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

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...”
“Lead us not into temptation”

BY BISHOP KEVIN K. 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 His 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).

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 something, but a positive agent, a living spiritual being, perverted and perverting…”

“An evil force, set us on the wrong path, the path of evil and sin.” Pope Francis, saying, “The devil cannot lose” (cf. Pastoral Letter, March 2014). Paul VI’s words remain true today: “Evil is not merely a lack of something, but a positive agent, a living spiritual being, perverted and perverting…”

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 allowed to maneuver, as you did with Job, then please remember that my strength goes only so far.”

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.”
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, 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 burden 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 to the pope and his successors, they approached Pope Francis one by one to receive their biretta, their cardinal’s ring and the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s highest court.

In their first official act as cardinals, 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 Chhatas, the Jerusalem-born founder of the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Jerusalem, the first Palestinian religious order.
- Blessed Mariam Bawardi, a Melkite Catholic member of the Discalced Carmelites. She was born in 1846 in Jaffa, 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 McDonaldization of world culture — some would say the Wal-Martization of culture,” he said.

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.

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.

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.

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:

- Bishop Luers High School — $5,000 for tuition assistance
- St. John the Baptist School — $3,500 for tuition assistance
- St. Therese School — $7,000 for tuition assistance

In Fort Wayne:

**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

- 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
  - 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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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 love 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 butchered by a freezing temperature 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 contradictory 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 a reasonable accommodation 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 it 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 establish 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 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 hospitals, 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 “resetting 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 inhospitable 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 Henceler, 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.
**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 68 percent 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 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. Licensing owners of wedding-related businesses, 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 refuse service.”

**Catholics urged to remember ‘common good’ in vaccine debate**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Centers for Disease Control, the current outbreak has resulted in 121 cases in 17 states and territories from the country as the result of measles cases for 2014 — 644. The statistic shows the importance of childhood vaccinations. According to the latest figures, California has fostered an ongoing measles outbreak that began in December 2014 and continues to spread. Some 165 new and old cases have been confirmed in the state. Additionally, two deaths have been confirmed in California due to measles. The Los Angeles Times reported that two deaths from measles infections were confirmed in California. The first death was in an 18-month-old boy in December 2014.

**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 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 conduct 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 the 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 Pennsylvania’s 166 inmates on the state’s death row as they 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,” 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.”

**Displaced Iraqi Yazidi children greet Catholic Relief Service workers, U.S. Bishop**

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 Shari'ah Collective, Iraq, Jan. 17.
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 celebrant. 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 this 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 break. Included are snacks, lunch and dinner on Saturday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Registration is required by contacting www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-retreats.

Bishop 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.

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Anthony Wayne Assembly is sponsoring a daily text message throughout 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.

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St. Vincent School: Hard work pays dividends in a Catholic education

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 of the staff, students and principal at a Mass celebrated during a pastoral visit Feb. 12.

“Todays’ Catholic” 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.”

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.

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 everything they do 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.”

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
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 flyers 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 community. “Following the top priority of placing seniors with the oldest being 88,” 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 seniors’ employment program— hands on. A very workable deal,” says Smith, 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.

KAY COZAD
Creating the future: the family fully alive

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 famili
ty 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 assured Noah, and all people that never again would a flood destroy the earth. God promised 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 considerable 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 it vividly gives us a drama and directness in its message.

Use of the number “40” is significant. It is a week long enough for everything to flourish, but not long enough for anything to be ideal.

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 254:9-11 Lk 11:29-32
Monday: Lv 19:1-2 Ps 198:8-10 Mt 26:37-46
Tuesday: Ps 15:10-11 Ps 34-47, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:10-11 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Ez 14:12-16 Ps 133:1-3, 14-15 Lk 11:39-42
Friday: Ez 18:28-32 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 Settignano, 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 1818 as Bonfilius, Bonaventurca, Amadeus, Hugh, Manettus, Sostene and 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.

CRS in Tanzania

We, as Catholics believe that every human person has a special value and purpose. It is our responsibility therefore to care for one person 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 Pesha, 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 CRS program.

CRS in Tanzania

MELISSA WHEELER

Seven Servite Founders

Jesus steps forward, in His role of prophet, the culmination of God’s saving work. It is in the very place where Satan had the devil defeated that Jesus orders angels to protect Him. Mark does not “come from the air.” The religious message of Noah and the sins of the past are questioned on scientific grounds, but God assures Noah, and all people that never again will 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.

