER’



PROVIDED BY BOB LIST

Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, students and staff had the opportunity to wear one of Principal James Faroh’s ties during Catholic Schools Week for a donation. All proceeds went to the American Cancer Society for research. Faroh has collected ties for over 40 years and has over 500 in a variety of widths, styles, holidays, special themes, hilarious, commemorative, character and more. Faroh selected his “signature tie” to wear that was specially embroidered for him with his name. The students were taught how to tie a tie and enjoyed donating to a worthy cause. Pictured are students, staff, Juliana Newbill, specialist for the Relay For Life, and Principal Faroh, near front center, presenting the check.

St. Vincent School: Hard work pays dividends in a

BY DENISE FEDOROW

ELKHART — The teachers and students at St. Vincent De Paul School in Elkhart have been working very hard these last couple of years to improve academic excellence and it's paid off with improved state scores. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades recognized the efforts by the staff, students and principal at a Mass celebrated during a pastoral visit Feb. 12.

"I'm very aware of how hard you've been working to make St. Vincent's a school of academic excellence," Bishop Rhoades said. "Congratulations for the extraordinary grades you received."

Principal Tom Gropp spoke about the improvement.

"It's a testament to our students, teachers and parents," he said. "Our educational strength is our teachers learned to differentiate well — placing kids in groups so they can address their needs better. We meet them where they are — whether that entails pulling them out of class for English as a New Language or offering after-school help."

He shared that an educational consultant — Doepker Consulting — has been working with teachers to track data and implement data driven instruction.

"We still have a long way to go, but it's neat to see the system unfold and see my staff embrace it," Gropp noted. "It's a blessing to see the eyes light up when they see the results of it."

After celebrating Mass, but before visiting each classroom, Bishop Rhoades blessed the images of the students' classroom patron saints.

As Bishop Rhoades visited each classroom, he asked a student to introduce him to the teacher. He also asked each class what they were learning in religion class and about their patron saint. If the students had learned a new prayer and knew it well, the bishop prayed the prayer with the students and then gave them a blessing.

The fourth graders had all memorized the Memorare. The sixth graders were learning the Ten Commandments and recited the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. The first graders introduced Bishop Rhoades to a poem about the Trinity Snowman, and the third-grade class shared they've been learning to say the sign of the cross in several languages — Chinese, French, Latin and Polish.

The bishop also toured the Vincent House — the old convent that is attached to the school and currently houses the pre-school classes on the first floor while the upper floors contain a computer lab and space for the youth group and religious education classes.

After a tour of the school the bishop ate a catered lunch with the staff.

School programs

Principal Gropp said the students attend Mass at least twice a week plus on feast days and have a monthly prayer service.

A unique program that St. Vincent offers is the St. Vincent De Paul Club for fourth through sixth graders, based on the patron saint and model of the school. The club members focus on service projects for the parish and the community.

Club members have served and cleaned up at spaghetti dinner fundraisers, planted flowers around the parish, conducted food drives and visited nursing homes.

The school also offers a music program. Athletics include basketball, volleyball, football, boys' and girls' track, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' softball and cheerleading.

Why St. Vincent?

Gropp said first and foremost is the family-like atmosphere and the small school advantage.

"People have told me when they walk in the door they feel that cozy feeling," he said. "At the root of it, our education is founded on Jesus. Our faith is the foundation of whatever we do and is interwoven throughout the school day."

"Our teachers strive for educational excellence and put their heart and soul into every individual and they don't rest until they figure out what the child needs."

Sixth-grade teacher Tara Lundy has been teaching at St. Vincent for 13 years and said about her tenure, "I feel the presence of God is apparent through the respect and admiration the students and staff have for one another. Our students work really hard to achieve their personal best. Our staff is uniquely bound by our love and trust for each other. St. Vincent's is an amazing place to grow educationally and spiritually."

Gropp said Father Matt Coonan and Father Zak Barry are "extremely engaged in the school. They try to be present as much as possible with the students, even as far as working with students in reading groups. They know what our goals and visions are and the kids love to have them around."

Father Coonan, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, said, "It's a joy to be here."

He feels blessed to be with the students and see how they develop. As for parish support of the school, Father Coonan said, "We have a great school board and people who are incredibly generous with their time and finances to support our school."

Parent Biviana Loera's daughters are in third and fifth grades at St. Vincent de Paul School. Her son graduated last year. She said as a child she came to Elkhart and stayed with family for a month before making the permanent move, and she attended St. Vincent during that time.

"My experience was great and I wanted my children to experience that same genuine, loving and welcoming feeling that I felt," Loera noted.

She considers the school's diversity to be a strength, along with the great teaching staff. Loera, like parents Robert Schmidt and Gisella Martinez, all want their children to have a strong education in the Catholic faith as well.

Gropp concluded, "We are always looking for different ideas to improve and give our kids the best experience."



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Matt Coonan are Father Matt Coonan.



Students of St. Vincent de Paul School in Elkhart are eager to answer a question of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during his homily on Feb. 12.



St. Vincent de Paul School Principal Tom Gropp, right, is shown in the classroom of second-grade teacher Leslee McCaffery.

Academic excellence



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Rhoades poses with students holding the pictures of classroom saints. In the back Coonan, pastor, and Father Zak Barry, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.



Students of Kristen Curry's kindergarten class raise their hands to answer a question from Bishop Rhoades.



Father Matt Coonan proclaims the Gospel at Mass celebrated during Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' pastoral visit to St. Vincent de Paul School, Elkhart, on Feb. 12.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gathers with sixth-grade students of Tara Lundy.

St. Vincent de Paul School
 1114 Main St., Elkhart
 Est. 1881

- Pastor Father Matt Coonan
- Principal, Tom Gropp
- Grades preschool-6
- 130 students
- 11 teachers, 11 staff members

School Colors: Green and white
Mascot: Trojans

School Pledge: "I believe that Jesus is present in each of my classmates, in my teachers and in me. Therefore all my actions will show my respect for Jesus."

Seniors trained on the job by Catholic Charities program

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — With the uncertain economic situation in the U.S. many are finding it difficult to find adequate employment, especially those considered to be part of the over 55 senior population. Fortunately, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend currently offers a program to address just that. Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) offers assistance to eligible low-income seniors, age 55 and older, in finding employment opportunities by building confidence and skills through temporary paid on-the-job training in community service positions.

Chris Smith, SCSEP project director, says the program currently serves 103 participants across six counties, including Adams, Allen, Dekalb, Huntington, Whitley and Wabash, who have found the program not only through word of mouth but through informational fliers distributed throughout the community and online as well.

Funded by grants through the Department of Labor, participants whose skills and interests are matched to paying community jobs are considered employees of the Title 5 job-training program.

For acceptance into the program, applicants must be 55 or older and live at 125 percent of the federal poverty level. Those with a domestic violence or crimes against children criminal record are not eligible for the program.

Smith says the program has assisted seniors in the 55 to 75 year



KAY COZAD

Chris Smith, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) project director talks with former SCSEP participant Eliza Jackson in his office at Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne. Jackson became a permanent employee of Catholic Charities recently after working in the seniors' employment training program.

old range with the oldest being 88. Following the top priority of placing veterans and those with disabilities for the program, Smith says, "Then the most in need are those with low literacy skills, limited English-speaking skills, the homeless or at risk of being homeless."

After completing an application and the interview process, Smith analyzes the information and matches the qualified applicant with a host agency that will benefit both. Host agencies are required to be government or non-profit organizations to participate in the program

and currently include schools, libraries, social service agencies, hospitals senior centers and museums. St. Vincent de Paul and Urban League are only two of the network of agencies with which Smith works.

SCSEP participants typically work 20 hours each week at \$7.25 an hour. The hands-on training hours last from six to nine months and do not provide benefits. Participants must apply for unsubsidized employment through their stay in the program. "We want to get them in, train them and then get them unsubsidized jobs. Then we

can bring someone else in. It's a real program—hands on. A very workable deal," says Smith, adding that many host agencies hire the trainees as permanent employees.

Participants can utilize the program for up to four years. "But we like to try and keep it around a year," notes Smith. Catholic Charities also offers assistance with computer skills so participants can apply for jobs online.

The SCSEP, formerly known as Senior Aides, was founded in 1976 at Catholic Charities, Smith reports, with the idea to "get seniors out and active in the community with pay to help them financially."

"It was a social welfare program then, but has evolved to job training to get a job," says Smith, noting that he provides his clients with resources and referrals, and bus passes as well. "We want them to be successful as Christ would have us do. ... We treat these people with dignity and respect. ... This is a ministry—very practical," he says.

Some participants find themselves moved from one job to another when issues arise. "Many haven't worked in a long time. We take baby steps—always looking for the right fit," says Smith. "We're patient but persistent."

Eliza Jackson is one success story of the SCSEP. A native of Fort Wayne, Jackson worked at Superior Essex for 31 years eventually as an administrative assistant. After a lay-off in 2009 she found herself in the unemployment line, too young for retirement.

Temporary employment helped pay the bills but she felt trapped. "I stumbled over the (SCSEP) on the computer," says Jackson, who admits when she saw the age requirement she hesitated because, "I didn't feel like I was a senior."

Following her application she received a call and an interview and felt it was the right move at the time. She was matched first at the Women's Bureau where she used her administrative skills for a year. United Way was a second match where she stayed for two years. "Then I rotated to Catholic Charities and in less than a year I was asked if I was interested in permanent work," says Jackson.

Currently Jackson works four days a week, three as a case manager for SCSEP and one in Resources and Referrals. "I enjoy it. I stay busy. I like the people I work with and enjoy working with the clients. ... To find something you like doing! Everyday I say, 'Thank you, Lord, for my job!'" she says, adding enthusiastically, "It's a great program!"

Smith notes that as the program evolves, he is always looking for new participants as well as new host agencies. "If they are looking for talented, experienced, trustworthy people, call me," he says.

For more information on Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) contact Chris Smith at 260-422-5625, ext. 286 or smithc@ccfwsb.org.

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Creating the future: the family fully alive

The diocesan registration for accommodations for the Theological Congress preceding the World Meeting for Families remains open until March 1. At the time of this writing, rooms are still available. Also, please remember Bishop Rhoades' invitation to respond to his questionnaire in preparation for the Synod on the Family this October. The questionnaire will remain online until Feb. 25. The registration and questionnaire are both available on the diocesan website at www.diocesefwsb.org.

Catechesis: Part Five

When spouses become parents, the inner dynamic of God's creation and the marriage sacrament is made visible in a beautiful and particularly clear way. When a husband and wife have children after the pattern of Christ's love for us, this same love also orients the new parents to their children's education and spiritual formation. "These children are links in a chain," said Pope Francis when he recently baptized 32 babies. "You parents have a baby son or daughter to be baptized, but,

in several years, it will be they that have a baby to baptize or a grandchild; and so, the chain of faith!"

Parents should nurture and usher children into their community's relationship with God. Thus Deuteronomy say: Recite and share the glories of God with your children. Jesus says the same thing to His disciples: Let them come unto Me. Both Deuteronomy and Jesus are speaking to us. Both of them are saying: Make sure the children in your care have a relationship with God and the people of God. Teach children to pray and contemplate the Lord. Nurture this daily in your home, and do not create obstacles to it.

This vocation gives purpose to Catholic parenting. The same love that sweeps up men and women, teaching them the ways of the covenant and bringing them to the Sacrament of Marriage, leads a couple to become a family. A husband and wife become a father and mother: "From the wedlock of Christians there comes the family, in which new citizens of human society are born, who by the grace of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism are made children of God, thus perpetuating the people



LOVE IS OUR MISSION

FRED AND LISA EVERETT

of God through the centuries."

Vatican II called the family a "domestic church," an *Ecclesia domestica*: The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation, which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state. The vocational nature of family life requires living with attentiveness. "Every human life is called to some task by God," but, like building a marriage, discerning a vocation does not "come from the air." The habits of discernment can be taught

FAMILY, PAGE 12

CRS in Tanzania

As Catholics believe that every human person has a special value and purpose. It is our responsibility therefore to care for one another so that we can live to our full potential. This theme of human dignity drives the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

In Tanzania, which is located in East Africa, more than 70 percent of farmers work on plots of land smaller than three acres. For comparison, the average farm size in the United States is 441 acres. Like our local area, one of the major crops in Tanzania is soybeans. These soybeans are in high demand for poultry feed. To help farmers better produce a high quality soybean crop, CRS has worked with local farmers on a project called Soya ni Pesa, in English, Soybeans are Money. CRS works with 11,250 soybean farmers in the program to help them produce a higher-quality product for less money than they would be able to with imported soybeans or feed made from fish. The project also benefits the farmers' customers. They save money by buying from the group in bulk. This program allows the growers to be able to provide healthy food for their families as they receive more revenue to buy higher quality food.