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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 human life.
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 how these interventions from an ethical perspective. 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. It’s a 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.

The 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 that is a subject to significant prejudice.

The surgery does not modify the stomach or 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’s 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 a surgical 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 remedied by lifestyle changes in diet and eating habits? What criteria should be met before such surgery is seriously considered?

It is also of the greatest importance that physicians and surgeons not be unduly influenced by device manufacturers to utilize their various strategies for dieting to advertise, market and sell their devices. In 1991, the National Institutes of Health developed a consensus statement notes that, beyond having a daily exercise program, weight reduction for the overweight patient should be met before such surgery is considered.

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“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.”

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.

Gospel for February 22, 2015
1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:12-15

“Stomach pacemaker” also appears to be a promising approach to the battle of the bulge.

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 undergoing therapy for the first time for their obesity should “generally be encouraged to try non-surgical treatment approaches including dietary counseling, behavior modification and support.”

These broad guidelines are intended to spark discussion on the part of patients and their medical teams: How much support has an individual really received prior to looking into weight reduction surgery or a stomach pacemaker intervention? Some patients may have even 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, lifelong behavioral changes needed for 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 as the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

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 $39,208.50 to the 2014 Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA).

As a result of your Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s generous 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 include 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 are co-opted in culture, many families are wounded by anti-religious hostility from the surrounding environment and by challenging conversations with others. Yet when he said, “Whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Carlo Maria Viganò Apostolic Nuncio
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 inside the Eagles, 20-20, 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 the lead 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 upset 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, 20-17.

The Kings of Christ the King needed to keep winning in order to keep their championship hopes alive and they did so with 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 Squires of South Bend kept rising at Saint Joseph High School, as the Falcons of St. Jude jumped past the Trojans of Holy Family. The Squires have been ready to get back to the playoffs for some time now.

The next game of the season pitted the two teams who had tied for the Blue League season title, St. Rose/ St. Louis and the Martin De Porres Cardinals (SJHC). After losing to the Twins, 30-30, 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 out.”

The Squires beat the Twins easily in November, then by just a point on Jan. 10. “Every time we face them, it’s a battle,” Coach Parsenow’s award recipient insisted. The Twins jumped out to an early 3-5 lead in the first quarter, but the Twins’ halftime score was 20-20. The Squires were ahead after three quarters, 26-26, then went on to slip by the Twins, 34-30, after an early back-to-back four-point burst by Rose/St. Louis to regain the lead. Jelena Girod once again led her team, as she has all season, and scored 11 points. St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in the girls’ division.

The Squires are back in the mix in hopes of a title.

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, 32-30, in overtime.

Although the Cardinals had the honors, 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 Tribbim 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 Ann Seton.

“We had a great year with lots of improvement considering three of our girls had never played the game before,” head coach Shelley Ross added. “This is such an awesome group of girls from great families. Today showed four years of great rebounding, four years of hard work and learning.”

As a combined team with St. John Bosco, 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 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.

At Marion 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 upset 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.

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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. bishop’s Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth in a letter to his fellow bishops urged them to “alert Catholics to such an objectionable story about a young college student ... glamorizes and legitimates degradation in a sexual relationship.”

“Remind the faithful of the great dignity of women, beauty of the Church’s teaching on marriage, and sadomasochism are normal and pleasurable,” he added.

Archbishop Schnurr’s letter noted that the “Fifty Shades of Grey” book trilogy “continues to promote not merely promiscuity 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 an early February letter, 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.”

“This movie highlights 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.

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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.
**What's Happening?**

**Day of Reflection**
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, March 7, 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 SJCC 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 Rhodes. 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.

**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.dieocesefwsb.org/jail-ministry, or contact Audrey Anweiler 260-969-9146 or aanweiler@dieocesefwsb.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.

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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 the 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 Eucharist and rosary prayers. 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 the Wedding Feast at Cana how Mary shows great care for her spiritual children. Her words to the servants, to “do whatever He tells you” indicates 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 salutatorian with both Claire A. Doyle and Lauren A. Jankowski announced as co-valedictorians. 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 encountered with Pope Francis before opening the floor to 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 response 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 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 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.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets Marian High School leaders at luncheon. Those present at lunch included Student Council representatives J.P. Kavanaugh, Joan Becker, Nora Pendergast, Gabby Lucchese, Matt Rice, J.P. Turley, Sam Gill, Dimuka Corray, Matt DiTommaso, Alex Duquez, Nick Kloska and Hannah Harvy; 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.

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.

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.