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) teaches us that God puts great value in little things. In Soya ni Pesa, a simple soybean has changed the lives of many people. St. Therese read Scripture to discern God's plan for her life. She found a calling to a "little way of spiritual childhood." She accepted little sacrifices as ways to serve and praise God in the ordinariness of everyday life. St. Therese spent her time in a cloistered community, yet she is the patron of missionaries. She desired to be a missionary, but her lifestyle prevented actually being a missionary. So, she spent time in prayer praying for the work of missions. Not all of us can make our way to Tanzania to work in mission, but we can all pray for the work of those who are able. How does your prayer life help you make

CRS RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

sense of those necessary limitations in your life? This week, use this prayer to inspire your "little way" through Lent.

God of all nations, You reveal Yourself in all things. Help us to find You in the ordinary, everyday tasks of our lives. Help us to follow the example of St. Therese, offering sacrifices — no matter how small — for your greater glory. May we work to build Your kingdom on earth in little ways, recognizing that it is through the little actions we take in our lives that true global solidarity is found. We ask this through the child Jesus, the patron of St. Therese. Amen.

During your Lenten prayer this week, use some of these questions to guide your reflections in the theme of human dignity. Am I responsible for treating others unjustly? Do I care how workers are treated, whether they are paid a living wage or are regarded with respect? In response to what you have learned about St. Therese's "little way," reflect on the injustices that happen between family members, friends and co-workers when we talk to and/or about one another in a way that is unkind. How can you be a repairer and restorer of relationships this week?

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

The Lord calls upon people to repent



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

1st Sunday of Lent Mk 1:12-15

The first reading, from the Book of Genesis, presents the familiar story of Noah. It is a story of contrast and of the consequences of this contrast. Noah was faithful, whereas the world almost universally was not faithful.

God protected Noah from doom, to which the sinful world succumbed. Warned by God, Noah took his family, and couples of the various animals, onto the ark, or ship, that Noah constructed. As the floodwaters ebbed, the ark settled on dry land. By God's help, all aboard Noah's ark survived.

God assures Noah, and all people that never again would a flood destroy the earth. God promises a Covenant with Noah's people. Under this Covenant, or solemn agreement, the people would obey God's law. In turn, God would protect them from peril.

It is the foundational story of all that would be revealed in the long history of salvation. Sin destroys, while God gives the truly faithful life itself.

The second reading is from the Second Epistle of Peter. It states that it was composed in Babylon, surely a symbol of Rome, the mighty, magnificent to behold imperial capital, but also the center of

paganism and of the impious culture of the time.

Roman Christians at the time required encouragement. This epistle provided such encouragement by recalling the faithfulness of Noah. God protects and saves the faithful, who in baptism and in holiness identify themselves with Jesus.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is very brief, only a few verses, but its brevity gives it drama and directness in its message.

Use of the number "40" is revealing, suggesting as it does the 40 days spent by Moses in the desert before God gave him the law on Sinai. Jesus is the bearer of God's holy word, as was Moses. Jesus is as concentrated in the task of serving God, as was Moses in his time.

Wild beasts were all about, no literary figment but a reality, yet today, in the Judean wilderness. Yet, angels protected Jesus. Mark does not lose the chance again to assert that Jesus is the Son of God.

At last, indicated by John's arrest and his removal from the role of prophet, the culmination of salvation awaits. Jesus steps forward, proclaiming that God's majesty will be seen. The Lord calls upon the people to repent. "The time of fulfillment" is at hand. God will be vindicated. Jesus has come to set everything in balance. The sinful will be laid low. The good will endure.

Reflection

The Church has begun Lent, the most intense period in its year of calling its people to union with God. While Ash Wednesday was the first day of Lent, many Catholics will begin the Lenten process with this weekend's Mass.

The readings call people to face

the facts of life as humans, of good and evil, and of the products of good and evil.

Regardless of the exact details of the flood described in Genesis, so often discussed and indeed questioned on scientific grounds, the religious message of Noah and his ark is clear. It supplies a fitting beginning to reflection for Lent. Sin, the willful rejection of God, leads necessarily and always to destruction.

The message of Christ is never, in the end, filled with woe and despair. God offers eternal life and peace here and now. For those who fail, God is forgiving and merciful, so long as the wayward see their faults and ask for mercy.

Essential to asking for forgiveness is to acknowledge personal sin. We must delve deeply into our hearts and minds and scrutinize what we have done.

We must focus. We must be frank with ourselves. For these purposes, we now begin our 40 days of concentration upon salvation.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1

Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19

Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,

12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25

Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5,

7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Saint of the Week



Seven Servite Founders

13th century
Feast February 17

In 1233, seven Florentine laymen — two married, two widowed, three single, all well-known merchants and members of a Marian confraternity — abandoned homes, jobs and wealth for a life of poverty, prayer and penance at Monte Senario, where they built a chapel and hermitage. Within a few years, they had formed the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, or Servites, a mendicant order that received formal papal approval in 1304. The seven founders, jointly canonized in 1888, are: Bonfillius, Bonajuncta, Amadeus, Hugh, Manettus, Sostene and Alexis. Alexis, who out of modesty refused ordination, served the order in various ways as a lay brother; he outlived the other founders and reportedly died at age 110.

Assistance with the battle of the bulge

Bariatric surgery, which often involves banding of the stomach, is a widely used procedure for treating severe obesity. Another approach that relies on an implantable “stomach pacemaker” also appears poised to assist those struggling with significant weight gain.

Many people have already benefited from these kinds of surgical interventions, enabling them to shed a great deal of weight, improve their health and get a new lease on life.

At the same time, however, it’s important for us to examine such interventions from an ethical point of view. It’s not simply a matter of weight loss, achieved by any means whatsoever, but a rational decision made after carefully weighing the risks, benefits and alternatives.

Bjorn Hofmann, a medical ethicist who writes about the ethical issues surrounding obesity-correction techniques notes, “Bariatric surgery is particularly interesting because it uses surgical methods to modify healthy organs, is not curative, but offers symptom relief for a condition that is considered to result from lack of self-control and is subject to significant prejudice.”

The healthy organ that is modified is the stomach, which may be either banded or surgically modified with staples to create a small stomach pouch. This causes food to be retained in the small pouch for a longer period of time, creating a feeling of fullness, with the effect of reducing how much a person ingests at a single meal.

Like any surgical technique, bariatric surgery has risks associated with it: Mortality from the surgery itself is less than one percent, but post-surgical leakage into the abdomen or malfunction of the outlet from the stomach pouch can require further surgeries. Nearly 20 percent of patients experience chronic gastrointestinal symptoms. Wound infections, clot formation, vitamin deficiencies, cardiorespiratory failure, and other complications like gallstones and osteoporosis can also occasionally arise.

A new device, sometimes described as a “pacemaker for the stomach,” was recently approved

by regulators at the Food and Drug Administration. This rechargeable and implantable device blocks electrical nerve signals between the stomach and the brain and helps to diminish the feeling of being hungry. The cost for the small machine, along with its surgical implantation, is expected to run between \$30,000 and \$40,000, making it competitive with various forms of bariatric surgery.

Because the stomach pacemaker does not modify the stomach or the intestines as organs, but instead reduces appetite by blocking electrical signals in the abdominal vagus nerve, some of the surgery-related complications associated with modifying or stapling the stomach are eliminated. Other surgical complications related to the insertion of the device into the abdomen have sometimes been observed, however, as well as adverse events associated with its use, like pain, nausea and vomiting. Bariatric surgery, it should be noted, is not universally successful in terms of the underlying goal of losing weight and some patients ultimately regain the weight they lose either through enlargement of the stomach pouch or a return to compulsive eating patterns or both. Results have been similarly mixed for patients receiving the stomach pacemaker: some lose and keep off significant amounts of weight; others show only negligible improvements when they are unable to adhere to the needed life-long changes in eating habits.

Among the ethical questions that need to be considered with regard to surgically-based approaches are: Should an expensive, invasive and potentially risky surgery be routinely used for an anomaly that might be addressed by modifications in diet and eating habits? What criteria should be met before such surgery is seriously considered?

It is also of ethical importance that physicians and surgeons not be unduly influenced by device manufacturers to utilize their various stomach banding apparatuses or their pacemaker devices.

In 1991, the National Institutes of



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

Health developed a consensus statement on “Gastrointestinal Surgery for Severe Obesity” that offers guidance for clinical decision making. The statement notes that, beyond having a serious weight problem, patients seeking therapy for the first time for their obesity should “generally be encouraged to try non-surgical treatment approaches including dietary counseling, exercise, behavior modification and support.”

These broad guidelines are intended to spark discussion on the part of patients and their medical team: How much support has an individual really received prior to looking into weight reduction surgery or stomach pacemaker insertion? Some patients may have tried diligently for years to lose weight, while others may have made only cursory, poorly supported efforts. The need for support is also likely to continue following bariatric surgery or after the implantation of a stomach pacemaker.

In sum, there are notable differences between such surgical interventions and traditional weight loss techniques involving exercise and diet. With the surgical techniques, due diligence will be required both prior to and following such interventions, particularly in light of the ongoing discussions about the cost-effectiveness, safety, risks and outcomes of interventional surgery for the overweight patient.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

the window of our lives open so that He can make us hear His voice and hear what He wants us to do.”

Practicing and teaching discernment as a family imply patience and prayer, a constant desire to purify motives, to confess and do penance, to be patient in the slow work of growing in virtue, to open one’s imagination to Scripture and the witness of the Church, and to understand one’s inner life. To learn discernment for ourselves and to pass it along to our children are tasks that imply humility, an openness to constructive criticism and conversation about how God might be at work in our life.

A vocational approach to life implies a willingness to be frank about our own desires, but, most of all, to offer our life to God, to be open to the adventures and new plans that might present themselves when we say “Thy will, not mine.” St. Thérèse of Lisieux prayed in this way as a child, saying: “My God, I choose all. I do not want to be a saint

by halves. I am not afraid to suffer for You. I fear only one thing — that I should keep my own will. So take it, for I choose all that You will.”

Especially when a family includes many young children, parents face a wide array of stresses. Parenting is demanding. Yet if the goal of Christian family life is to open the home’s windows to God’s grace in daily life, then even in the midst of fatigue and domestic chaos, parents can remain open to the Spirit. Nobody wants to burden parents further. But “divine love ... is not something to be reserved for important matters, but must be pursued chiefly in the ordinary circumstances of life.” In the vulnerability of such moments, parents can discover what St. Paul meant when he said, “Whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 22, 2015

1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:12-15

Following is a word search based on the second reading and the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CHRIST	SUFFERED	ONCE
THE SAKE OF	DEATH	FLESH
ALIVE	DAYS OF NOAH	THE ARK
EIGHT	WATER	BAPTISM
HEAVEN	SUBJECT TO HIM	FORTY DAYS
TEMPTED	SATAN	WILD
ANGELS	THE TIME	BELIEVE

FREEDOM

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E I G H T H E T I M E S
V D E D E T P M E T U Y
E E A D S A T A N B H A
I R Y Y D E O O J S F D
L E E L S D M E E S O Y
E F T T J O C L E L E T
B F S C A T F V C E K R
N U I H T W I N N G A O
A S R O D L I W O N S F
N A H E A V E N P A E K
A I C M E L K R A E H T
M S I T P A B A L L T Y

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Gratitude for 2014 Collection for the Church in Latin America

Dear Bishop Rhoades:

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the generous contribution of \$38,298.50 to the 2014 Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA).

As a result of your Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s continued generosity, the subcommittee was able to award a total of 440 grants amounting to over \$6.6 million in aid for pastoral work in 2014. These projects included the formation of seminarians and religious, the development of youth ministry projects, and the support of pastoral ministry activities. Of special note is the help given to Latin American families to attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year.

Our 2015 campaign continues to call each of us to share our faith, particularly within our families. In Latin America, where Christian values remain important, many families are wounded by anti-religious hostility from the surrounding environment and by challenging relationships within the family. Yet throughout the hemisphere, the Church continues to point the way to Christ as the source of hope and healing, both within the family and in society, and CLA grants support the Church in these efforts.

Thanks to your generosity, our

solidarity with Latin America and the Caribbean grows stronger through concrete programs that impact the lives of people in the region. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, I offer you my humble thanks.

**Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Eusebio L. Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee
on the Church in Latin America**

Gratitude for Peter’s Pence contribution

As the personal representative of the Holy Father in the United States, I write with gratitude for the check in the amount of \$76,964.08, which you sent to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter’s Pence contribution from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the year 2014.

“When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them — some food, a place in our homes, our time — not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched.” — Pope Francis, address during the visit to the Community at Varginha, 2013.

I assure you that this sum will be transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

**Sincerely yours in Christ,
Carlo Maria Vignaro
Apostolic Nuncio**

FAMILY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

and cultivated. It is a mother’s and a father’s responsibility to be with children at home and in church and pray together regularly. They will not learn how to do it if they are not taught. Parents can seek help from godparents, grandparents, teachers, clergy and religious to help fulfill their responsibilities and so that they too can grow and learn about prayer.

Pope Francis, a Jesuit with years of formation in the art of discernment, describes how prayer and vocational awareness go together: “It is important to have a daily relationship with (God), to listen to Him in silence before the tabernacle and deep within ourselves, to speak with Him, to draw near to the sacraments. Having this familiar relationship with the Lord is like keeping

Sports

ICCL division champs crowned

BY MATT SOBERALSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The frigid South Bend and Mishawaka weather could not stop the hoopsters of the ICCL in its final weekend of the season. The air in the gymnasiums at Saint Joseph High School and Marian High School heated up as conference champions were crowned in the John Bosco and Martin De Porres Divisions.

Coming into the final weekend the South Bend St. Joseph Eagles and the St. Pius X Lions controlled their own destinies for championships. However, there were other teams that were clawing at them from behind looking for a grasp and a shot at joining them in the winner's circle.

At Marian High School, the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic came into the day needing a win and a St. Pius X loss to capture a share of the Martin De Porres Division championship. However, an upstart Corpus Christie Cougar squad wanted to play spoiler. The red-and-blue clad Cougars clawed and fought a tough Saints team and ended up triumphing over the Saints for a gritty win. Corpus Christie ended up winning the game by a basket with the final score, 33-31.

In other action at Marian High School, the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary pulled away from the St. Adalbert Eagles to capture their fourth win of the season. The final score saw the Bulldogs edge out the Eagles, 30-20.

The Kings of Christ the King needed to keep winning in order to keep their championship hopes alive and they saw a matchup with the Queen of Peace Pumas. The Kings jumped on the Pumas early and kept on rolling as they ran past the Pumas who fought until the very end. The final score saw the Kings keep their hopes alive with a 45-17 victory.

The temperature kept rising at Saint Joseph High School, as the Falcons of St. Jude jumped past the Trojans of Holy Family. St. Jude used 10 points from Jon Drieman to steady the attack. The Falcons won the game by a score of 34-25.

The Lions of St. Pius X had

the De Porres Division championship in their sight. The only thing that stood in front of them was the Panthers of St. Anthony. The Panthers were on the prowl looking for an upset victory. The Panthers' star player Kyron King did all he could by netting 11 points, but it was not

enough. The Lions'

Alex Mossey tossed in 14 points and added numerous rebounds as St. Pius X clinched the Martin De Porres championship with a score of 36-30. The

Lions finished the regular season undefeated in division play and a 7-2 regular season record.

The Eagles of St. Joseph, South Bend not only had their sights on the John Bosco Division championship, but they were also eyeing an undefeated regular season. The only thing that stood in front of them was the St. Matthew Blazers who were having a great season of their own. The orange-and-black-clad squad of St. Matthew gave it all they could but ultimately could not solve the puzzle that no other team could solve all year. With their 35-9 victory over the Blazers, the Eagles finished their regular season with a 9-0 record, and more importantly were crowned the John Bosco Division champions.

With the regular season over, the regular season records can be tossed aside as each team looks to the ICCL post-season tournament starting next weekend at Marian High School and Saint Joseph High School.

The St. Pius X Lions and the Eagles of St. Joseph, South Bend, will look to add more hardware to their trophy case, while other teams like the St. Matthew Blazers, Holy Cross Crusaders, Kings of Christ the King and the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic will look to make their stamp and gain some hardware of their own. At the same time, teams like the Panthers of St. Anthony, Holy Family's Trojans, the Corpus Christie Cougars, the Eagles of St. Adalbert, the St. Thomas Spartans, the Bulldogs of Our Lady, the St. Jude Falcons and the Queen of Peace Pumas are looking for their shot at some hardware and hoping to have their one shining moment on the ICCL stage.



CYO girls' varsity basketball champions crowned

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Three new champions were crowned in the annual CYO tournament on Feb. 14. The teams from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Charles are now etched into the record books, which have been kept since 1968 for the girls.

The first matchup of the day featured the top two seventh-grade teams — the St. Jude Eagles and the St. Charles Cardinals. It took extra time to declare a winner, but the No. 2 seeded Cardinals came out on top, 33-30, in overtime.

Although the Cardinals had the home court advantage, the St. Jude faithful came alive to cheer on their beloved Eagles, who had upset the top seeded and undefeated league champs, the St. Vincent Panthers, in their second round after beating St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in their opener. The Eagles led, 23-18, after three quarters of play, but the Cardinals' Allie Trimbur put back a layup at the buzzer to knot things up 29-29 at the end of regulation. Then Molly Ream scored four of her 23 points in overtime to seal the win for St. Charles.

A pleased Coach Rob Sordelet was proud of his team's ball movement, defensive pressure and ability to "stick with it" the whole game.

"St. Jude had a great tournament. They were well coached and well prepared," Sordelet added of his opponents.

In the loss, Delaney Hogan was high scorer for the Eagles with nine points. On their way to the White League championship, St. Charles got by a tough team from St. Elizabeth in their opener.

The next game of the morning pitted the two teams who had tied for the Blue League season title, St. Rose/St. Louis and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJHC). After losing to the Twins, 39-30, less than a week prior in the last game of the regular season, Coach Maria Parsenow knew her team would have their hands full.

"I told the girls they would have to rise up and out hustle them," Parsenow said. "I am not saying we were actually able to accomplish that, but it was a great team effort and we pulled it off."

The Squires beat the Twins easily back in November, then by just a point on Jan. 10. "Every time we face them, it's a battle," the former Nancy Rehm Award recipient insisted. The Twins jumped out to an early 13-5 lead in the first quarter, but by halftime the score was 20-20. The Squires were ahead after three quarters, 28-26, then went on to slip by the Twins, 35-34, after several back and forth attempts by St. Rose/St. Louis to regain the lead. Jelena Girod once again led her team, as she has all season, and scored 13 points. Madalyn Rauner added 11 and did a great job on the boards combining with the tough post play of Ali Beard and eighth-grader Caroline Gladding. Maddie Parsenow's defense was another key factor in the Squires' fifth championship in the past six years.

In their first round win over Queen of Angels, Rachel McKinnon and Addie Knipp also came up big with some crucial points for SJHC.

In the loss, eighth-grader Nevaeh



Feasby capped off a stellar CYO career with 20 points for St. Rose/St. Louis to lead all scorers.

On the road to the championship game, the Twins got by a tough team from Most Precious Blood when Abby Sheehan pumped in 17 points.

In the battle of Gold League, eighth-grade powerhouses, St. Elizabeth and St. Vincent went head-to-head with St. Elizabeth claiming their first championship as the Lady Pioneers by a score of 32-15. The school also claimed the Gold League volleyball title this year.

"It has been an especially sweet year for this special group of young ladies," assistant coach Molly Denning explained. Denning continued, "We had great sportsmanship, great attitudes and no drama."

In full agreement, assistant coach Shelley Ross added, "This is such an awesome group of girls from great families. Today showed four years of great defense, four years of great rebounding, four years of hard work and listening."

As a combined team with St. Joseph, the group was CYO runner up as both fifth and sixth graders, then won as seventh graders a year ago playing up in the eighth-grade league to set up the repeat. The team finished with a perfect 7-0 record in CYO play and their only loss of the season was to Memorial Park on a last second shot back in December. Molly Burns led all scorers with 12 points for the Eagles, while the talented Ellen O'Brien finished with six for the No. 2 seeded Panthers.

CYO JV teams receive championships

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The junior varsity 2015 CYO tournament took a while to finish with numerous weather cancellations and postponements, but in the end, six new champions were finally crowned.

At the fifth-grade level, St. Elizabeth claimed both the girls' and boys' titles. The Lady Pioneers downed St. Joseph, Decatur, 26-17, while the boys slipped by St. Vincent in double overtime by a whopping score of 72-21.

With a season based on fun and fundamentals, the girls' team found success. Many players were learning the game for the first time, but each got lots of playing time.

"Each girl on this team has a lot of God-given ability," Coach Mark Dippold marveled. When the team had a full roster, their record was undefeated, but the Lady Pioneers officially finished with an amazing record of 15-2 after beating strong teams from St. Jude, St. Vincent and St. Joseph, Decatur, in their post-

season run.

In sixth-grade action, St. Vincent beat St. Joseph, Decatur, 34-24 for the boys'. The girls' champion was St. Charles with a 26-15 victory over St. Joseph, Decatur.

The Fisher family and their Cardinals capped off an undefeated season finishing with an impressive 21-0 record. Although it was a challenge with 15 girls at all different basketball levels on the roster, the coaching staff (Jason Fisher, Andrea Fisher and daughter, Sierra) felt their team really came together as the season progressed.

"They supported and cheered for each other from the first day of tryouts. They all listened and tried whatever we would tell them to do during drills and games. It was a true team effort where everyone got equal playing time in the majority of the games throughout the season," Jason Fisher described.

For the small schools, St. Therese, the reigning champs, repeated their title getting by a tough team from St. Rose/St. Louis, 34-27, in the boys' tournament. Sixth-grader Lukas North led all scorers

with 17 for the Crusaders. Although he had several newcomers to the game of basketball, Coach North was pleased with his team. "They were a very coachable group and worked hard all season long," he said.

Coach Monica Lashure described her St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJHC) team as full of spirit and determination. The Squires proved it with an impressive tournament battling from their first round 20-17 win over St. Therese, through their semi-final 22-20 victory over St. Rose/St. Louis, right to the championship when they downed Queen of Angels, 20-10. SJHC listed just eight on their roster of combined fifth and sixth graders and their only losses came at the hands of all sixth-grade teams.

"They always gave 110 percent. We had a great year with lots of improvement considering three of our girls had never played the game," a proud Lashure detailed. "Teamwork and defense were our keys to bringing the first place trophy and tournament next year back to St. Joseph," she summarized.

'Fifty Shades of Grey' called 'direct assault' on marriage, morality

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new movie "Fifty Shades of Grey" is "a direct assault on Christian marriage and on the moral and spiritual strength of God's people," Cincinnati's archbishop told pastors in his archdiocese.

"We need to inform our people about the destructive message of this movie and to highlight the beauty of God's design for loving relationships between a husband and a wife in the bond of marriage," Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr said in an early February letter.

"The story line is presented as a romance; however, the underlying theme is that bondage, dominance, and sadomasochism are normal and pleasurable," he added.

Archbishop Schnurr's letter echoed the sentiment expressed by several Catholic and other religious leaders and organizations that have criticized the film, which hit theaters Feb. 13.

It is based on the first book in a trilogy by E.L. James that features an erotic and sadomasochistic story line about a young college student who agrees to become a sex slave to a business tycoon.

The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth in a letter to his fellow bishops urged them to alert Catholics to such an objectionable film, which he said is being promoted as a romantic story but is a "graphic portrayal of a young woman agreeing to be abused and degraded in a sexual relationship."

"Remind the faithful of the beauty of the Church's teaching on the gift of sexual intimacy in marriage, the great dignity of women, and the moral reprehensibility of

all domestic violence and sexual exploitation," wrote Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York.

John Mulderig, Catholic News Service's assistant director for media reviews, said in a Feb. 11 review that "Fifty Shades" — about Anastasia Steele, a "socially awkward" college student, who becomes involved with an "intimidating business tycoon" named Christian Grey — has "a pornographically narrow focus and a potentially dangerous message."

The couple's "uncommitted pleasure" displaces a spiritual union "for the sake of a disordered exchange of possession and surrender," Mulderig wrote.

The CNS classification is classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

In mid-January when the MPAA announced the film would have an "R" rating, Morality in Media criticized that decision, saying the rating "severely undermines the violent themes in the film and does not adequately inform parents and patrons of the film's content."

The story of "a childlike, mousey, young woman" becoming the "target of a powerful, intimidating, older man ... glamorizes and legitimizes violence against women," the organization said in a statement.

It warned women "lining up to see this film" that "there is nothing empowering about whips and chains or humiliation and torture. Women as a group will not gain power by collaborating with violent men."

Founded in 1962, Morality in Media describes itself as the leading



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND FOCUS FEATURES

Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson star in a scene from the movie "Fifty Shades of Grey." The Catholic News Service classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

national organization opposing pornography and indecency by educating the public and urging vigorous enforcement of the law.

"The contrast between the message of 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and God's design for self-giving and self-sacrificing love, marriage and sexual intimacy could not be greater," said the Religious Alliance Against Pornography in its statement criticizing the film.

In the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, Bishop R. Walker Nickless in a Feb. 9 memo to priests and deacons spoke out strongly against the book and movie.

"This book is a vile and vicious piece of pornography of the worst sort, promoting not merely promiscuity and marital infidelity, but also violent and degrading views of and sexual behavior against women," he said.

Bishop Nickless particularly pointed to the immorality of pornography, "its objectification of both men and women."

"When that objectification is combined with masochism and other forms of violence in the sexual act, as in this case of 'Fifty Shades of Grey,' the harm it does to women, and thus also to families and children, is immensely greater," he said.

Bishop Nickless applauded clergy who have already preached about the book and movie "for their pastoral energy, awareness and initiative."

"I encourage all of you to help me to share, again and again, the truths of God's plan for marriage and family, and the grave harm that pornography does to women and children, and likewise to those who use it," he said. "We must not be silent in the face of such debilitating cultural mores, but bring the saving light and grace and truth of our Lord to those who need it most."

Teresa Tomeo, an author and syndicated Catholic talk radio host, noted that the "Fifty Shades of Grey" book trilogy "continues to bring in the big bucks — breaking book sale records wherever the 'Mommy porn' fictional novels are available."

"Women make up the majority of this particular and very sad market and, unfortunately, also can't

seem to get enough reminders of the abusive relationship between Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele," Tomeo wrote in a widely circulated commentary.

Women are collecting all manner of accessories tied to the books and film, she noted. "So far the collection features everything from candles, bed sheets, earrings, chokers and bracelets in the form of handcuffs."

The Catholic Church in its teaching "couldn't be clearer when it comes to why pornography, any type of porn, is a grave offense," she said, adding that "secular family study experts are now agreeing that pornography poses great danger to women and to relationships in general. It's unhealthy in a myriad of ways — physically, emotionally and spiritually."

"It is also highly hypocritical to cry foul when cases of abuse involving actions similar to those exhibited in 'Fifty Shades' ... make headlines," she added. "We can't have it both ways."

Contributing to this story were Joanne Fox in Sioux City and Mary Stachyra Lopez in Arlington.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, March 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Love Your Neighbor." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Feb. 27 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Dinner and auction planned

Monroeville — St. Rose of Lima Parish and School will have a dinner and auction Saturday, March 7, at The Hayloft, 15112 Brunson Rd., in Hoagland. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cash bar. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. For information contact St. Rose School at 260-623-3447.

Bishop Luers hosts 41st annual Show Choir Invitational

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host a Show Choir Invitational Friday, March 6, at 6 p.m. for middle school students. Tickets are \$5. High school competition will be Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and evening competition begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the day show, \$10 for the evening show or \$15 for all day.

NAMI St. Joseph County offers a Free Mental Illness course

South Bend — A free course on mental illness (Family-to-Family) is being offered to family members and friends of someone

who is struggling with a mental illness. The course is taught by members of the SJC chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and will meet 11 Tuesdays from 6:30-9 p.m. beginning May 3 at the St. Vincent DePaul Society, 520 Crescent Ave. To register call 574-259-3564 or email F2F@sbcglobal.net.

St. Anthony de Padua plans Catholic family events

South Bend — St. Anthony de Padua will offer family activities beginning Saturday, Feb. 21, with "Answering the Pope's Questions" — A video introduction from the pope, a look at bishops' reflections followed by discussion in preparation of a response to send to Bishop Rhoades. Family Game Nights will be Fridays from 7-9 p.m. in classroom 6. Friday, Feb. 27, will be "Faithful Feud" a spin on Family Feud; Friday, March 13, Holy Holy Holy Squares. A spin on Hollywood Squares; Friday, March 27, Catholic Pictionary will be held with a pizza party in the parish hall.

Enhance the Lenten journey

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County will offer a mini-retreat, "An Introduction to Vincentian Spirituality" Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Augustine Church, 1501 W. Washington St. For information and to register for this free event, visit www.svdpsb.org or call 574-234-6000 ext.12132.

Celebrate vespers

Mishawaka — Vespers will be prayed at St. Monica Church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., on Sunday, March 8, at 7 p.m. Join liturgical song and prayer derived from the tradition of prayer of the early Church.

Fish fry

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. 1st St., will begin Lenten fish fries beginning Friday, Feb. 20. Choice of baked or fried fish. Tickets are \$8.50 adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Carryout available.

Voices of Restoration

Fort Wayne — A story of transformation will be shared Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 7-9 p.m., at the University of Saint Francis, North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St. Then, find your voice, and the voice of the community, to determine what is needed to heal from social harm through the framework of restorative justice. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/jail-ministry, or contact Audrey Anweiler 260-969-9146 or aanweiler@diocesefwsb.org.

Online retreat '4Moms' offered

New Paris — A free online retreat for Catholic mothers, titled "Beyond Survival ... onto Revival," will be offered March 6-9. For information about the conference and to register, visit CatholicConference4Moms.com.

REST IN PEACE

Bremen

Edward L. Eilers, 82, St. Dominic

Decatur

Richard E. Maldeney, 77, St. Mary/Assumption

Fort Wayne

Matthew Eddie Fabina, 89, St. Joseph

Nancy A. Gorsuch, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Russell E. Skinner, 104, St. Vincent de Paul

Terry Lee Green, 59, St. Therese

Nelson H. Ottenweller, 98, St. Mary

Dolores M. Wolinski-Gilliam, 77, St. Patrick

John Bernard Mahoney, 70, St. Charles Borromeo

Edith O'Morrow, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

Micheal L. Mozzone, 74, Precious Blood

Mishawaka

Thomas W. Weber, 82, St. Bavo

New Carisle

Rita T. Trzop, 89, St. Stanislaus

Notre Dame

Brother Thomas H. Scheurer, CSC, 76, St. Joseph Chapel

South Bend

Daniel A Irvine Jr., 28, Corpus Christi

Veronica Majcher, 90, St. Stanislaus

Daniel A. Pejza, 90, St. Casimir

Mary Ann Gehring, 100, St. Joseph

Benedict L. Kopinski, 98, Christ the King

Virginia Ginny Lochmandy, 84, St. Anthony de Padua

Karen B. Meszaros, 52, St. Stanislaus

Gale C. Andrews, 77, Christ the King

Agnes Jane Anderson, 97, Queen of Peace

Sister Rosalie Marie, Weller, 103, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Sister served at St. John the Baptist and Central Catholic, Fort Wayne.

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Marian students encouraged to trust in the healing message of Lourdes

Bishop Rhoades makes annual pastoral visit

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

MISHAWAKA — “I can’t think of a place I’d rather be today, except Lourdes, than Marian High School!” exclaimed Bishop Rhoades on Feb. 11, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the school’s newly bestowed patroness. It was during his visit last January that Bishop Rhoades officially commended the Marian community to the intercession and protection of “the Immaculate Conception” as Mary identified herself to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France, in 1858.

On this feast, Bishop Rhoades recalled his own experiences of Lourdes, where he has visited three times, most recently in 2011. This trip included over 100 pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as well as several alumni from Marian High School, during the journey to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. The bishop mentioned his joyful surprise to learn that for many on the venture, their favorite memory was the time spent in Lourdes. This was a joy he could relate to well.

As a young seminarian in Rome during the summer of 1980 he made his first pilgrimage to Lourdes. Traveling on very little money, often with menial food and shelter, he backpacked through Europe and eventually arrived at the miraculous grotto for the last stage of the journey. There he worked with his aunt, who served as a head nurse leading many sick and disabled travelers from the United States. Seminarian Rhoades assisted in the baths, prayed with the sick, aided the handicapped and provided support in daily Eucharistic and rosary processions. He spoke of how moved he was to witness the prayerful hope of so many people filled with love and trust in the mercy of God.

Further elaborating on the miracle of Lourdes, Bishop Rhoades reminded those gathered that, “the Father has revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. St. Bernadette was one of those little ones. Although an uneducated 14-year-old girl from a very poor family, she demonstrated great faith. Even when confronted with great doubt and resistance from local and Church authorities, she obeyed the lady who appeared to her. She dug in the ground at the grotto and uncovered a spring that continues to flow to this day. Soon after, the miracles began. Millions have washed in the baths and many have experienced healing. Today is World Day of Prayer for the Sick, originally instituted by Pope John Paul II. We celebrate it today because we are reminded through the message of Lourdes of God’s love for the sick and suffering.”

“We are reminded in the story of Wedding Feast at Cana how Mary shows great care for her spiritual children. Her words to the servants, to “do whatever He tells you” indi-



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets Marian High School leaders at lunchtime. Those present at lunch included Student Council representatives J.P. Kavanaugh, Joan Becker, Nora Pendergast, Gabby Lucchese, Matt Rice, Lauren Stevens, Kade Young, Sam Gill, Dinuka Corray, Matt DiTommaso, Alex Dlugosz, Nick Kloska and Hannah Harry; officers of Vincentians Erica Gerstbauer and Christian Dennis; National Honor Society members Sam Cressy, Christine Mai and Kevin Hunckler; Campus Ministry representative Tori Slagle; and Right to Life Club members David Schena, Emma Gettinger and Magdalena Hernandez.

cates that she always directs us to her Son, as an agent of our redemption she never points to herself, but constantly leads us closer to Christ. She asks us to have faith and to trust in Jesus!”

After Communion, Principal Mark Kirzeder recognized the students who have achieved the highest academic performance throughout their career at Marian. Merisa L. Middlestadt was awarded the honor of valedictorian with both Claire A. Doyle and Lauren A. Jankowski announced as co-salutatorians.

Bishop Rhoades thanked all those who participated in the Mass, especially highlighting the beauty of the liturgical choir. He also expressed his gratitude to all those in attendance and for the assistance of concelebrants Father Chris Lapp, Marian High School chaplain, Father Barry England, pastor of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, and Father David Ruppert, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades then shared details from his recent trip to Rome and encounter with Pope Francis before opening the floor for students who wished to ask him personal questions, ranging from his favorite food or coveted superpowers to the greatest struggles he has faced in life. In responding to a question regarding what led him to the Priesthood, Bishop Rhoades revealed that the Blessed Mother and Lourdes have been influential from the very beginning.

“As a sophomore at Mount Saint Mary’s University I remember very seriously discerning God’s will for my life and whether I was called to be a priest,” he said. “While praying at the Lourdes Grotto on campus, the oldest replica in the United

expressed his gratitude for this commitment to education by thanking Bishop Rhoades for having appointed Mark Kirzeder as new principal.

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades visited several classrooms to discuss theology, impressing upon them the importance of developing a relationship with Christ, which continues to grow each year. Meeting with all four classes of students from freshmen to seniors, he was able to enter into their various journeys of faith, discussing who Christ is, how to live His mission, what it means to fully participate in the life of the Church, and how the saints give strength for the journey to build the kingdom of God.

Bishop Rhoades then met for lunch with various student leaders, discussing their experiences at Marian, including the quality of theology classes and the essence of the school’s spiritual life, while also inquiring about their college choices and personal hopes for the future.

To conclude his visit, Bishop Rhoades met with Principal Kirzeder, theology teachers and campus ministers to review progress, affirm achievements and discuss goals for the upcoming year.



Marian High School Principal Mark Kirzeder stands behind students carrying the offertory gifts at the Mass celebrated Feb. 11 during Bishop Rhoades' pastoral visit to the Mishawaka high school.

States, I pondered this question and felt a powerful sense of peace and great awareness of God’s love, which provided the confidence to enroll in seminary.”

Among other questions, Bishop Rhoades further stated that his “number one priority is advancing the New Evangelization, including the promotion and defense of Catholic education.” One student

Marian High School students lead the congregation in song during the Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and patroness of the school.

